

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

A meeting of Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee was held on Tuesday, 21st December, 2021.

Present: Cllr Evaline Cunningham (Chair), Cllr Clare Gamble, Cllr Jacky Bright, Cllr Mohammed Javed, Cllr Steve Matthews, Cllr Tony Riordan (sub for Cllr Lynn Hall), Cllr Paul Weston

Officers: Emma Champley (A&H); Gary Woods (MD)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Luke Frost, Cllr Lynn Hall

ASH 43/21 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

ASH 44/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

ASH 45/21 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2021

Consideration was given to the minutes from the Committee meeting held on the 23rd November 2021.

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting on the 23rd November 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

ASH 46/21 Care Quality Commission (CQC) - State of Care Annual Report 2020-2021

Due to recent developments in relation to the new COVID variant, and the subsequent decision by the CQC to cancel any face-to-face meetings, consideration of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) – State of Care Annual Report 2020-2021 had been deferred to the next Committee meeting in January 2022.

AGREED that consideration of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) – State of Care Annual Report 2020-2021 be deferred to the next Committee meeting in January 2022.

ASH 47/21 Action Plan for Agreed Recommendations - Scrutiny Review of Multi-Agency Support to Care Homes during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Task & Finish)

The Committee was presented with an Action Plan setting out how the agreed recommendations from the Scrutiny Review of Multi-Agency Support to Care Homes during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Task & Finish) will be implemented and target dates for completion.

In relation to recommendation 1 (Further to existing arrangements already in place regarding engagement with service-users and their loved ones, any current and future multi-agency professional group that is convened to support

care homes ensures that the voice of residents and their families / carers is clearly articulated (whether through direct representation or via another appropriate mechanism)), a key element of future progress updates on these proposed actions would be to demonstrate how services were being strengthened as a result of the information gained from service-users / families / carers. It was also noted that the CQC may be able to provide a response on how it gains information and feedback from clients and their families at the next Committee meeting in January 2022 when presenting an overview of its State of Care – Annual Report 2020-2021.

With reference to recommendation 2 (Mindful of potential developments in vaccination requirements for the care sector as a whole, efforts continue by SBC and its partners to reach-out to those staff who remain reluctant to receive a COVID-19 vaccination), the Committee was informed that the Council was currently liaising with local care homes regarding take-up of the COVID vaccination booster jab.

AGREED that the content within the presented Action Plan in relation to the recently completed Scrutiny Review of Multi-Agency Support to Care Homes during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Task & Finish) be approved.

ASH 48/21 **Monitoring the Impact of Previously Agreed Recommendations**

Consideration was given to the assessments of progress on the implementation of the recommendations from the previously completed Scrutiny Review of Care Homes for Older People. This was the second progress update following the Committee's agreement of the Action Plan in July 2020, and discussion points were recorded as follows:

Recommendation 2 (That the importance of personalised care be promoted through all contacts the Council and partners have with Care Homes; in particular the development and deployment of a varied activities programme tailored to individual needs and co-ordinated by a designated member of staff): A query was raised around the reference to 'children' in the Funky Feet programme update (paragraph 6) – it was explained that this involved an intergenerational approach (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic) with children going into care homes, something which had proved highly effective.

The smaller sub-group of four care home co-ordinators, formed to discuss issues around encouraging male residents to engage in activities and about generally encouraging residents to join in who would not usually participate (paragraph 8), was also noted.

Recommendation 5 (That the Council works with all stakeholders to promote and improve the local standing of careers in adult social care): Development of a Care Academy-style model in relation to recruitment and retention within the care sector (paragraph 17) was highlighted – Members felt this was a very encouraging piece of work and looked forward to future updates.

Recommendation 8 (That Healthwatch be asked to report back the Adult, Social Care and Health Select Committee on the implementation of their recommendations to care homes following further enter and view visits to homes): Concern was expressed around the staffing capacity of Healthwatch

and its ability to resume its visible presence within the Borough's care homes. This was raised with Healthwatch at the last Committee meeting in November 2021 when they presented their Annual Report 2020-2021, and Members were assured that the request for an update on their plans for resuming 'enter and view' visits had been relayed to Healthwatch representatives following the last Committee meeting, and any responses would be circulated to the Committee once received.

Recommendation 9 (That the summary of Care Quality Commission inspection results, reported each quarter to the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee should include greater context including trend information of quality ratings and information about providers): Linked to a previous agenda item (Care Quality Commission (CQC) – State of Care Annual Report 2020-2021), the Committee raised concerns around the CQCs ability / willingness to carry-out future inspections if they were now refusing to attend in-person meetings. As had been expressed repeatedly in past Committee meetings, although the COVID pandemic continued to evolve, it was vital that the CQC remained as visible as possible to ensure standards were being upheld. Assurance was given that, CQC aside, the Council (via its contracting and safeguarding teams) and its health partners continued to go into local care homes and had open communication lines with providers.

Throughout the progress update document, it was noted that, although several of the assessments of progress had been marked as 'slipped', the due dates had yet to pass. As such, and in light of a number of actions being due for completion in March 2022, a further progress update would be requested in mid-2022.

AGREED that:

- 1) the progress update be noted and assessments for progress be confirmed;
- 2) a further update be provided to the Committee in approximately six months.

**ASH
49/21** **Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board from the meetings in September and October 2021.

AGREED that the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board from the meetings in September and October 2021 be noted.

**ASH
50/21** **Work Programme 2021-2022**

Consideration was given to the Committee's current Work Programme. The next meeting was scheduled for the 18th January 2022 and would include the deferred CQC State of Care – Annual Report 2020-2021, the Teeswide Safeguarding Adults Board (TSAB) Annual Report 2020-2021, and the latest progress update on the outstanding recommendation from the previously completed Scrutiny Review of Hospital Discharge (Phase 1 – discharge to care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic).

Members were also reminded that informal remote sessions were being arranged for the final evidence-gathering in relation to the ongoing Scrutiny Review of Day Opportunities for Adults – these would be circulated once confirmed.

AGREED that the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Work Programme for 2021-2022 be noted.

**ASH
51/21**

Chair's Update

As this was the last Committee meeting of 2021, the Chair wished all those in attendance a happy Christmas and New Year.