

ROYAL BOROUGH OF GREENWICH

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

THURSDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 6:30 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

Members:

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

Officers:

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

Under Standing Orders:

Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care

Others in attendance:

Chief Operating Officer Greenwich SEL ICS

The Chair welcomed members and proceeded to the agenda items.

Item

No.

I Apologies for Absence.

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Merrill and Joy Beishon. Apologies for leaving early received from Cllr Hartley.

2 Urgent Business.

None.

3 Declaration of Interest.

None received.

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 13th July 2023 and 1st March 2023 be agreed and signed as a true and accurate record.

5 Cabinet Member Update

The Panel received a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care.

Responding to a question about social isolation initiatives and learning from neighbouring boroughs like Bromley, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care stated that the strategy was introduced to improve things. She added that more broadcasting will be done to convey what is available for carers. The Director of Adult Social Care added that they have innovation grants around the carer strategy to try and connect people to communities.

In response to a question about carer information, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care stated that information is available online. The Director of Public Health and Wellbeing added that they are in the process of relaunching the Greenwich Community Directory which is an online repository of information for all residents in the borough.

Responding to a question about the borough of sanctuary, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care stated that a joint statement will be released with the Cabinet Member for Housing, Neighbourhoods and Homelessness in relation to asylum seekers. The Director of Adult Social Care added that they work closely with Home Office.

Responding to a question about young carers, the Director of Adult Social Care told the Panel that they work closely with Children's Services. He added that when reviewing the Carer Strategy, the idea is to have a joined-up strategy which includes young carers.

Responding to a question about the increase in permanent admissions for people aged 18yrs-64yrs to residential and nursing care, the Director of Adult Social Care stated that the driver for that is not the level of need or the service's inability to enable people to go home first.

Responding to a question about French bugs the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing encouraged the Panel not to be anxious. He informed the Panel that he would be attending a regional meeting with the UK Health Security Agency to consider the risks and responses.

In response to a question about child poverty, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care stated that tackling health inequalities is a priority and emphasised the importance of improving the lives of residents in the borough. Referring to the report, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adults Social Care highlighted that the suicide data showed that Greenwich was doing better than the rest of the country. She emphasised that suicide is a preventable death and that the target should be zero.

Responding to a question about tuberculosis and the BCG vaccine, the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing stated that the vaccine is offered to babies in areas with higher prevalence. He explained that the vaccine is no longer given at schools.

Resolved -

That the Cabinet Update be noted.

6 The Greenwich Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-28

The report was summarised by the Chief Operating Officer Greenwich SEL ICS.

Responding to a question about primary access improvements, the Chief Operating Officer Greenwich SEL ICS stated that initiatives to improve primary care access include introducing cloud telephony to make phone systems more effective. He also highlighted having the right workforce as a key aspect of improving primary access. The Chief Operating Officer Greenwich SEL ICS stated that they have 47 General Practitioners (GPs) in training and 33 pharmacists working with GPs.

Responding to a question about food poverty, the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing stated that work on free school meals such as the holiday activity and fan programme and the holiday food programme were already happening.

Responding to a question about family hubs, the Chief Operating Officer Greenwich SEL ICS stated that there are 23 children centres which are essentially family hub models. He explained that the additional funding focused on four family hubs in the borough in the areas with the highest needs.

Resolved -

That the Greenwich Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-28 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 16th November 2023.

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

Chair