

Health Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Tuesday, 11th September, 2018.

Present:- Councillors A Sandhu (Chair), Smith (Vice-Chair), Ali, Chaudhry, M Holledge, Matloob, Qaseem, Shah and Strutton

Non-Voting Co-optee – Colin Pill, Slough Heathwatch

Apologies for Absence:- None.

PART I

14. Declarations of Interest

No interests were declared.

15. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 28th June 2018

Councillor Strutton requested that it be recorded that the reason he had left part way through the meeting held on 28th June 2018 was because of comments made to him by another member of the Panel that he considered to be “unprofessional and inappropriate”.

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 28th June 2018 be approved as a correct record.

16. Action Progress Report

The Panel noted the progress made on the actions agreed at recent meetings. In relation to Minute 61, it was noted that the visit to the Phoenix and Priors Day Centres would be arranged once the refurbishments had been completed.

Resolved – That the Action Progress Report be noted.

17. Member Questions

A Question by Councillor Smith, and the Officer’s response, was tabled regarding the action the Council and NHS partners were taking to address the fact that Slough had the third highest rate of deaths in the South East attributable to air pollution.

(Councillor Qaseem joined the meeting)

Councillor Smith indicated that the answer did not adequately address the question, in particular that:

- The information did not clarify the reasons why Slough had a disproportionately higher mortality rate attributable to air pollution.
- It didn’t include the distribution of health conditions attributed to air pollution by ward, gender and/or ethnic groups.

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- Was the Council reviewing it's action plan in light of the data?
- What future arrangements did the Council have in terms of air quality monitoring?

The Panel noted that the new SBC Low Emission Strategy would be considered by the Cabinet on Monday 17th September and it was agreed that a fuller report on the health issues raised in the question be received by the Panel, provisionally in November 2018.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Member Question and Officer response be noted.
- (b) That the Panel add an item to the Work Programme on the mortality and health impacts of air pollution in Slough.

18. Adult Social Care Transformation Programme - Stage 2

The Adult Social Care Programme Manager introduced a report that updated the Panel on Stage 2 of the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme.

There continued to be significant pressures on adult social care services including a net reduction of 17% in the budget since 2013; a projected overspend in the current year of £1.8; and rising demands arising from demographic and other factors. Stage 1 of the Transformation Programme had already delivered £4.8m of the targeted £7.9m savings by 2019, for example by reconfiguring learning disability services and a departmental restructure with a shift to community based teams. There was uncertainty on the national funding picture with the end of the Better Care Fund confirmed for 2020 and continued delay in the Government's adult social care reform.

The four key areas in the delivery of Stage 2 of the Transformation Programme were new ways of working; developing social capital; implementing integrated care; and promoting self care. The Panel received a detailed update on the progress being made in each of these areas and had a wide ranging discussion about the programme, which is summarised as follows:

Integrated Care Decision Making:

- Assurance was sought that hospital discharges were being well managed as issues were sometimes raised with Members in casework.
- Further information on the effectiveness of projects in place to improve discharge was requested.
- A Member queried whether the appropriate actions were being taken to ensure the home environment was safe and ready for those discharged.
- It was crucial that the lessons were learned from incidents where the system of hospital discharge had not gone well and was training in place to address issues.

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Community delivery and engagement:

- There was general support for working more closely with communities to develop and deliver services.
- The community asset based development pilot in Foxborough was raised and Members asked how and when it would be rolled out. The Panel requested a copy of the analysis of the pilot when available.
- Members queried whether communities had the resources to be able to put in place the right solutions to address local issues.

Early intervention:

- The principle of early intervention was supported.
- Some concern was expressed about what was in place for residents or communities not identified and supported by early intervention.
- What safeguards were in place to support people where self care did not work and they fell back into acute services?

The Panel congratulated the ASC management and teams for continuing to support people effectively despite severe budget pressures and rising demand. Members expressed concerns about the medium and long term national funding shortfall and the impact on services and residents locally. This would be a key consideration in future budget decisions for the Council.

At the conclusion of the discussion the report was noted. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee would also consider a report on the Transformation Programme at its meeting on 15th November 2018.

Resolved –

- (a) That the progress being made in implementing the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme be noted.
- (b) That the community development projects that were being established to support the prevention of long term adult social care needs and the proposed impact that whole community approaches would have on the ability of the Council, Public Health and the NHS to support those who are the most vulnerable in our community be noted.
- (c) That it be noted that the Making Every Contact Project was looking for volunteer councillors to attend the training programme to encourage a deeper understanding of how our citizens can be empowered to take control of their issues.
- (d) That the increasing pressures that adult social care was facing with the further potential for the reduction in national one off funding be noted.

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19. Resident and Service User Engagement - Co-Production

The Strategy & Partnership Manager introduced a report that provided a progress update on the emerging model of co-production in the design and delivery of adult social care services. Karen Evans, the Co-Chair of the Learning Disability Partnership Board also addressed the Panel to explain her role and involvement as a service user.

The Council has previously involved users in a range of areas of adult social care activity through partnership boards such as carers, learning disabilities and autism. Whilst these had some good work, it had been decided to review the arrangements as they lacked clear governance and varied in their effectiveness. Working with service users, a new model of engagement had therefore been developed that would help influence how limited resources were targeted and how services were delivered. The model of Co-production Group replacing the old partnership boards would be a platform to share ideas, identify ways to improve independence and involve Slough's wider community in designing and developing new services and ways of working. The Council would be seeking to identify people able to contribute to the new group.

Ms Evans told the Panel about her experience of being involved in the engagement work and her expectations for the new Co-production Group. She highlighted how important it was that people felt that they were being listened to and that services were responsive. In addition to the service benefits of the involvement of users, Ms Evans stated that she had made new friends and improved her confidence, which made her more able to speak up on behalf of others and make the engagement more effective. The Panel commended Ms Evans for the role she was playing and agreed that it was crucial to have effective mechanisms to listen to the views of her and other service users.

The Panel discussed a number of issues included how the Council would ensure the new group would be more effective than the partnership boards it was replacing and how more people could be encouraged to be involved. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Panel noted the report and Members endorsed the approach being taken.

Resolved –

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the approach being taken to strengthen residents and service user involvement in shaping services through creating more meaningful, robust and equal partnerships be endorsed.

(Colin Pill left the meeting)

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20. Solutions4Health - Deep Dives

The Panel received a further update from representatives of Solutions4Health on the work being undertaken as part of the Eat4Health, Let's Get Going, Cardiowellness4Slough and FallsFree4Life programmes commissioned by the Council's public health team.

Detailed summaries of each of the programmes was provided to the Panel with the overall strategy being to take a preventative approach to address key local public health challenges.

- Eat4Health – the project was in its second year and uptake was good. An average of 10 people attended each course with 53% achieving a 3% weight loss or more.
- Let's Get Going – a healthy lifestyle programme aimed at 7-12 year olds and their families. 47 children took part between January to August 2018 with 97% of children and 100% of parents rating the course as very good or excellent.
- Cardiowellness4Slough – an integrated healthy lifestyle service to help people stop smoking, eat healthily or reduce excessive alcohol intake. The aim was to increase the take up of health checks to bring Slough up to the national target. 767 patients had been triaged through the service in the first six months of 2018.
- FallsFree4Life – the service exceeded its target of 600 falls assessments in 2017-18.

The Panel welcomed the good work that had been commissioned by the public health team and discussed a number of issues including the ongoing support to help people change behaviours and live more healthily. It was recognised that this was a long term approach and it was often hard to directly measure the effectiveness of preventative work. A Member asked why the Let's Get Going programme was currently only running in three schools and it was noted this was due to the resources available to invest in the project.

It was noted that the activity was funded through the national public health grant, which was being reduced by 15% year on year and would cease to be a ring-fenced grant from 2020. The Panel agreed that it was important that public health programmes of this type continued beyond that, particularly where programmes were proving successful in Slough. It was therefore agreed to make a recommendation to the Cabinet to encourage it to commit to continuing to support this work in the future.

Resolved – That the following reference be made to the Cabinet:

“That Cabinet encourages members and representatives from Public Health, and other Council departments, to work closely with Solutions4Health in developing future integrated models for prevention and behaviour change that will continue to benefit and improve the health of Slough residents beyond 2020.”

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21. Disability Task & Finish Group - Terms of Reference

The Scrutiny Officer introduced a report that sought approval for the final terms of reference for the Disability Task & Finish which the Panel had previously agreed to establish.

The proposed members of the Task & Finish Group had met with Officers on 10th August to develop the terms of reference and the outcome was reflected in the draft as at Appendix A to the report. The group would be chaired by Colin Pill from Slough Healthwatch and the membership comprised of five elected members and Liam Toner representing the Council's workforce. The group would meet with a variety of key bodies during the course of its work including the Slough Youth Parliament, Disability Forum, community groups and Council departments including transport and planning.

A Member sought clarification that the group's remit included the accessibility of Council buildings and it was responded that paragraph 1.1 of the terms of reference relating to the "level of inclusion offered for disabled residents and visitors in services offered by Slough Borough Council" would sufficiently cover access. The group would also be working with the company producing the Disability Access Guide which would ensure access problems were identified.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the terms of reference were approved.

Resolved – That the terms of reference for the Disability Task & Finish Group be approved.

22. Forward Work Programme

The Panel considered the Work Programme for 2018/19 and agreed the following amendments:

- Report on the impacts of air quality on mortality and health in Slough to be added to the programme for 21st November.
- An update on preparedness for winter to be added to the agenda for the meeting on 21st November.
- Report on Community Asset Development work in Foxborough to be added to the programme in either November or January.
- Adult Social Care Transformation Programme Update scheduled for January to be removed as it duplicated the update provided earlier in the meeting.

Resolved – That the Forward Work Programme be agreed.

23. Attendance Record

Resolved – That the Members' Attendance Record for 2018/19 be noted.

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24. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Panel was confirmed as 16th October 2018.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.58 pm)