

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 3RD NOVEMBER 2022 AT 6:30 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members:

Councillor Rachel Taggart-Ryan(Chair), Councillor Majid Rahman, Councillor Christine St. Matthew-Daniel, Councillor Sammy Backon, Councillor John Hills, and Councillor Sandra Bauer.

Officers:

Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, Director of Adult Social Care, and Deputy Corporate Governance Manager.

Others in attendance:

Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care

The Chair welcomed members and proceeded to the agenda items.

Item No.

1 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Sarah-Jayne Merrill.

2 Urgent Business.

The Chair informed that Panel that she will be taking the Response to Health Inequalities Review report first.

3 Declaration of Interest.

Resolved -

That the list of Councillors' memberships as Council appointed representatives on outside bodies, joint committees and school governing bodies be noted.

4 Minutes

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Panel held on 22nd September 2022 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

5 Response to Health Inequalities Review.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care and the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing gave a summary of the report.

Responding to a question from the Panel, the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing stated that there has been a smooth transfer from the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to the Integrated Care System (ICS). He explained that they are working with the same people and partners. He stated that inequalities issues are better understood by everybody and is central to all the discussions being had about priorities for the future. He also stated that discussions were being had about refreshing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Panel requested to receive information/data on the effect of long covid on pregnancy and maternity as a protected characteristic.

Action: Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

Responding to a question from the Panel, the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing stated that the Council has an emergency support fund for people who may be in need and are isolating because of covid. He stated that the

national policy is not on testing however the advice is to treat it, avoid crowded places and stay home.

The Panel requested to receive information on the number of people on the waiting list of the eight-week programme for people with long covid.

Action: Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

Responding to a question from the Panel, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care stated that there is great partnership working to tackle structural inequalities.

Responding to a question from the Panel, the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing stated that they are looking at the potential to use legacy monies in the Council that did not get used up during the immediate response period of the covid pandemic. He added that the NHS has charitable funds which can be released over a number of years. The Director of Public Health and Wellbeing stated that on wanting to see Health Inequalities be a main feature of how the money is used, they are working with local and small organisations.

Responding to a question from the Panel, the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing stated that the Council has a Digital Strategy and recognises that some parts of the borough are less enabled digitally. He added that the council also recognises that is not the direction of travel that everybody wants to go, therefore it is important to maintain varied ways of providing access to people like face-to-face, telephone conversations and online/digital means. The Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care added that they were able to disseminate information very quickly by working with religious leaders and community groups and have maintained the relationship.

The Panel requested to receive information on the parts of the borough that are not reachable digitally.

Action: Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

Responding to a question from a resident the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care stated that during covid some tablets and computers were

provided to households however not all were successful. She stated that they are continuing to work to give more people access digitally.

The Panel

Resolved -

That the Response to Health Inequalities Review report be noted.

6 Health and Adult Social Care Performance Monitoring and Social Care Provision and Charging.

The Director of Adult Social Care gave a summary of the report.

Councillor Bauer told the Panel that she had received feedback from a resident who praised the social care service.

Responding to a question from the Panel, the Director of Adult Social Care stated that in September 2022 they had 126 people waiting for a comprehensive social care assessment.

Responding to a question from the Panel, the Director of Adult Social Care stated that a lot of work has been done around engaging with people with learning disabilities. He stated that they are working through some of the co-production work around assessment forms.

Responding to a question from the Panel, the Director of Adult Social Care stated that demand has increased, however there are processing in place to assure themselves about priorities and consequences that could be. He stated that they have developed two apprenticeship offers for social care assessors who are not social work qualified but do a huge amount of work and support the service. The Director of Adult Social Care stated that they have agreed to have six apprentices next year.

Responding to a question from the Panel, the Director of Adult Social Care stated that there are mechanisms and assurance processes in place to monitor the quality of care providers. He stated that the monitoring is done through a combination of work with the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and the quality team based within the commissioning team of the Council.

Responding to a question about the affordability of charges, the Director of Adult Social Care stated that it links to the reforms work being done and that they will need to review the charging policy as part of the reforms work. He stated that they keep record of the people who approach them to have conversations around cutting back on care because of affordability. He added that they are generally good at collecting charges.

Responding to a question from a resident, the Director of Adult Social Care stated that without charges they will not be able to meet the needs of more people. He explained that it would also have a significant impact on the budget.

The Panel

Resolved -

That the Health and Adult Social Care Performance Monitoring and Social Care Provision and Charging report be noted.

7 Commissioning of Future Reports

The Panel agreed on the work items that were scheduled to be presented to the meeting of the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel taking place on 8th December 2022.

The meeting closed at 8:35 pm.

Chair