

# Minutes of the Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 18 March 2024

Present: Jeremy Pert (Chair)

<b>Attendance</b>	
Charlotte Atkins	John Jones
Philip Atkins, OBE	Leona Leung
Richard Cox (Vice-Chair (Overview))	Kath Perry, MBE
Ann Edgeller (Vice-Chair (Scrutiny))	Janice Silvester-Hall
Keith Flunder	Ian Wilkes
Phil Hewitt	David Williams
Jill Hood	

**Also in attendance:** Mike Wilcox

**Apologies:** Val Chapman, Monica Holton and Bernard Peters

## Part One

### 61. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ann Edgeller declared an interest as Staffordshire County Councils appointed Partner Governor at the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust (MPFT).

Councillor David Williams declared an interest as an employee for the UHDB and a Governor for UHDB.

### 62. Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2024

The Committee agreed to make the following amendments to the minutes:

- A spelling error in item 57 should read "Garry".
- The inclusion of an additional two resolutions in item 56:
  - That the Committee receive information on specific practices which were below the recommended guideline number of appointment rates.
  - That the Committee receive the GP retention schemes from

the Integrated Care Board

**Resolved** – That, subject to the amendments listed above, the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

### **63. Staffordshire’s Joint All-Age Carers Strategy 2024 - 29**

Councillor Mike Wilcox, Cabinet Member for Health and Care, Jackie Averill, Commissioning Officer and Ellie Cross, SEND Commissioning Manager presented Staffordshire’s Joint All-Age Carers Strategy 2024-29 to the Committee.

The Committee were informed that the strategy had been co-produced by the Council and ICB with other partners. An extensive period of co-production had taken place and a range of stakeholders had been involved in the creation of the strategy and had provided feedback, this included young and adult carers.

It was reported that the joint strategy was for adult carers of adults, parent carers of children approaching adulthood and young carers aged under 18. The 2021 Census reported that 82,000 residents in Staffordshire provided unpaid care each week.

The strategy set out 7 main priorities each with associated outcomes and performance indicators:

- Information, Advice and Guidance
- Identifying Carers
- Physical and Mental Wellbeing
- A life Outside of Caring
- Short and Longer-Term Planning
- Assessment and Support
- Recognition and Value

The Committee were advised that the strategy was due to be considered by Cabinet on 20 March 2024.

The Committee noted the following comments and responses to questions:

- There was a need for more awareness of young carers in schools. There was also a need for more support in schools for young carers. Some schools may not realise that a child may be a young carer. It was intended for the strategy to be sent to schools and the Committee recommended that the strategy be circulated to Headteachers via the Schools Forum once approved.
- There was a need for culture change to identify unpaid carers to

provide support where needed. It was important that every contact from the County Council added value to the carer.

- The County Council had metrics available on carers. The Committee requested to receive these metrics.
- Carer services were currently funded from the Better Care Fund which had underspent, and the Council were working to use that underspend to deliver more opportunities to deliver breaks for caring.
- 71% of adult and young carers who felt respite was relevant to their situation said they would not know how to access it if they needed to. The Council were looking at an online digital solution.
- The digital solution was intended to be an add on in addition to existing services. Funding for the digital solution for a two-year period had been secured through the Accelerating Reform fund. The Committee highlighted the importance of security of a new ICT platform and requested a presentation of the new ICT platform when it has been procured.
- The delivery of the strategy was important to ensure that carers get the help that they need, and it was important that there was investment into the strategy as it would save the County Council money long term.
- Communication with the rural community was important to know where to access services. Some rural areas do not have access to digital solutions.
- The Committee requested to receive the action plan associated with the All-Age Carers Strategy to include target metrics.
- Concerns were raised around support for young carers from the ICB. The Committee were informed that the ICB have co-produced the strategy and will be challenged to feed into the delivery of the strategy by the Council. The Committee requested detail from the SSOT ICB as to whether prioritisation will be given to young carers needing mental health support.
- The Committee discussed that consideration should be given for a mid-point review of the strategy to determine its effectiveness and maintain relevance.
- The Committee needed to give consideration for further scrutiny of the delivery and implementation of the strategy.

**Resolved** – That (a) the report be received, and the Committee’s comments be noted.

(b) the Committee recommended to the Cabinet Member for Health and Care that:

1. The strategy be circulated to Headteachers via the Schools Forum once approved.
2. Consideration be given for a mid-point review of the strategy to determine its effectiveness and maintain relevance.

(c) the Committee requested:

1. current and historical metric data relating to carers.
2. the action plan associated with the All-age carers strategy to include target metrics.
3. detail from the SSOT ICB as to whether prioritisation will be given to young carers needing mental health support.
4. a presentation of the new ICT platform to Committee when it has been procured.

(d) the Committee give consideration to further scrutiny of the delivery and implementation of the strategy.

#### **64. Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance Working Group Report**

Councillor Richard Cox, Chair of the Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance Working Group presented the Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance Working Group report to the Committee.

Councillor Mike Wilcox, Cabinet Member for Health and Care, Amanda Stringer, lead Adult Social Care Assurance, Improvement and Transformation officer and Jo Cowcher Assistant Director for Adult Social Work and Safeguarding were also in attendance.

The Committee were reminded that on 31 July 2023 the Committee received a report of the Cabinet Member for Health and Care on Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance which highlighted that the Health and Care Act 2022 gave the Care Quality Commission (CQC) new regulatory powers to undertake independent assessment of local authorities' delivery of statutory duties set out in part 1 of the Care Act 2014. The Council had commenced preparations for Enhanced Assurance including a CQC readiness review and had identified strengths and areas for development.

On 31 July 2023, the Committee agreed to establish the Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance Working Group in order to provide overview and scrutiny of the Councils self-assessment to consider if the Council were sufficiently prepared, if the evidence supported the narrative and the progression of areas of development.

The Committee were presented with the Adult Social Care Enhanced Assurance Working Group Report and proposed recommendations within the report.

The Committee noted the following comments and responses to questions:

- Endorsement of the recommendation to create formal links between Health and Care O&S Committee and Safeguarding O&S Committee.
- Due to capacity issues with providers, there had been a lack of spending Disabled Facilities Grants in District and Borough Councils however there were now joint services in place with the capacity to deliver the disabled facilities.
- Raising the profile of dementia and preventative work.
- The CQC required the Council to identify 50 people in particular categories set out by the CQC. Of these 50 people, the CQC would select 6 people to provide evidence. The Committee discussed that the 6 people selected should be demographically representative of the County.
- The County Council avoided using a hotel for placements in the first instance, however in instances where, for example, someone has nowhere else to go, a hotel would be considered and determined on a case-by-case basis.
- There was a need for adult social care training to be given to District and Borough Members.

**Resolved** – That (a) the report be received, and Committee comments be noted.

(b) the Committee endorsed the 14 recommendations within the report and the recommendations be presented to the Cabinet Member for an executive response by July 2024.

(c) the Committee thanked the Working Group and officers for their contribution to the Working Group.

## **65. District and Borough Health Scrutiny Activity**

The Committee received the District and Borough Health Scrutiny activity update report.

Councillor John Jones highlighted that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council had written to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care regarding the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

Councillor John Jones also referred to the site visit to North Staffs Combined Healthcare Trust and Midlands Partnership University Foundation Trust which the County Council's Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee attended in March 2024 and the offer to attend District and Borough Councils to highlight the services that they offer.

The Committee discussed the Code of Joint Working and highlighted the risk of duplication.

Councillor Ann Edgeller highlighted an error in the Stafford Borough section in the report. The next meeting was due to take place on 21 March 2024.

Councillor Philip Atkins and Councillor David Williams provided an update to the Committee on the health scrutiny activity at East Staffordshire Borough Council and Cannock Chase District Council respectively.

**Resolved** – That the District and Borough Health Scrutiny activity update be received and noted.

## **66. Work Programme**

The Committee received an update on Women's Health Working Group and highlighted that the Working Group was looking into Endometriosis.

The Committee agreed to add the health impacts of Walleys Quarry to a future meeting.

**Resolved** – That (a) the Work Programme be noted.

(b) the health impacts of Walleys Quarry be added to a future meeting.

**Chair**