

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

A meeting of Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee was held on Tuesday 18 June 2024.

Present: Cllr Marc Besford (Chair), Cllr Nathan Gale (Vice-Chair), Cllr Stefan Barnes, Cllr Carol Clark, Cllr John Coulson, Cllr Lynn Hall, Cllr Susan Scott and Cllr Vanessa Sewell.

Officers: Sarah Bowman-Abouna, Carolyn Nice, Rob Papworth, Natalie Shaw (A,H&W); Geraldine Brown, Gary Woods (CS).

Also in attendance: None.

Apologies: None.

ASCH/10/24 Evacuation Procedure

The evacuation procedure was noted.

ASCH/11/24 Declarations of Interest

There were no interests declared.

ASCH/12/24 Minutes

Consideration was given to the minutes from the Committee meeting held on 21 May 2024. Updates were provided on the following items that were on the agenda:

- Scrutiny Review of Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care: The Committee's final report was presented to Cabinet yesterday (17 June 2024) where all recommendations were subsequently endorsed.

AGREED that the minutes of the meeting on 21 May 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

ASCH/13/24 SBC Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023-2024

Consideration was given to the Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023-2024. Introduced by the SBC Director of Public Health, the report contained the following:

- Foreword (SBC Cabinet Member for Health, Leisure and Culture)
- Introduction (SBC Director of Public Health)
- Executive Summary
- Our picture in Stockton-on-Tees
- What do local people say?
- What works? Addressing health inequalities
- Current local context
- Local action
- Approach – what next in Stockton-on-Tees?

- Next steps
- Appendices (life expectancy; inequality in life expectancy; intersectionality; life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived quintiles of Stockton-on-Tees by cause of death, 2020 to 2021)

The Committee was reminded that, under the Health and Social Care Act (2012), the Director of Public Health had a duty to prepare an independent annual report. This latest version outlined the challenge of persistent health inequalities experienced by people in Stockton-on-Tees. The report highlighted existing examples of good practice and strong partnerships with other organisations and the voluntary and community sector, but was clear that a holistic and systematic approach was required to go further and faster in addressing inequalities. The proposed approach with interventions in civic society, community and services based on a self-assessment complemented the Council's Powering Our Future policy.

With reference to the report's Executive Summary section, attention was drawn to the Population Intervention Triangle (PIT) model as a proposed way of addressing inequalities, along with practical tools which could be used to ensure this approach was embedded across the Council and the wider local system. The report concluded with a list of 'next steps' to be agreed and implemented across partners and communities which needed to be embedded in strategy, policy, design, action, monitoring and evaluation.

Welcoming the information provided, the Committee supported the use of the PIT model and emphasised the need for action to be co-ordinated across the health system. Ensuring oversight of all groups who held public health-related information was also highlighted.

AGREED that the SBC Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023-2024 be noted.

ASCH/14/24 Care and Health Innovation Zone

Noting with interest the ongoing developments regarding the new Tees Valley Care and Health Innovation Zone, the Committee received a briefing on this initiative following a request to senior SBC officers in February 2024. Led by the SBC Head of Policy, Development and Public Affairs, and supported by the SBC Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing, a presentation was given which covered the following:

- Health and Social Care Sector
- Initial Vision Statement
- The Vision
- The Zone
- Four Building Blocks
- Programme Governance
- Workstream 1: Integrated Clinical Facilities / Capital Delivery
- Workstream 2: Education, Skills & Workforce
- Workstream 3: Innovation / R&D
- Workstream 4: Commercial / Business Growth
- Workstream 5: Masterplanning & Infrastructure

The importance of the health and social care sector within the Tees Valley footprint was emphasised from the outset, with benefits in relation to employment, innovation, research and development, and its vital role in addressing inequalities highlighted.

However, there were significant issues across the sector too, particularly around skills and recruitment, and the condition of estates. The Care and Health Innovation Zone had the potential to help address these challenges, with a projected 9,000 additional jobs located directly on-site and an annual Gross Value Added (GVA) worth of £470 million to the Tees Valley economy (if the vision was fully realised).

An initial vision statement was produced (a link to the published document was included within the covering report for this agenda item) which outlined the key objectives: to breathe considerable new life into Teesdale Business Park (fully utilising all 50 hectares); to bring forward the holistic regeneration of Tees Marshalling Yards (60 hectares) in terms of employment, housing and other ancillary uses; to grow all aspects of the health, public health and social care sector (including supply chains) and make the area a recognised UK cluster; to link the Zone with Stockton Town Centre, boosting connectivity through transport and active travel links. With regards transportation, existing infrastructure (Thornaby Train Station, A19 / A66 roads) was noted.

Four key building blocks had been identified to drive forward the initiative – integrated clinical facilities ('system'-wide), skills pathways, research and development / business incubation, and healthy place making. Dedicated resources (funding and staff) had been assigned as part of this joint project with the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA), with governance structures consisting of a Board (involving senior representation from SBC, TVCA, local acute and mental health NHS Trusts, Teesside University, and the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board (NENC ICB)) and five workstreams.

The presentation concluded with an overview of the current activity being undertaken by the five workstreams. For the 'Integrated Clinical Facilities / Capital Delivery' strand, a collective look at the facility requirements would culminate in a finalised list by the end of summer 2024, whilst the 'Education, Skills and Workforce' group was focused on getting local people into local jobs and removing barriers. Linking academia with business and identifying the Zone's unique selling point was a key feature of the 'Innovation / Research and Development' workstream, and the 'Commercial / Business Growth' arm was planning an awareness-raising event with businesses (existing and potentially new) and utilising the Employment Hub to engage with organisations (not just those within the health and care sector) around this initiative.

Responding to the information provided, the Committee began by asking if there was a timescale for cleaning up the Marshalling Yards, a brownfield site – SBC officers stated that details would be provided after this meeting. It was subsequently confirmed that the far end of the Marshalling Yards sat within the Middlesbrough boundary, but most of the Zone footprint was in Stockton-on-Tees.

Members expressed enthusiasm at the overarching concept which was a pertinent development given the ongoing growth that the Borough was experiencing. It was felt that the reference to the TVCA was particularly important since it would be the engine for this to become reality, and the potential for the site to include a new hospital was also noted. The Committee did, however, voice concern at the lack of Member engagement around the initiative (despite the frequent mentions of community / stakeholder involvement), resulting in missed opportunities by the Council and its partners for the voice of residents to be relayed. SBC officers acknowledged the importance of communication with Councillors and gave assurance that, moving

forward, Members would be fully engaged (including being linked-in with workstream leads) and that views were welcome at any point in time. Future updates would be provided to the Committee as plans progress.

Returning to a more positive theme, the Committee highlighted the exciting opportunity for local people residing within the Ward where the Zone was planned, as well as the existing connectivity that would help with this development. It was also encouraging to have buy-in from senior personnel from the organisations referenced, and other benefits (e.g. retail, aiding recruitment (social care as well as health professionals)) were anticipated for a venture which would be situated at the heart of the Tees Valley.

Reflecting on the presentation and subsequent discussion, Members asked if the development of this initiative was a done deal. SBC officers stated that the Zone was still very much a vision at present, and that tangible change would depend on what emerged from the workstreams and would happen over a significant period of time. Ultimately, stakeholders would need to commit to financial investment, but there was a growing feeling that plans could turn into reality, with national media interest adding to the sense of anticipation. The Committee emphasised the need to sell the concept to the public, ensuring links to care as well as health were robustly communicated.

AGREED that:

- 1) the Care and Health Innovation Zone information be noted.
- 2) further detail be provided regarding the timescale for cleaning up the Marshalling Yards.

ASCH/15/24 CQC Inspection Preparation

The Committee received a briefing on preparations for the anticipated Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council (SBC) adult social care services. Introduced by the SBC Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing, who began by welcoming developments in relation to this new requirement, information was provided on the following elements:

- What is the CQC Assurance Framework?
- How is the assessment structured?
- What preparation have we done for the CQC Assurance Framework?
- What's going to be happening next?

This regulatory framework, enacted through the Health and Care Act 2022, gave the CQC the powers to assess how well Local Authorities were meeting their duties under Part 1 of the Care Act 2014. Assessment would take place across nine 'quality statements' mapped to four key themes ('working with people', 'providing support', 'keeping people safe', and 'leadership'), with all Local Authorities in England expected to be evaluated by December 2025.

Once SBC received its notification, it would have three weeks to return its Local Authority Information Return (LAIR) which would include a self-assessment and SBC performance data, strategies and policies. After the completion of extensive off-site preparation work (including speaking with the Council's partners and reviewing the LAIR / published data), the CQC would then conduct an on-site visit within six months

(giving around six-eight weeks' notice). It was noted that the regulator may want to speak to the Committee and / or other Elected Members.

In readiness for its assessment, SBC had received a peer inspection in October 2023 (which identified key development areas), a monthly CQC Programme Steering Group had been formed (overseeing progress of the Action Plan which was created following the peer inspection), and a SBC Assurance and Co-Production Manager had started in January 2024 to co-ordinate the work needed to prepare for the Assurance Framework and, alongside the SBC Lived Experience Co-Ordinator, to ensure that people's voices and their involvement was woven into what the Council delivered. In addition, a 'Making it Real' Board (comprising of people with lived experience, the Lead Member for Adult Social Care, and Council Officers) was formed in January 2024.

Further preparatory work was highlighted, with SBC due to take part in the Local Government Association (LGA) Assurance Peer Challenge in July 2024, and a programme of support to Council staff being put together (including access to external sessions to aid understanding of the framework and practice answering questions from assessors / peers).

Submitted for consideration alongside the briefing paper, a draft self-assessment document had been prepared ahead of the CQC inspection. The new SBC Assurance and Co-Production Manager outlined the content which included:

- Overview of the Borough of Stockton-on-Tees
- Our Strategic Vision and Key Priorities
- Working in Partnership
- Our Adult Social Care Services
- CQC Assurance Theme 1: Working with People
- CQC Assurance Theme 2: Providing Support
- CQC Assurance Theme 3: Ensuring Safety within the System
- CQC Assurance Theme 4: Leadership
- Feedback from People

The production of this key part of the LAIR had been guided by self-assessments provided by other Local Authorities and was essentially an balanced summary (strengths and areas for development) about how SBC was performing against the criteria within each theme. Collating the material was a collaborative approach across all the Council's adult social care teams, but also reflected partnership-working with external bodies too. The CQC would look to triangulate the evidence submitted, comparing this to what its inspectors saw for themselves and what they heard from service-users, families and carers.

Reflecting on this draft document, the Committee welcomed the level of detail, the layout / use of graphics to highlight key information, and the honesty it portrayed. It was suggested that adding in more quotes would help showcase views on services and the sector in general – this could include the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care (emphasising the value of leadership teams) and the Committee Chair. SBC officers stated that Member input was envisaged as part of the final version.

The Committee drew attention to some of the statistics within (specifically pages 9 and 20), expressing concerns about the percentage of adults with learning disabilities living in their own home or with families (lower than the regional and national mean),

and the percentage of people (65+) offered reablement services following discharge from hospital (lower than the English Unitary Authorities mean). With regards the latter, Members felt there was an issue in supporting those individuals who were coming out of hospital and required adaptations at home, though SBC officers responded that there may be a problem with how the data was presented (with the percentage quoted (1.3%) being a proportion of the Borough's population rather than those who had been discharged from hospital). A typo on page 4 (timeframe of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy) was also acknowledged and would be corrected.

Concluding the item, SBC officers stated that feedback on the LGA Assurance Peer Challenge could be provided to the Committee in September 2024. Members, meanwhile, noted that the new powers for the CQC around Local Authority adult social care provision added to its existing responsibilities for inspecting care homes, GPs, dentists, hospitals, and Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) – the regulator's capacity to manage this was queried, with the Committee's recent Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care review showing that some GPs had not been inspected for some time.

AGREED that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Assurance Framework Update briefing be noted.

ASCH/16/24 Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Consideration was given to the minutes of Health and Wellbeing Board meetings which took place in January 2024, March 2024 and April 2024. Attention was drawn to the following:

- 31 January 2024: Members noted the 'Care and Health Zone' agenda item, a presentation which was not provided to the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee until today's meeting.
- 27 March 2024: Regarding the 'Pharmacy Needs Update' item, the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee had not been informed (as was required) of the proposals to close the pharmacy in Thornaby – this was being followed-up with relevant health bodies. Members also welcomed the change in ownership of the pharmacy at 70 Bishopton Lane following issues with the previous proprietor.

AGREED that the minutes of Health and Wellbeing Board meetings which took place in January 2024, March 2024 and April 2024 be noted.

ASCH/17/24 Chair's Update and Select Committee Work Programme 2024-2025

Chair's Update

The Chair informed the Committee that the date for the first Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee meeting of 2024-2025 was still to be confirmed. It was noted that attendance at these meetings by representatives of other Tees Valley Local Authorities was often poor during 2023-2024 and that efforts were made to address this throughout the year – attendance statistics had been collated and could be shared with Members if requested.

Work Programme 2024-2025

Consideration was given to the Committee's current work programme. The next meeting was due to take place on 23 July 2024 and items were scheduled to include the draft Action Plan in relation to the recommendations from the recently concluded Access to GPs and Primary Medical Care review, the PAMMS Annual Report (Care Homes) 2023-2024, and the latest CQC / PAMMS quarterly report (Q1 2023-2024). Initial planning for the Committee's next in-depth review of Reablement Services would also commence shortly with a view to presenting a draft scope and plan for approval at the July 2024 meeting.

AGREED that the Chair's Update and Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee Work Programme 2024-2025 be noted.