

Health Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Thursday, 1st September, 2016.

Present:- Councillors Pantelic (Chair), Strutton (Vice-Chair), Chaudhry, M Holledge, Mann (from 6.47pm) and Smith

Non-Voting Co-optee – Colin Pill, Slough Healthwatch representative (until 7.20pm)

Also present:- Councillor Hussain.

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Cheema, Chohan and Qaseem

PART I

10. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Pantelic declared that she had been appointed by the Council to the Council of Governors of Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust as an observer stakeholder governor.

11. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 30th June 2016

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th June 2016 be approved as a correct record.

12. Member Questions

There were no questions from Members.

13. Frimley Sustainability and Transformation Plan

The theme for the meeting was Integration with the NHS and the Interim Director of Adult Social Care provided the Panel with an overview of the current level of integration and future plans in health and social care. There was already a significant level of integration between the Council and Slough Clinical Commissioning Group in areas such as learning disabilities services and with Berkshire Healthcare Community Foundation Trust on mental health services. The development of this agenda was pushed further by the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

The Department of Health had required NHS and local authority partners to come together to develop STPs and had set the geography as the 'Frimley footprint' encompassing Slough, Windsor & Maidenhead, Bracknell & Ascot, Surrey Heath and part of North East Hampshire. The aim was to produce a joint plan across the system to bring financial balance to the area by 2020 and to seek to improve the quality and range of services to local people. The governance arrangements were explained and included representation from Slough on the Frimley System Directors Group and the Local Authority Elected Members Group. The Plan included five priorities, four key enablers

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and six initiatives. The latest STP had been submitted to NHS England at the end of June and the feedback would be used to further refine the plan prior to final submission in October. Plans could not yet be published but some had made their way into the public domain and had been widely covered in the national media, for example in areas where the draft plans included hospital closures. The Panel was reassured that the STP would not create a new bureaucracy or takeover of local services, and the local plan did not include any hospital closures.

The Panel reviewed a number of key aspects of the STP including the advantages and disadvantages of producing a plan across such a large area. It was noted that the larger footprint brought economies of scale, and possibly put the area in a better position to attract the future investment monies available through the STP process. A Member commented that the importance of carers did not come through strongly in the documentation. It was noted that the report was a high level summary, and the Interim Director confirmed that carers were a vital part of the plan and would take forward the issue of how this could be better reflected in STP documents.

Members asked a number of questions about the digital agenda that involved finding different ways of helping more people manage their own needs and working with partners on areas such as information sharing. The practical and technological challenges of sharing data and information across different bodies were recognised, however, the Panel was encouraged that all partners had now signed up to a common approach, and that a specification had been developed and procured. Roll out of the Connected Care work would be phased and the Panel was particularly interested in when the impacts could begin to be assessed. It was agreed to receive an information report at a meeting later in the municipal year, provisionally March 2017, to check that progress was on track, with the early impact assessments being considered for the Panel work programme in 2017-18. A specific concern was raised about the standard of discharge records and the support for carers at Wexham Park Hospital and it was agreed that this issue could be raised with Frimley Health NHS FT at the next meeting of the Panel.

The funding position was considered. As well as providing a vehicle to secure future investment monies for the health and social care system, it was felt that by improving integration and joint working through the STP there was an opportunity to make better use of existing resources. The Panel discussed a range of other issues including the problem of missed appointments and workforce planning. A question was asked about the system for allocating GP funding to local areas and it was agreed to ask Slough CCG to provide a short explanatory note on the process. The Panel recognised the potential benefits of the STP approach and highlighted the importance of ensuring the process did not create further bureaucracy and was as simple and streamlined as possible.

At the conclusion of the discussion the report was noted and it was agreed to consider an update in November via an information report.

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Resolved – That the progress being made on the Frimley Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) be noted and the following actions agreed:

- a) That an information report on the final STP be received by the Panel at a future meeting.
- b) That the progress of the Connected Care project would be monitored via an information report to the Panel towards the end of the municipal year with the issue being considered for scrutiny in 2017-18.
- c) That the linkages between STP priorities and initiatives appropriately reflect the importance of carers and emphasise the importance of patient engagement.
- d) That Slough CCG be asked to provide a short briefing note explaining the NHS process of GP funding allocations i.e. need, population, GP registers etc.

(Colin Pill left the meeting at this point)

14. Better Care Fund

A report was considered updating the Panel on the quarter four outturn of the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for 2015/16 including a summary annual report on activity and progress. The Panel was reminded of the background to the BCF, noting that the Pooled Budget in 2015-16 was £8.762m, rising to £9.035m in 2016-17. The funding supported 31 schemes that provided an opportunity to test new ways of working, but in total the BCF expenditure accounted for less than 10% of total health and social care spending in Slough. The Council and CCG would need to agree an Integration Plan by March 2017 to mainstream activity as BCF was expected to be phased out by 2020.

The BCF programme had performed well in 2015-16 in terms of the metrics with a reduction in the key indicator of non-elective admissions in 2015 compared to 2014. Admissions had increased this year, however, it was considered that the BCF activity had had a positive impact in reducing admissions lower than they may otherwise have been.

Members asked about the changes made to the programme during the past year and it was responded that under-performing schemes were assessed and either redesigned or stopped with the funding being directed to other projects. In 2015/16 this allowed the Complex Case Management and Responder Service to be piloted which were considered to have been successful. Several new areas of investment had been identified for 2016/17 including the Integrated Cardio Prevention Programme, enhanced GP support for care homes and Out of Hospital Transformation to try to avoid unnecessary admissions. The Panel agreed that it was important to understand the evidence of what was working to inform decision making and it was agreed that a more detailed summary be provided on the impacts of the schemes receiving BCF investment.

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The Panel discussed the workforce implications of more integrated working with the example cited of domiciliary care workers potentially providing an enhanced service. It was recognised that there were efficiencies and benefits that could be unlocked, however, such changes needed to be carefully planned between providers. A workforce strategy was being developed to set out how staff were recruited, retained, skilled and motivated throughout the future changes. At the conclusion of the discussion, the Panel agreed to note the report.

Resolved –

- (a) That the progress report on the Better Care Fund be noted.
- (b) That a more detailed summary of the impacts of key BCF projects be circulated to Panel Members via email.

15. Refresh of Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy 2016-20

The Panel considered a report on the draft of the refreshed Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy that had been developed by the Slough Wellbeing Board and was due to be recommended to Council for approval on 27th September 2016. The refresh process had started in January and reflected the input from various workshops and consultations. The Strategy would be launched at a partnership conference on 22nd September and it was agreed that the details would be recirculated to Panel Members.

The Panel endorsed the inclusion of housing as a priority in the Strategy and discussed how the links to the health and wellbeing agenda could be taken forward. The Council was in the process of developing a new Housing Strategy and a number of discussions had already taken place to identify the links to social care and how vulnerable people could be supported. A Member asked about the actions the Council was taking to ensure new housing developments met the need for adapted housing. Work was ongoing in this area and further information would be circulated to Members outside of the meeting. A query was also raised about the timeliness and prioritisation of assessing applications for Disabled Facilities Grants and it was agreed that a briefing note would be circulated setting out how the process worked and the indicative timescales for the varying levels of priority.

The Panel discussed several other issues including the current position regarding the educational performance of looked after children. The Commissioner for Health & Social Care and Education & Children's Services said it was planned for Members to receive further briefing on this issue. At the conclusion of the discussion the refreshed Strategy was noted.

Resolved –

- (a) That the refresh of the Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy be noted.

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- (b) That the arrangements for the Slough Partnership Conference to launch the Strategy on 22nd September be noted, and that the details of the conference be recirculated to Panel Members.
- (c) That the Panel be provided with further information on the work being undertaken to ensure new housing developments included appropriate provision of adapted properties.
- (d) That a briefing note be circulated to the Panel on the process, timescales and prioritisation of assessments to help people adapt their homes through the Disabled Facilities Grants.

16. Forward Work Programme

The Panel discussed its Work Programme for 2016-17 and agreed the following items and adjustments:

- Housing (currently unprogrammed) – the Overview & Scrutiny Committee would take the lead and advise the Panel on the appropriate timing and focus of HSP scrutiny of the emerging Housing Strategy.
- Possible item from public health on 0-19 activity to be considered in October.
- Annual reports on Adult Safeguarding and the draft Adult Social Care Local Account to be considered on 6th October. The CCG plan was unlikely to be ready for this date.
- Wexham Park Hospital – Members to exercise caution in discussing planning issues relating to the emergency department at Wexham Park Hospital in view of the forthcoming application.
- Reconfiguration of Learning Disabilities Services – to be added to November agenda with a follow up report to Cabinet in December.
- Leisure and activity – to be scheduled for January 2017 along with the Slough CCG theme.

Resolved – That the Work Programme for 2016-17 be noted, noting the amendments agreed at the meeting.

17. Attendance Record

Resolved – That the Members' Attendance Record 2016/17 be noted.

18. Date of Next Meeting - 6th October 2016

The next meeting of the Panel would be held on 6th October, 2016.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.30 pm)