

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

WEDNESDAY 1ST MARCH 2023 AT 6:30 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members:

Councillor Sammy Backon, Councillor Majid Rahman, Councillor Christine St. Matthew-Daniel, Councillor Merrill, Councillor John Hills and Councillor Sandra Bauer.

Officers:

Director of Public Health and Wellbeing, Integrated Director of Commissioning – Adults Services, Integrated Commissioning Director – Children’s Services and Deputy Corporate Governance Manager.

Others in attendance:

Chief Operating Officer – Oxleas, Chief Executive Officer – Bridge Support and Chief Operating Officer Greenwich SEL ICS.

Under Standing Orders:

Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Sammy Backon.

The Chair welcomed members and proceeded to the agenda items.

The Panel agreed to take Item 6 before Item 5.

**Item
No.**

1 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies received from Cllr Taggart-Ryan and Cllr Fahy.

2 Urgent Business.

None received.

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

The Chair informed the Panel that the minutes of the previous meeting would be made available at the next meeting of the Panel.

5 Update on Mpox Outbreak

The Panel agreed to go straight to questions.

Responding to a question about how many people required hospital care, the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing stated that very few people needed hospital care. He explained that it was not because they were acutely unwell from the infection but because in a handful of people, the lesions they acquired were very painful. He stated that there were 40 cases over the whole of the outbreak period in Greenwich.

Responding to a question about the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and lessons learned from the vaccination programme, the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing stated that the vaccines were initially distributed across the

country even to regions which did not have infections. He explained that the main lesson learned was reengineering the distribution to get more vaccines into London where the need was greatest. He added that lessons were learnt from the long queues and as such the same situation was not repeated.

Responding to a question about the first and second vaccinations, the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing stated that the main concern was around the supply of the first dose because certain parts of London got it later than others. He explained that many did not go back for the second dose.

Resolved –

That the Update on Mpox Outbreak be noted.

6 Mental Health Services in Greenwich

The report was summarised by the Integrated Director of Commissioning – Adults Services.

Responding to a question about outreach, the Chief Executive Officer of Bridge Support stated that they have a very limited budget, so they focus on developing courses. He stated that they are involved in mapping work which will go alongside the Greenwich's community directory to describe every mental health service in Greenwich.

Responding to a question about workforce, the Chief Executive Officer of Bridge Support stated that recruitment and retention was a big issue. He revealed that 31% of people in social care are aged 51 and above and would probably retire in the next 5 years. He explained that young people do not seem to want to work in social care. He added that 82% of social care workers are female. The Chief Executive Officer of Bridge Support highlighted the disparity in wages stating that, the average wage in the sector is £10.91 while the average Local Authority wage is £21.37. He revealed that ethnic minorities comprised 68% of the workforce.

Responding to a question about the challenges in getting people into social care, the Chief Executive Officer of Bridge Support stated that the negative image of social care and the unattractive pay were the main challenges.

Responding to a question about what can be done to attract people to social care jobs, the Chief Executive Officer of Bridge Support stated that every provider should be a London Living Wage provider. He added that a framework must be developed to professionalise the role by recognising people through qualifications, training, and a clear career path. He explained that about 40% of people in the sector are on zero-hour contract which is not attractive.

Responding to a question about General Practitioners (GP) referrals, the Chief Operating Officer – Oxleas stated that GPs can refer people. He further explained that people can refer themselves.

Responding to a question about outreach to refugees, the Chief Operating Officer – Oxleas stated that they have made offers to refugees. He stated that Greenwich Time to Talk have been in contact with the refugees. He added that they have interpreting services and offer their services in different languages.

Responding to a question about whether schools made referrals, the Integrated Commissioning Director – Children’s Services stated that schools are involved and that they make referrals.

Resolved –

That the Mental Health Services in Greenwich report be noted.

The meeting closed at 8:00pm.

Chair