

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of **the IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – PEOPLE** held at County Hall, Matlock on 04 September 2019.

**PRESENT**

Councillor G Musson (in the Chair)

Councillors L Chilton, J Coyle, C Dale, J Frudd, R Iliffe, P Murray, D Taylor and J Twigg

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor R Flatley

There were no declarations of interest.

**21/19** **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 July 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**22/19** **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** – none received.

**23/19** **EXPERIENCES OF USING HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SERVICES IN DERBYSHIRE (HEALTHWATCH DERBYSHIRE)** The report, presented by Helen Henderson-Spoors from Healthwatch Derbyshire summarised themes that had emerged from comments received on experiences of using health and social care services in Derbyshire between January-September 2018. The comments were collected in a number of different ways, for example, through engagement activity, emails, and telephone conversations, online and by post.

It was important to note that some areas had fewer comments due to the fact that engagement was focused primarily in more rural areas and also it was not within the remit to cover the city area, as there was a Healthwatch Derby who covered this area.

There were several themes that were either common to, or were different between places. These included:

- Long waiting times for a range of mental health support services and mental health professionals in the community
- Many people experienced loneliness which was sometimes, but not always linked to a lack of transport and rural isolation
- Difficulty knowing what services were available in the local area because in part of a lack of up to date accessible information

- There were many examples of repeat visits to a GP, and/or repeat attendances at A&E when people felt that their condition had not been sorted/resolved adequately at earlier visits

Based on the topics raised by patients in Derbyshire, Healthwatch Derbyshire recommended that the Place Board took account of the themes relating to the eight 'Places' in Derbyshire and this be used to inform the work that followed in each place and to ensure this was embedded in planning and strategy.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

**24/19      SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN IN DERBYSHIRE – HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT**

In November 2018 the Committee began work on a review of the policies in place (in Derbyshire) to safeguard children in Home to School Transport. Shortly afterwards, in February 2019, the Government launched a consultation on statutory guidance for taxi and Public Hire Vehicles (PHV) which focused on measures to protect children and vulnerable adults from harm when using these services. Consequently, work on the scrutiny review was paused. The national public consultation exercise had now been completed and the Department for Transport was considering the responses. Furthermore the Government had stated that it would bring forward legislation to introduce national minimum standards for taxi and PHV licensing when time allows.

An unintended consequence of the ongoing Brexit debate in Parliament is that the introduction of some legislation had been delayed. Therefore it was proposed that rather than wait for new legislation on taxi and PHV licensing to be enacted and for the guidance to be formally adopted, the Committee should resume its work on scrutinising the measures in place to safeguard children and vulnerable adults using taxis and PHV services.

A working group was to be arranged in the near future to start the review of the policies in place (in Derbyshire) to safeguard children in Home to School Transport. A number of Committee Members had volunteered to attend.

**RESOLVED** to (1) agree to the resumption of the review of policies in place to safeguard children in Home to School Transport and the revised scoping report; and (2) appoint Members of the Committee to the review working group.

**25/19      REVIEW OF THE DERBYSHIRECARE LEAVERS OFFER**

The next phase would be to share the information gathered with Committee Members to read before the next working group was held. This working group was to be arranged following the transport working group meeting to ensure all Members were available.

The review was still in the information gathering stage, with a lot being gained during the August break.

**RESOLVED** to note the update.