

Monday, 11 March 2024

ADULTS, WELLBEING & HEALTH SCRUTINY & IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Adults, Wellbeing & Health Scrutiny & Improvement Committee was held on Monday, 11 March 2024 at the Redcar and Cleveland Civic Centre.

PRESENT Councillor M Ovens (Chair)
Councillors C Cawley, C Curr, K Evans,
C Hannaway, J Lavan and P McInnes.

OFFICIALS P Rice, F Anderson, V Wilson and Nimmo.

IN ATTENDANCE Councillor L Belshaw and U Earl.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Kay (Vice-Chair), M Fairley and L White.

1 **TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2024 AND TO CONFIRM THE ATTENDANCE MATRIX**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Adults, Wellbeing & Health Scrutiny & Improvement Committee held on 29 January 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

3 **RELEVANT CABINET REPORTS**

Organisational Plan 2024 to 2027

The Executive Director for Adults & Communities presented a report regarding the Council's Organisational Plan, which set out how the Council will seek to deliver upon its priorities via high-level strategic documents and key improvement work. It was noted that Adult Social Care Strategy 2024-27 and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy were of particular relevance for consideration by Members of the Adults, Wellbeing and Health Scrutiny and Improvement Committee. The report was due to be considered by Cabinet on 19 March 2024.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the following comments and questions were noted:

- A discussion took place relating to the concept of 'living well' and

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how this might be defined, with Members suggesting issues relating to independence, opportunity, equality of access to services, transport and social networks as potential considerations.

Q3 Finance Report

The Executive Director for Adults & Communities presented a report which provided a forecast year-end position for the Council as at Quarter 3 of the 2023/24 financial year.

A discussion took place relating to the organisation and presentation of delegated decisions. A Member requested that the delegated decisions be organised in a way that renders them more accessible; **NOTED**.

4 **REDUCING INEQUALITIES IN IMMUNISATION UPTAKE RATES**

The Advanced Public Health Practitioner, Public Health South Tees provided Members with a presentation relating to work being undertaken to reduce inequalities in immunisation uptake, which contained the following key points:

- Funding allocated by the NENC ICS was partly used to increase vaccine update to address unfair and avoidable differences in vaccine uptake across local populations. Redcar and Cleveland was allocated £17,890.
- Six interventions were identified, which included improved data sharing, increased uptake of vaccines in pregnancy, childhood and adolescence and strategic approach to vaccine awareness.
- Early evidence points to the effectiveness of the interventions undertaken so far.

As part of the ensuing discussions, the following comments and questions were noted:

- A Member advised that there were difficulties understanding the current organisation of health bodies and requested an explanatory briefing note for information. It was **AGREED** that a report would be requested from the Director of Place Based Delivery for the Integrated Care Board.
- A Member asked for further information relating to the cost of delivering the initiatives within the allocated budget, and the Committee was advised that, whilst monies had been budgeted for behavioural insight work, ongoing tasks were cost-neutral.
- A Member asked if, as part of the promotional work, the option to have immunisations given outside of school premises was provided. Members were advised that the permission form offered the opportunity for parents to request different approaches.

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- A member asked for further information regarding uptake rates amongst pupils being home educated and those in alternative provision. Members were advised that an update would be provided in due course.
- Members asked for more details about the reasons for poor uptake, and for the fall in uptake rates. Committee was advised that it primarily related to difficulty understanding permission forms or procrastination, which is why behavioural science techniques had been utilised; **NOTED**.

5 **ADULTS LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION PEER CHALLENGE OUTCOME**

The Executive Director for Adults and Communities provided a presentation regarding feedback from the peer challenge team following the peer challenge process undertaken in preparation for CQC assurance.

The following points were noted:

- The process was sector-led and the team invited in as 'critical friends', with recommendations based on triangulation of what was read, seen and heard.
- Details of team membership and the peer challenge process was described
- Key messages as a result of the process were relayed, alongside reported strengths and considerations for improvement.
- Next steps were described and discussed.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the following comments and questions were noted:

- A Member asked for further explanation as to why the service appeared to have an inadequate understanding of the local community and service users. The Committee was advised that cuts in resources had impacted on the services ability to gather intelligence and had left the service only able to 'firefight' and keep people safe. The service was on a journey to better understand the community, with more work to be done. Members were also advised that a flaw in the methodology of the peer challenge process meant that senior officers were not consulted, potentially leaving gaps in evidence collected. A new Market Sustainability Plan and Commissioning Strategy was part of the work in progress.
- Members discussed issues relating to mental health provision, and the Committee was advised that no significant issues in relation to mental health services were identified in our self-assessment, although there were challenges with the mental health trust.
- A Member suggested that scrutiny of the service would be more

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effective if the Committee was provided with more robust comparative data. The Executive Director advised that performance reporting across the authority was evolving, with more information relating to targets across the organisational plan being a feature in future reporting; **NOTED**.

6 **ADULT SOCIAL CARE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK 2022/23**

The Executive Director for Adults and Communities provided a presentation updating Members on the Adults Social Care Outcomes Framework Report.

The following points were noted:

- Although comparative information can be useful, caveats include problems with achieving consistent data recording, the limitations of information provided from single indicators, variation on interpretation of results and the impact of external factors.
- Redcar and Cleveland scored highly across a number of factors, particularly relating to service user satisfaction,
- The areas with lower scores were outlined, with Members asked to note that the reablement service was going through a big expansion.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the following comments and questions were noted:

- A Member asked for consideration to be given to the concept of 'die well', with people offered the opportunity to die at home where possible.
- A Member asked for confirmation of how the survey is undertaken and Committee was advised that questions are provided by central government and adults were invited randomly to participate from a database. 1745 adults had responded to the most recent survey.
- In relation to problems accessing service offers digitally, Members were advised that printed packs are available via discharge teams; **NOTED**.

7 **QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

The Assistant Directors for Adult Social Care (Service Development and Integrations), Adult Social Care (Operations) and Health and Communities provided a presentation updating Members on Quarter 3 performance information.

The following comments and questions were noted:

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- A Member asked how many schools were signed up to the Headstart Programme, and Members were advised that all schools in the Borough were signed up.
- A Member requested the data regarding leisure centre usage broken down by activity and postcode in order to understand the reasons for people's visits to the centres. Members were advised that this would be circulated in due course.
- A Member asked that men's experience of domestic abuse should be acknowledged and reflected in performance reporting.
- A Member asked if supported living was being created for adults under 55 years, and the Committee was advised that supported living for adults with learning disabilities was available across the Borough, with a flexible approach to allocation of new housing.
- A member asked for clarification regarding the definition of unsecured debt; **NOTED**.

8 **WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24**

The Chair referred Members to the Governance Manager's report regarding the 2023/24 work programme for the Adults, Wellbeing & Health Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.

The report was **NOTED**.

9 **OUTSIDE BODIES UPDATE**

The Chair invited updates from Members who had attended meetings of Outside Bodies that were relevant to the Adults, Wellbeing & Health Scrutiny & Improvement Committee.

On this occasion none were received.

10 **ACTION UPDATE**

The Action Update was **NOTED**.

11 **ANY ITEMS THE CHAIR CERTIFIES AS URGENT**

There were no items certified as urgent.