

## **Health Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Tuesday, 13th October, 2020.**

**Present:-** Councillors A Sandhu (Chair), Smith (Vice-Chair), Ali, Begum, Mohammad, Rasib and Matloob

**Also present under Rule 30:-** Councillor Gahir

**Apologies for Absence:-** Councillor Sarfraz and Healthwatch Representative Colin Pill

### **PART I**

#### **23. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Mohammad declared that she was a Practice Manager at a GP Surgery in Slough. She remained logged in throughout the meeting.

#### **24. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 8th September 2020**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be approved as a correct record.

#### **25. Member Questions**

None had been received.

#### **26. Situation Report - Verbal Update on COVID-19 in Slough**

The Service Lead - Public Health presented an overview of the current Covid-19 situation in Slough.

Members' attention was drawn to the following key points:

- The rate of new cases in Slough (the 7-day rolling average) was now lower than the England and similar to the South East average.
- The mortality rate remained below the seasonal average, with no new deaths since the week ending 14th August.
- A new National Contain Framework had been announced on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020. The Framework set out three tiers of risk: medium, high risk, and very high risk. Slough was currently on Tier 1: medium risk – but was close to being placed on Tier 2: high risk.

The Chair then invited comments and questions from Members.

During the course of the discussion, the following points were raised:

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- A Member asked if the winter planning preparations had taken into consideration the possibility Slough could be placed on Tier 2 restrictions. It was explained that a significant amount of winter planning had been undertaken, taking into account the impact of Covid. It was noted that details of the Winter Plan 2020/21 would be considered under a later agenda item.
- A Member asked how the 'rule of six' restrictions were being enforced. It was explained that the police were responsible for enforcing the legislation. CCTV monitoring was used to inform and identify areas gatherings were taking place.
- In relation to a potential second lockdown and an increased number of people having to self isolate, it was queried whether the 'OneSlough' initiative would be used to assist people with shopping and collecting medications. It was confirmed that if restrictions were increased, service provision would be adjusted to reflect the circumstances. The Government had been clear that NHS Volunteer Responders programme, implemented during the first lockdown would not be resumed. It was noted that the OneSlough community response was reliant on volunteers and there was concern that people had become fatigued by the ongoing Covid situation.
- The Executive Place Managing Director explained that a virtual ward modal had been developed to support people with Covid and understand the demand on services. It was reported that the nearest Nightingale Hospital to Slough was based in Surrey; it was agreed that further information regarding this provision would be provided to the Panel.
- Assurance was sought that arrangements were in place at Nightingale hospitals to ensure patient medical records could be readily accessed. It was confirmed that robust arrangements were in place.

**Resolved** – That the update report be noted.

### 27. **Frimley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Potential Merger Update**

The Executive Place Managing Director provided an update on the plans for East Berkshire, North East Hampshire & Farnham, and Surrey Health Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to merge on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

It was reported that GP member practices had been asked to vote on the proposal during September 2020. GPs had overwhelmingly voted to support the merger; therefore the Collaborative Board would be taking forward the proposal through its various committees between now and March 2021.

It was confirmed that the Health Scrutiny Panel would be updated on future developments.

The Chair thanked the Executive Place Managing Director for the update.

**Resolved** – That the update report be noted.

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### 28. Slough Place Winter Plan 2020/21

The Executive Place Managing Director introduced a report that outlined the Winter Plan for health services in Slough.

The Chair welcomed NHS East Berkshire CCG representatives in attendance, and invited Sangeeta Saran (Interim Director of Operations) and Dr Nanda to introduce themselves.

The Interim Director of Operations provided a presentation that detailed the Winter Plan 2020/21, including:

- Primary Care provision during winter 2020/2;
- arrangements for hot and cold sites for pressures resulting from the winter period and future waves of Covid-19;
- Flu vaccination planning; and
- community and integrated care services available to Slough residents.

Following the conclusion of the presentation, the Chair invited comments and questions from the Panel.

During the course of the discussion, the following points were raised:

- Members welcomed the report that there had been an increase in the uptake of the flu vaccination compared to previous years.
- It was asked if any lessons learnt from the previous year had been used to inform the Winter Plan 2020/21. It was explained that due to the Covid-19 pandemic it was difficult to draw a comparison with the previous year. For 2020/21 a 'placed based plan' had been established, which enabled the particular needs of Slough residents to be addressed. It was recommended that a localised approach be adopted in future years, to provide a comprehensive offer. It was noted that details of the Social Care Winter Plan would be added to the Winter Plan.
- A Member asked if Slough walk-in centres would be reopened. It was explained that currently walk-in centres would remain closed. The closure of the centres had allowed staff resources to be redeployed and undertaken face-to-face home visits.

The Chair thanked the Executive Place Managing Director and the NHS representatives for the presentation and report.

**Resolved** – That the report be noted.

### 29. Health Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme 2020/21

**Resolved** – That the Forward Work Programme, as set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed.

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### **30. Members' Attendance Record 2020/21**

**Resolved** - That the details of the Members' Attendance Record be noted.

### **31. Date of Next Meeting - 26th November 2020**

**Resolved** – That the date of the next meeting was confirmed as 26<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

Chair

(Note: The meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.29 pm)