

PUBLIC

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – HEALTH** held at County Hall, Matlock on 25 November 2019.

**PRESENT**

Councillor D Taylor (Chairman)

Councillors D Allen, R Ashton, S Burfoot, C Dale (substitute Member), L Grooby, G Musson and I Ratcliffe (substitute Member).

Also in attendance were: Carol Ford, Michelle Halfpenny, Anne Hayes, Rob Lowe and Abid Mumtaz (Derbyshire County Council) and Helen Henderson-Spoors (Derbyshire Healthwatch)

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Bambrick, S Blank and A Stevenson.

**31/19**        **COUNCILLOR ALISON FOX** The Chairman invited all to stand to observe a minute's silence following the death of Councillor Alison Fox. Councillor Fox had previously been a member of the Committee.

**32/19**        **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Health held on 16 September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**33/19**        **PUBLIC QUESTIONS** **Question to the Committee from Catherine Mears:** Is the Committee satisfied that the CCG and DCHS Trust have addressed all the concerns expressed by the public in recent weeks about the reduction of community nursed beds (pathway 3) at Ilkeston Community Hospital?

**Councillor D Taylor responded as follows:**

It is my intention as Chairman of this Committee to keep a watching brief on the redesign of clinical pathways in Erewash to ensure that appropriate support is available when patients are discharged from hospital.

At its meeting on 16 September this Committee received an update on the re-design of clinical pathways in Erewash and, at that meeting, Committee Members raised concerns and recognised that the success of the model hinges on whether all the elements of the system are working effectively and whether the demand profiling for bedded care is accurate. Due to these provisos the Committee has asked the CCG to provide further information and report back to the Committee within six months of the approach being implemented.

**Supplementary question from Catherine Mears:**

Do you not consider that an update every six months is inadequate? A Working Group meeting was held in May to obtain the views and concerns of local residents regarding the financial recovery plan and several issues were raised. One of these issues was the Health Visitor Service and we have not seen any update or review. Is this review still 'live'?

**Councillor D Taylor responded as follows:**

There have recently been some staffing issues but we are still monitoring this situation and we will report back accordingly.

**Question from Mrs Patricia Kerrison:**

Mrs Kerrison was unable to attend the meeting so the Chairman read the question and answer to the meeting:

Derby & Derbyshire CCG have recently undertaken a review of the MI- E - Cough Assist Machine policy. The CCG has concluded that it will not support the routine commissioning of these machines for people who are living with neuromuscular conditions. However, it is accepted that respiratory difficulties are a widespread feature of neuromuscular conditions and can often result in a weakened cough. The CCGs response is contrary to clinical evidence which is verified in several policy documents, including the NHS England's Service Specification for Neurosciences: Specialised Neurology (Adult) D04/S/A, and to the position of specialist healthcare professionals the East Midlands Neuromuscular Clinical Network.

Can the committee respond as to why Derby & Derbyshire CCG have implemented a policy which may cause significant respiratory difficulties for people who live with neuromuscular conditions? How can the CCG ensure that all people living with a neuromuscular condition and who require the use of such machines, will have access to one?

**Councillor D Taylor responded as follows:**

The Committee had sort clarification from the CCG as to whether the CCG had changed policy and removed a type of treatment. In response, the Committee had received assurance from the CCG that this was not the case and that, following a review, they were continuing to implement existing policy.

The CCG provided the following information:

"As you are aware, prior to April, Derbyshire had four NHS clinical commissioning groups and each individual CCG had a policy in place to ensure Derbyshire patients receive clinically approved support and treatment for their conditions, and this may include cough augmentation techniques from therapists. Insufficient evidence supporting routine use of Mechanical Insufflation-exsufflation (MI-E) for patients with neuron muscular dystrophy

(NMD) or spinal cord problems meant this was never in the standard treatment pathways.

Following the establishment of the single NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG on 1 April 2019, these individual policies were reviewed, taking into account new evidence developed since 2017 when they were previously refreshed. Opinions were also considered from consultants and other professionals as part of the engagement on this policy. The CCG's Clinical Policy Advisory Group – which is led by clinicians – met in June to consider all the information and found there was no new significant or robust evidence to change the existing commissioning decisions. This was later ratified by the CCG's Clinical and Lay Commissioning Committee.

In exceptional circumstances, where a clinician demonstrates the patient can find significantly greater benefit from the mechanical insufflation-exsufflation device than other patients, there is still the possibility of receiving this treatment via an Individual Funding Request (IFR) so it is potentially available to patients, but it is not routinely offered.”

Members suggested that further clarification was required in relation to receiving and responding to public questions and that the Committee's role be reviewed.

#### **34/19      PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE – ORAL HEALTH OF 5 YEAR OLDS**

Anne Hayes from Public Health attended the meeting to provide members with a presentation on oral health in Derbyshire, with a particular focus on the oral health survey of five year old children.

Members were informed of which district and which electoral division had the most decay compared to the rest of Derbyshire. It was also highlighted that the most deprived areas had a significantly higher severity and prevalence of dental decay. More families needed to be encouraged to take their children to the dentist as soon as teeth started to appear, and examples of how this could be achieved and the advice that was being provided was presented.

The committee was afforded the opportunity to ask questions on all aspects relating to the presentation and these were duly noted or answered by Ms Hayes.

The Chairman thanked Anne Hayes for her informative presentation.

#### **35/19      PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE – IMPROVING HEALTHY LIFE EXPECTANCY**

Anne Hayes provided Members with an update on improving healthy life expectancy: a life course approach to prevention. Members were informed of the main areas of focus from pre-conception to 70 plus.

One of the main areas of concern highlighted by Members was social isolation, particularly following the loss of a partner. This was a greater problem in rural areas. Anne Hayes explained the work that was being undertaken with agencies, district councils and Adult Care to try and socially re-connect people and proactively offer help in this situation, for example lunch clubs. However, there was a great deal of work still to be done in this area.

Reference was made to vision screening which was undertaken in schools when a child commenced education. Section 75 work had looked at the the 0-19 years' service. Vision screening provided in schools had ceased in most areas of England and this service was also going to stop in schools in Derbyshire. However, vision screening was not a full vision test and could only detect whether a child had a squint. Parents would now be encouraged to take their children to a High Street optometrist for a comprehensive check.

The Chairman, once again thanked Anne Hayes for her presentation.

### **36/19      VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR GRANTS REVIEW**

Rob Lowe from Policy and Research attended the meeting to update Members on the Council's review of voluntary and community sector funding.

On 28 February 2019, Cabinet agreed plans to undertake a council wide review of VCS grants. It was agreed that the review would:

- Consider all grants provided by the Council to VCS organisations in Derbyshire and subsequently develop a coordinated and consistent council wide approach to allocate future resources
- Consider the support provided by the Council to VCS infrastructure organisations across Derbyshire, in collaboration with partners, and develop a new model for allocating funding moving forward which supported the Council's ambitions and priorities.

Since February 2019, the Council had undertaken a review of the grants currently provided to voluntary and community sector organisations and a proposal for the future delivery of VCS infrastructure support, was now in development. Work to undertake and complete the review would take place over the next twelve months with a number of key identified milestones. The proposed end date for completion and implementation of the infrastructure review was August 2020, with the wider grants funding review expected to be completed and implemented by September 2020.

Engagement with partners such as CCGs and district and borough councils had already taken place and it was expected that a report would be submitted to Cabinet early in the New Year, seeking approval to consult on the proposals with other key stakeholders.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked Rob Lowe for his most informative presentation.

**RESOLVED** to note the progress made on the review of the Council's voluntary and community sector grants.

**37/19**      **DERBYSHIRE HEALTHWATCH CARERS REPORT** Helen Henderson-Spoors from Healthwatch Derbyshire (HWD) attended the meeting to present the Carers Report – understanding the quality of life for carers in Derbyshire.

Derbyshire County Council (DCC) had carried out the biennial Survey of Adult Carers in England (SACE) which sought the opinions of adult carers, caring for an adult 18 and over, on a number of topics that were considered to be indicative of a balanced life alongside the unpaid caring role. The survey was designed to help the adult social care sector understand more about how services were affecting carer's lives.

On a national level, the SACE had suggested very little movement in terms of improving outcomes for carers and had shown a steady decline in the last five years in overall satisfaction on what was, in survey terms, already at a low level. Locally, the SACE had also reflected a gradual decline in satisfaction, which was hard to unpick given the tick box nature of the survey, leaving DCC with some gaps in their knowledge and understanding of carers' quality of life.

As a result, between January and March 2019, HWD engaged with carers both in, and not in, receipt of services to explore their views and experiences around the themes of the SACE. In total the engagement team had spoken 428 carers about their experiences and the key findings were highlighted. The information presented would help DCC to understand the challenges faced by carers and how they could best plan and respond to them across the system.

It was understood that the Improvement and Scrutiny – People Committee would be seeking updates about the DCC's Adult Care actions identified in the report and it would be helpful if these updates were shared with this Committee.

The Chairman thanked Helen Henderson-Spoors for her presentation.

**38/19**      **EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC** **RESOLVED** to exclude the Public from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items on the agenda to avoid the disclosure of exempt information detailed in the following summary of proceedings:

**SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS CONDUCTED AFTER THE PUBLIC HAD BEEN EXCLUDED FROM THE MEETING**

1. To confirm the exempt minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2019 (contains exempt information).

**39/19**      **MINUTES RESOLVED** that the exempt Minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Health held on 16 September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.