

## **DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL**

At a meeting of **Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 2, County Hall, Durham on **Friday 15 November 2019 at 9.30 am**

### **Present**

**Councillor J Robinson (Chair)**

### **Members of the Committee**

Councillors A Batey, R Bell, L Brown, P Crathorne, R Crute, J Grant, T Henderson, S Quinn, M Simmons, H Smith, J Stephenson and O Temple

### **Co-opted Members**

Mrs R Hassoon

## **1 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J Chaplow, E Huntington, P Jopling, C Kay, K Liddell, A Reed, A Savory, C Wilson and Mr C Cunningham Shore

## **2 Substitute Members**

There were no substitute members present.

## **3 Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

The Principal Overview and Scrutiny Officer gave an update on the following items:-

Item No. 7 – the Fishburn surgery closure had not been reported to the Primary Care Committee of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) due to election purdah. This would now be reported late December/early January.

Item No. 10 – Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee had a meeting scheduled on 27 November 2019 to discuss the best start in life. An invitation had been extended to this committee and would touch upon the breastfeeding and smoking at the time of delivery issues highlighted at the last meeting as areas to be looked at further.

Members were advised that a member training would be held at the conclusion of this meeting to discuss financial awareness and budget monitoring.

#### **4      Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **5      Any Items from Co-opted Members or Interested Parties**

There were no items to consider.

#### **6      County Durham and Darlington Flu Prevention Board**

The Committee received a joint report from the Director of Public Health that provided information and assurance on the progressing work of the County Durham and Darlington Flu Prevention Board to increase the uptake of the flu vaccination in the local area (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Consultant in Public Health advised that the evaluation carried out had shown that the take up was for low the eligible groups however the board would continue to meet throughout the year to oversee the key actions.

The Director of Public Health added that this area of work forms part of her statutory responsibility for health protection and that the service had a commitment to increasing the uptake.

Councillor Bell asked if all staff were eligible for the vaccine and was advised that it was aimed at a targeted group of people who provided direct up close and personal care. The Director of Public Health added that the uptake of this group of staff would need to increase before they looked at a wider group of staff.

Members were advised that staff were informed of the flu vaccinations by having conversations and publicising on the intranet.

Discussions took place about whether the vaccine should be mandatory and the Director of Public Health said that it would not be ethical to enforce this.

Councillor Temple welcomed the actions of the board but said that it was important to track progress and find out the cost benefit. He said that it would be helpful to be able to compare figures between the county average and each area. The Consultant in Public Health informed him that they were working with colleagues in the CCG and health practices to look at the variances between patient groups. He explained that the data received was at practice level but that there would be multiple counting across certain groups of people.

The Director of Public Health added that they were commissioned by NHS England and the data was received from them however she would look at how to report back to members in future so that the data was meaningful.

Councillor Crute agreed that it would be helpful to request further details on the data to enable monitoring.

**Resolved:**

That the report be noted and further work be undertaken by Public Health to enable meaningful data to be reported back to the Committee in future reports.

## **7 Director of Public Health County Durham Annual Report**

The Committee received a report of the Director of Public Health for County Durham that presented the Annual Report for 2019 (for copy see file of Minutes).

The Director of Public Health gave a detailed presentation on the Annual Report that focused on the following:-

- Health and wellbeing across County Durham
- Where we live, our services and our communities
- Our priorities and progress towards them
- Mental health at scale
- Healthy workforce

The Director of Public Health reminded the Committee of the fictional family 'the Taylors' and how the priorities and progress had affected them and the benefits of this.

The Director of Public Health agreed to come back to a future meeting to update on progress and commented that next years report would focus on the 'Best Start in Life' and ensuring people had good jobs.

Councillor Bell asked if there were any underlying reasons regarding the increase in SEN numbers and the Director of Public Health advised that a piece of work was almost complete on this issue and would cover the reasons for the increase and the diagnosis. She would bring a report to a future meeting.

Councillor Grant welcomed the report however was concerned about the mental health figures especially the statistic that 1 in 10 children have a mental health disorder. She felt that everything needed a label and there was a danger that everyone with some form of mental health problem were being clubbed together. She accepted that there were periods in most people's lives that would trigger some sort of mental health problem but it could just be temporary. The Director of Public Health explained that it was a real challenge and that we tended to highlight

the bad rather than the good things that happen in life. She took on board these points for future reporting.

The Chair was pleased to see that people were now recognising mental health as a real problem and treating as a priority. He did appreciate that the figures covered everyone, from people suffering with anxiety and those who had autism and learning disabilities.

The Director of Public Health said that it was recognised that regardless of whether a symptom was long or short term that it was important to build in resilience and recognise triggers.

In response to a question from Mrs Hassoon, the Director of Public Health advised that each child has an individual plan to meet their needs.

**Resolved:**

That the report be received.

## **8 Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report**

The Committee considered a Joint Report of Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services, Corporate Director of Children and Young People's Services and Director of Transformation and Partnerships that presented the Annual Report 2018/19 (for copy see file of minutes).

The Strategic Manager Partnerships highlighted the initiatives that had taken place to achieve the strategic objectives in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and gave some examples across the following priorities:-

- Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life
- Reduce health inequalities and early deaths
- Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions
- Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population
- Protect vulnerable people from harm
- Support people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support that they need

Future challenges were also highlighted and the continued threat of cuts to Public Health funding.

Further to a question from Councillor Henderson, the Director of Public Health explained that historically more men smoked than women however this has now balanced out. She went on to advise that the Local Tobacco Alliance would refresh their strategy in 2020 to help achieve the target of 5% by 2025.

Councillor Temple asked how a smoker was defined and if vapers were also classed as smokers. The Director of Public Health said that anyone who vaped were classed as non-smokers as the liquid did not contain tar. She added that people would not be encouraged to start vaping if they did not smoke but that it was used as an alternative to help people stop smoking.

Members were concerned about the safety aspects of vaping and the Director of Public Health confirmed that the products were highly regulated in this country and had to pass rigorous quality and safety standards.

Councillor Quinn commented that the price of soft drinks were really high and that when looking at reducing the intake of alcohol, this should be considered as did not deter people from opting for an alcoholic drink as these were often cheaper.

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2018/19 be agreed.
- (ii) That the timeline and next steps outlined in the report be noted.
- (iii) That the intention to include more performance information in the Annual Report to demonstrate the impact, be noted.

## **9 County Durham Local Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2018/19**

The Committee considered a report of the Independent Chair of the Durham Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB), which presented the Annual Report 2018/2019 (for copy see file of minutes).

The SAB Business Manager highlighted the work carried out with service users, Healthwatch and the Safeguarding Partnership. She informed the board that 30,000 members of staff had now accessed training in respect to safeguarding and 80 organisations had accessed information at shared events. She advised that there was now wider membership with the inclusion of the Probation and Prison Services and further links to Tees Valley Community Rehabilitation Company with a focus on the service user and looking at drivers around sexual exploitation.

The SAB Business Manager advised that they were keen to hear the voice of the practitioner, carry out audit activities and deep dives within the next year, together with strengthening arrangements with the advocacy provider.

Further to a question from the Chair the SAB Business Manager explained that Councillor Hovvells as Cabinet Portfolio holder was a board member, together with statutory partners including the Police, Probation and Prison Service, Fire Service, CCG, Community and Voluntary Sector and lay members.

The SAB Business Manager responded to a query from Councillor Temple about emerging issues and explained that the board were concentrating on areas such as financial abuse and self neglect for people living in their own homes to reduce those levels of risk. She added that physical abuse would always be the cause for the most concern.

**Resolved:**

That the annual report and achievements made in 2018/19 be noted.

**10 Review of Stroke Rehabilitation service and Review of Inpatient Rehabilitation services at Bishop Auckland Hospital (Ward 6) - Proposed establishment of Joint Health OSC**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Transformation and Partnerships that provided information in respect of the draft terms of reference and protocol for a joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to oversee the statutory consultation process of the review of Stroke Rehabilitation services in County Durham and Darlington and the review of Inpatient Rehabilitation services at Bishop Auckland Hospital (ward 6) (for copy see file of Minutes).

**Resolved:**

- (i) That the report be received.
- (ii) That the terms of reference and protocol for a joint committee be agreed.
- (iii) That the appointment of representatives to the joint committee be agreed.