

Health Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Wednesday, 21st November, 2018.

Present:- Councillors A Sandhu (Chair), Smith (Vice-Chair), Chaudhry, M Holledge, Matloob, Qaseem (from 6.46pm) and Shah

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

Apologies for Absence:- Councillors Ali and Strutton

PART I

36. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

37. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 16th October 2018

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 16th October 2018 be approved as a correct record.

38. Action Progress Report

The Panel noted the progress being made on the actions agreed at recent meetings. The Members visit to Respond and Lavender Court would be arranged in the new year. All other actions were either completed or ongoing.

Resolved – That details of the Action Progress Report be noted.

39. Member Questions

No questions from Members had been submitted.

40. Frimley Health and Care System Winter Planning 2018/19

The Commissioning Manager from East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Ben Cox, gave a presentation on the winter planning arrangements for the Frimley Health and Care system including details of system planning, implementation arrangements, governance and resilience arrangements for 2018/19.

The objective was to ensure the system was resilient through the winter period and could provide safe, effective and sustainable care for local people. An Urgent & Emergency Care Delivery Plan 2018/19 was in place and there were well established operational procedures between partners to increase resilience by managing discharges, capacity and flow to seek to meet the increased demands during this period. Specific actions included extended GP access from December, the promotion of NHS 111 online from January and additional staffing and capacity where appropriate. From February 2019 an additional 39 beds would be made available at Wexham Park Hospital in the

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new accident and emergency block. The plans sought to learn from local experiences in previous years and good practice from elsewhere. Linkages were made to national campaigns and communication activity such as 'stay well this winter'.

(Councillor Qaseem joined the meeting)

Members raised a number of issues which are summarised as follows:

- Adverse weather – there was provision this year to receive forecasts from the Met Office to help predict and plan for bad weather as far as possible. Ensuring staff could get in to work during poor weather was a major issue and 4x4 vehicles and other measures were in place to mitigate this risk.
- GP access and capacity – there was increased primary care streaming at Wexham Park Hospital and there was 24 hour, 7 day a week provision at the GP Unit. The 39 new beds at A&E would be available from February and it wouldn't be possible to make them available earlier.
- Information and communication – Members emphasised the importance of a communications plan to make residents aware where best and when to access the most appropriate services, particularly extended hours for GPs. It was suggested that Healthwatch could assist with the dissemination of leaflets and posters.
- Flu jab – there was a good level of uptake from the flu jab this year, despite some issues with supplies. A high proportion of the healthcare workforce had received the jab and Members were encouraged to take up the offer.

The Panel was assured that winter planning was stronger this year and had been based on what had worked in previous years. However, it was expected that there would be pressures on the system due to the very high levels of demand but plans were in place to resolve issues as soon as possible. An escalation process was in place with the Integrated Care System Board if required.

Resolved – That the update on winter planning arrangements for the Frimley Health and Care system be noted.

41. Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System

The Director of Adults and Communities updated on the progress being made to deliver the Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care System (ICS) and the 'Big Conversation' led by the CCG on the future of urgent care services.

The ICS draft operating plan was being drafted and would be circulated to the Panel when available. The ICS Chair, Sir Andrew Morris, would leave the role

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in December and an independent chair and senior responsible officer would be appointed.

The 'Big Conversation' on urgent care had generated feedback from 2,300 people across East Berkshire of which circa 500 were from Slough. The responses were being reviewed and it was noted that a majority of people said they had wanted to see their GP first if they had an urgent care need. A revised timetable had been agreed by the CCG Governing Body with models for future delivery being developed through to May 2019. This would be followed by a shortlist of models and consultation if required. A decision on the service model was due in September 2019.

The new 10-year plan for the NHS was due to be published in the next few weeks and was expected to mark a shift towards prevention and early intervention. Members discussed the likely budget implications. The Green Paper on adult social care was due to be published at around the same time and was likely to set out a range of options for long term funding. It was agreed that summaries of the NHS Plan and Green Paper would be circulated following publication.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the update was noted.

Resolved – That the progress being made in developing the Frimley Health and Care ICS and 'Big Conversation' on urgent care be noted.

42. Air Quality and Health in Slough

The Public Health Programme Manager, Fatima Ndanusa, and the Technical Officer for Air Quality and Environmental Noise, Sophia Norfolk, introduced a report on the links between air quality and health in Slough that sought to provide further information on the key areas of concern previously raised by Members including:

- Slough's mortality rate attributable to air pollution;
- The causes of the mortality rate;
- The distribution of associated health conditions across the population;
- Any plans to review the action plan; and
- Future arrangements for air quality monitoring.

The Panel received information on the principle causes of air pollution that included proximity to the motorway network, cross boundary effects from London and the continent, incineration and electricity generation and emissions from airplane take-off at Heathrow and unburned jet fuel. In the latest figures from 2016, 6.2% of all cause adult mortality was attributed to particulate air pollution, which was higher than the national average of 5.3% and 5.5% in the South East. This equated to approximately 51 people in Slough, although it was noted that the mortality rate may be relatively higher because cardiovascular and respiratory health were already poor locally. There was strong evidence between air pollution and major diseases such as heart disease, stroke, lung cancer and childhood asthma.

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Members discussed the work the Council was doing to address the issues of poor air quality including the recently agreed Low Emission Strategy (LES), the five Air Quality Management Areas and the transport strategy to encourage model shift away from cars. In terms of monitoring there was an extensive monitoring network already in Slough and the data was regularly published.

The Panel discussed a number of other issues including;

- The potential risks of exercising in areas of high air pollution. Air quality varied throughout the day and the AirTEXT service was available to people to provide information. Members felt this could be more widely publicised.
- The apparent disparity in the mortality rate in the report compared to that stated in the LES. It was agreed that the figure would be clarified.
- There was a high cost of poor air quality and it was considered that this was likely to be understated. It was noted that it was difficult to accurately quantify the local costs.

Councillor Smith made a number of comments about the air pollution attributable to Slough's proximity to Heathrow airport and was concerned about the impact of the proposed third runway. The associated increase in traffic movements in the Colnbrook and Poyle area were also a concern and proper mitigation in terms of the surface access transport plan would be required to protect local residents.

The Panel welcomed the information that had been provided and it was agreed that strong action needed to be taken to address the air quality problems in Slough. It was noted that the LES had recently been agreed and the detailed action plans emerging from the strategy with health implications were likely areas of future scrutiny that the Panel could add to its work programme. At the conclusion of the discussion, the report was noted.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

43. Forward Work Programme

The Panel considered the Work Programme for 2018/19 and confirmed the items for the next meeting as stated.

Resolved – That the Forward Work Programme be agreed.

44. Attendance Record 2018/19

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

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45. Date of Next Meeting - 17th January 2019

The date of the next meeting of the Panel was confirmed as 17th January 2019.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.07 pm)