

Health Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Thursday, 18th January, 2018.

Present:- Councillors Smith (Vice-Chair, in the chair), Ajaib, Chaudhry, M Holledge (from 7.23pm), Qaseem, A Sandhu and Strutton

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

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Rana and Sarfraz

PART I

43. Declarations of Interest

None.

44. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 22nd November 2017

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting held on the 22nd November 2017 be approved as a correct record.

45. Action Progress Report

The Panel noted the progress made on the actions agreed at recent meetings. During the course of the discussion it was agreed that a report be considered in June on female genital mutilation and that a visit for the Panel be arranged to a supported living facility unit.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Action Progress Report be noted.
- (b) That a Panel visit be arranged to a supported living facility unit.
- (c) That the Panel receive a report on Female Genital Mutilation be added to the work programme for the meeting in June 2018.

46. Member Questions

No questions had been received from Members.

47. Recovery Colleges

The Head of Mental Health Services introduced a follow up report to that presented to the Panel on 31st August 2017 on the preventative mental health services in Slough, particularly recovery colleges where service users were supported to better manage their own mental health problems.

The Panel welcomed two peer mentors to the meeting who shared their experiences of mental health services and highlighted the value of recovery

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colleges by working with the community, reducing isolation and provided a positive and supportive environment for service users. Working with peer mentors was considered to be a key factor in the success of the programme. The approach being taken to deliver preventative services of this kind was in line with the policy direction set by the NHS Five Year Forward View 2016 and the Care Act 2014.

Members raised a range of issues during the course of the discussion which can be summarised as follows:

- The relationship with services such as talking therapies. It was responded that the two were complimentary and were part of the same pathway.
- It was generally agreed that tackling the stigma of mental health in the workplace was an important priority and the Panel noted the range of activities to raise awareness of this issue.
- The therapeutic benefits of engaging people in activities such as horticulture and sport was recognised and the 'Growing Better Lives' project and several sport related programmes operating locally were highlighted as delivering successful outcomes.
- Concern was raised that 75% of people experiencing mental health problems were not using health services and the reasons for this were discussed. It was an ongoing task to raise awareness to increase access to services for example by reducing stigma, encouraging GP referrals and improving community based provision.
- The interaction with partners such as Slough Healthwatch and MIND was raised and Members encouraged further joint working with appropriate organisations locally.
- There had been a significant increase in the number of people using and benefitting from the recovery college with 163 courses delivered between March 2015 to December 2017 and 615 students self enrolling.

The wider issue of adult social care funding was raised and a Member commented that spend in Slough was lower than the national average. The Director of Adults & Communities explained the overall position regarding funding including some a growth bid being considered as part of the budget setting process for 2018/19 and the use of the adult social care precept introduced by the government. The Panel asked for further information about of the adult social care budget, excluding the precept, and the proportion spent on mental health in the past three years.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Panel noted the report and requested a further update in twelve months. Members welcomed the positive work that was being done and thanked Officers and particularly the peer mentors for their contribution to the meeting.

Resolved –

- (a) That report be noted.

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(b) That the Panel receive a further update report in 12 months

48. Update on Public Health Programme

The Acting Consultant in Public Health introduced a report updating the Panel on the public health programme and the position on health checks. Members noted the overall context in which Slough was either similar to, or worse than, the England average on a wide range of indicators set out in the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Slough had poor outcomes in terms of life expectancy and healthy life expectancy, smoking prevalence, obesity and levels of activity.

In relation to health checks, which were now universally offered to people aged between 40-74, it was noted that since 2013, 35,795 of Slough residents had been eligible for a check, 20,858 had been offered a check and 12,204 people had taken up the offer. Members expressed concerns about the apparently low level of take up given the high levels of preventable health problems in Slough. The Officer responded that the uptake by those offered a health check was higher than the national average and a significant amount of activity was underway to target those people more at risk who may benefit most from having a check.

The Panel asked about the success of initiatives to tackle childhood obesity. In addition to the wide range of programmes in schools, it was noted that there was significant investment in the Council's leisure facilities as part of the wider Leisure Strategy to increase the levels of activity by ensuring local people used the new and improved facilities. Members asked that the family orientated activities surrounding the return of the Slough half-marathon in October be promoted. The issue of obesity more widely was discussed and the Director of Adults & Communities highlighted the forthcoming awareness campaign to be launched by the Slough Wellbeing Board partners.

(Councillor Qaseem joined the meeting)

A Member highlighted the problems caused by smoking and drinking in local parks and the Panel asked that the senior leadership team give further consideration to the options to tackle the issue including the prohibition of alcohol and smoking in public areas, canals and parks.

It was noted that children in Slough had significantly worse oral health compared to national and regional averages. The Healthy Smiles Slough project had been launched in March 2017 to tackle the problem by delivering information, creating environments that promoted oral health and worked with partners to ensure oral health was promoted as part of wider public health activity. The Panel asked for further information on the outcomes of oral health initiatives for younger children and that the appropriate linkages be made for oral health services to Looked After Children (LAC) and Members asked to be updated with oral check numbers for LAC.

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The Panel discussed the work being undertaken so that the Council was an exemplar in promoting wellbeing and it was noted that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee was conducting a major review into the area. In view of the Council's responsibilities as a corporate parent, the Panel recommended that health activities in Slough be extended to include free use of electric bicycles for looked after children and care leavers in Slough.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Panel noted the update and thanked the Acting Consultant in Public Health who would shortly be leaving the Council for her work in promoting public health in Slough.

Resolved –

- (a) That the update be noted.
- (b) That further information be provided to the Panel on the outcomes of oral health programmes for younger children aged between 0-5 and oral health checks for looked after children.
- (c) That senior leadership give consideration to the further actions that could be undertaken to reduce smoking and alcohol consumption in parks and open spaces.
- (d) That the electric vehicle scheme be made available for free to looked after children and care leavers.

49. Adult Social Care Transformation 2017- Annual Update

The Adult Social Care Programme Manager introduced a report that updated the Panel on the progress being made on the Adult Social Care Transformation Programme introduced in 2015. The programme aimed to oversee improvements to social care practice under the Care Act 2014, develop new ways of working, improve integration with the NHS and deliver £7.9m savings by 2019.

The Panel noted the context in which the transformation programme was being delivered including demographic pressures from a growing population with more complex health and care needs and financial pressures arising from reductions in central government funding. The main projects in Tranche 1 of the programme were summarised, such as the Learning Disability Change Programme, Housing Related Support, review of Drug & Alcohol Services and a new voluntary sector contract with the SPACE consortium. The three key areas were strengths based conversations to help people help themselves; asset based community development; and a shift to locality community based teams. The Panel noted a number of benefits of the programme including improved client outcomes; a total of £4.8m of the targeted £7.9m savings over the four year programme had been achieved to date; an increase of 42% in direct payments and reduced staff turnover and recruitment of permanent staff. The future funding position was uncertain with the Better Care Fund due to end in 2020 and the approach for the second tranche of the

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transformation programme focused on increase integration with the NHS, consolidating the strengths based approach and promoting self care.

Members discussed a range of issues including the different ways in which adult social care was seeking to work with clients and the recruitment issues both in terms of social workers and in the care sector more widely. Officers recognised the particular workforce challenges of recruitment and retention in the domiciliary and care home sector. It was noted that there was a workforce strand in the Sustainability and Transformation Programme to address the issues more widely. A Member raised concern that the 17% reduction in the net budget since 2013 meant that the proportion of the Council's budget spent on adult social care was 32.1% which was circa 3% lower than the national average. In response, it was noted that despite the financial pressures, Slough had a younger population and it was not always possible to make like for like comparisons with other Councils.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the update on the transformation programme was noted and it was agreed to receive a further report in twelve months time.

Resolved –

- (a) That the presentation on the progress of the Adult Social Care Transformation be noted.
- (b) That an update to the Panel be received annually.

50. Adult Social Care- Local Account 2016-17

The Market Development Manager introduced the draft Adult Social Care Local Account 2016-17 which detailed the activities and performance for the year to March 2017.

The document set out the progress that had been made in supporting people to live independently in their own home, strengthen community connections, support communities to be more resilient, invest in preventative support and improve public health. In response to feedback, the Local Account this year made greater use of service user's experiences and case studies. Members welcomed this approach.

The Panel reviewed the performance indicators as set out in the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) data as detailed in the Appendix to the report. Slough had improved performance on 10 indicators out of 26 during the year, however, the figures overall were worse than the previous year. This was largely attributed to the fact that peoples expectations and perceptions of a service as reflected in the survey data often took some time to shift despite the work being undertaken. Members asked how they could support this work and it was agreed that they be involved in the communications and engagement strategy which was being developed.

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A Member raised a point about the primary use of Salt Hill Park, of which the Council was the Trustee, to promote 'physical activity' and the Panel asked that this be widely promoted.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Local Account was noted.

Resolved – That the presentation on the Adult Social Care Local Account 2016-17 be noted.

51. Forward Work Programme

The Work Programme for the remainder of the 2017-18 municipal year was considered and the items for the next meeting on 26th March were agreed as follows:

- STP Update
- Five Year Plan- Outcome 2, key actions 1, 3 and 5
- Learning Disabilities Offer- Update
- Disabled Access to bus stops
- Wellbeing Board

The following items were provisionally agreed for the following meeting to be held on 28th June 2018:

- Community Hubs
- Female Genital Mutilation

Resolved – That the Forward Work Programme be agreed.

52. Attendance Record

Resolved – That the Members' Attendance Record 2017/18 be noted.

53. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting of the Panel was confirmed as Monday 26th March 2018 at 6.30pm.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.39 pm)