



Buckinghamshire County Council
Select Committee
Health and Adult Social Care

Minutes

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SELECT COMMITTEE

Minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 19 September 2019, in Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury, commencing at 10.02 am and concluding at 12.45 pm.

This meeting was webcast. To review the detailed discussions that took place, please see the webcast which can be found at <http://www.buckscc.public-i.tv/>
The webcasts are retained on this website for 6 months. Recordings of any previous meetings beyond this can be requested (contact: democracy@buckscc.gov.uk)

MEMBERS PRESENT

Buckinghamshire County Council

Mr M Appleyard (In the Chair)
Mr R Bagge, Mr S Lambert, Mr D Martin and Julia Wassell

District Councils

Ms T Jervis	Healthwatch Bucks
Mr A Green	Wycombe District Council
Ms J MacBean	Chiltern District Council

Members in Attendance

Ms L Hazell, Buckinghamshire County Council
Mr G Williams, Buckinghamshire County Council

Others in Attendance

Mrs E Wheaton, Committee and Governance Adviser
Ms J Bowie, Director of Integrated Commissioning
Dr J O'Grady, Director of Public Health
Ms L Spencer, Lead Transformation Officer

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Mr W Bendyshe-Brown, Mrs P Birchley, Mrs L Clarke OBE, Mr C Etholen, Mr B Roberts, Ms S Jenkins, Dr W Matthews and Mr N Shepherd.

Ms J MacBean substituted for Mr N Shepherd.



South Bucks
District Council



2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Julia Wassell declared an interest in item 7 as she worked for Mind, mental health services in Wycombe.

Mr R Bagge declared an interest in item 8 as he was Chairman of a Public Health Advisory Committee at NICE which was investigating alcohol and the use of digital interventions.

Mr T Green declared an interest in item 8 as he was a designated supervisor for two licensed, charitable premises in Buckinghamshire.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

Julia Wassell reported that a resident had further questions regarding ear operations and grommets and would send these to the Committee & Governance Adviser.

4 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions.

5 CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

The Chairman updated the Committee on the following.

- Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust's Open Day and AGM would take place on Saturday 21st September between 11am-3pm at Stoke Mandeville Hospital;
- The Child Obesity RAG status would be attached to the minutes;
- An informal Scrutiny Chairman meeting was being arranged for the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care System.

6 COMMITTEE UPDATE

Ms T Jervis, Chief Executive, Healthwatch Bucks provided the following update.

- Two Healthwatch Bucks reports had been published – Outpatient services (feedback from Stoke Mandeville, Amersham and Wycombe Hospitals) and Live Well, Stay Well;
- Healthwatch Bucks had been shortlisted for a national award in recognition for their work around readability;
- Recruitment was underway for a new chief executive.

7 ADULT SOCIAL CARE TRANSFORMATION - TIER 3

The Chairman welcomed Lin Hazell, Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing, Ms J Bowie, Service Director, Integrated Commissioning and Ms L Spencer, Lead for Transformation.

The following main points were made during the discussion.

- The transformation programme was organised into three tiers:
 - Living Independently (Tier 1);
 - Regaining Independence (Tier 2);
 - Living with Support (Tier 3).
- There were 9 workstreams within Tier 3, as follows:
 - Prevention Commissioning;
 - Mental Health services;

- Direct Care and Support;
 - Housing and Equipment;
 - Planned reviews of existing care packages;
 - Transport;
 - Direct Payments;
 - New Learning Disability service model;
 - Continuing Health Care – create a single point of access for providers and reduce duplication.
- A Member commented that the use of acronyms and structure of the report made it difficult to understand how many clients were affected by the proposed changes in services, what the actual spend was in each area and the impact of the service improvements on the clients. Ms Bowie agreed to look into this and come back with the number of clients and the actual spend in each area.

ACTION: Ms Bowie

- The Better Lives Strategy was about making sure individual service users had better experiences.
- A Member sought assurance that the transformation work being undertaken was delivering the right level of care deemed acceptable by service users and families. The Member commented that it was not just about delivering financial savings, the Committee needed to know that the quality of services had not been adversely affected.
- Ms Bowie confirmed that the Transformation Board had requested evidence on the impact of the service changes, to include feedback from users and carers as well as measuring the impact via key performance indicators.

ACTION: Ms Bowie

- A Member expressed concern about delivering the savings in this tier and asked particularly about the living with dementia financial savings in light of an increase in demand on services and the complexity of peoples' needs. Ms Bowie explained that the £285k savings sat within the mental health project overview and the savings would come from reviewing existing service users plans and looking at alternative provision. The savings would be made from offering more independent tenancies to service users who are currently in residential homes and other types of support. There would also be a review of s117 after care packages to ensure these were aligned with current policies and procedures.
- A Member commented that it was difficult to see how the Better Lives Strategy was being delivered across all the tiers and suggested that future presentations needed to include action plans for each tier with deliverables and timeframes, as well as budget savings. Ms Bowie confirmed that there should be consistent approach to reporting on the transformation programme.
- It was agreed that representatives from the HASC Select Committee would meet with Adult Social Care Officers to help shape and structure future reports on Transformation.

ACTION: Chairman/Committee & Governance Adviser/Jane Bowie

- A Member commented that "cuckooing" (where drug dealers take over the home of a vulnerable person) was a real concern and having a consistent team of social workers was important so that signs of this criminal activity could potentially be spotted more easily. The Member asked what was being done to address vacancies in the team. Ms Bowie responded by saying that there were challenges around this and the service was working hard with the HR team to fill the vacancies. Within the occupational therapy team, there was a "try before you buy" initiative in place and 6 OTs had been recruited as a result.

- It was acknowledged that getting the workforce mix right was important and there were training programmes in place for social workers and OTs.
- Ms Bowie confirmed that all the work streams involved partnership working and cited, by way of example, the s75 agreement with Oxford Health in delivering the mental health work stream.
- In response to a question about gaining feedback from service users and carers, Ms Bowie explained that both qualitative and quantitative feedback was obtained via a number of different routes, including Healthwatch Bucks and complaints and compliments directly to the service – the results of all feedback was triangulated. Ms Spencer added that frontline staff were also being asked for their feedback to help shape the service redesign.
- In response to a question about the s117 after care packages, Ms Bowie confirmed that the Council was reviewing their arrangements against best practice elsewhere to better understand and improve the effectiveness of care packages.
- A Member asked whether there were any particular areas of concern/challenges within the work streams. Ms Bowie highlighted the work around prevention and the challenges around some of the smaller, less connected communities that exist across the County. She went on to stress the importance of having strong transport links and work to find solutions around community transport was on the agenda.
- The virtual wallet for Direct Payments (DP) provision was being decommissioned and a new system called iCares was being rolled-out. The savings in this area would be made by reviewing users of DPs to see who had not used their allocated funding. Reviews of DPs should take place annually and work was underway to prioritise clients requiring a review.

The Chairman thanked the presenters.

8 PRE-DECISION SCRUTINY - RE-PROVISIONING OF RESIDENTIAL SHORT BREAKS (RESPITE) FOR OLDER PEOPLE

A Task & Finish Group was set-up to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on the proposals for the re-provisioning of residential short breaks (respite) for older people and adults with a learning, mental, sensory or physical disability.

Mr S Lambert, Chairman of the Task & Finish Group, updated the Committee on the key findings of the Group which were outlined in a letter to the Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing. The Cabinet Member responded by letter, both were attached to the papers for the meeting.

Committee Members thanked the Task & Finish Group for the work they had undertaken on this issue. Mrs Wheaton, Committee & Governance Advisor, was also thanked for her work in supporting the Task & Finish Group.

A Member asked for clarification around the recent decision to temporarily close Seeleys House and asked whether it included the Day Opportunities Centre. Ms Bowie confirmed that it was only the residential respite care service that was temporarily closed.

In response to a question about the level of involvement of the voluntary sector in the proposed changes, Ms Bowie confirmed that the key stakeholder groups had engaged in the process and had made a good contribution throughout the consultation. The service users and carers were thanked for providing valuable feedback during the initial consultation period. It was acknowledged that beneficial feedback had been gained as a result of extending the consultation for a further 6 weeks and focussing on the Aylesbury Opportunities Centre.

The proposal would be presented to Cabinet on Monday 30th September 2019 for a decision.

9 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman welcomed Mr G Williams, Cabinet Member for Community Engagement & Public Health and Dr J O'Grady, Director of Public Health.

The following main points were made during the discussion.

- 1 in 4 of Buckinghamshire residents were drinking at levels that could be harming their health. Most of the people drinking over the Chief Medical Officer's recommended weekly intake (14 units) were not dependent on alcohol.
- The proportion of people drinking over 14 units a week was highest in highest income households, older people (women 55 to 64 years and men 65-74 years) and men.
- The annual report provided an overview of alcohol in Buckinghamshire and the harms it can cause. It included stories from residents and frontline staff about the impact of alcohol on them.
- The report contained a number of recommendations to stimulate conversation and action across partners and communities in Buckinghamshire. The main aim was to increase awareness of safer drinking levels and what could be done to help reduce the harms from alcohol. There was a role for all partners in this, but particularly for frontline staff in health and social care to routinely ask the simple questions that might result in someone getting the help they need and changing their life for the better.
- In response to a question, Dr O'Grady confirmed that the Director for Public Health chose the topic for the annual report but used the priorities identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Analysis to highlight specific issues.
- A Member suggested "Nutrition and the effects of too much processed food" as a topic for a future annual report.
- Members discussed the benefits of lobbying Government and when the Government introduced policies around smoking, it had had an immediate effect.
- In response to a question around the social side of drinking, Dr O'Grady explained that her annual report was about helping people to make informed choices and to raise awareness around the safe levels of drinking alcohol.
- A Member suggested that leaflets should be sent to all households in Bucks informing people about the number of units and safe levels of alcohol.
- Concerns were raised around the effects of "hidden drinking" and it was acknowledged that this was a problem.
- Dr O'Grady explained that the annual report had been discussed and agreed at the recent Health & Wellbeing Board meeting so key partners were signed up to the recommendations. The report would also be discussed at the next Safer, Stronger Bucks meeting.
- The Cabinet Member said that partner workshops had been set-up to review the recommendations and develop specific delivery plans with timescales.
- A Member asked about the metrics being used to measure the success of the campaign. Dr O'Grady explained that data links were being developed, including capturing alcohol related admissions to A&E, deaths from cirrhosis of the liver and referrals to specialist services.
- In response to a question about the sustainability of funding for specialist services, Dr O'Grady clarified that the Government had committed to no cuts in Public Health funding and alcohol and substance misuse services were part of this funding.
- A Member commented that Buckinghamshire receives less funding than other areas due to its perceived affluence but there were still health inequalities across the County. The Member suggested lobbying Government for more funding to help address the inequalities.
- Dr O'Grady agreed to send the infographics to health partners to help publicise the key messages and provide signposting to specialist services.

ACTION: Dr O'Grady

The Chairman thanked the presenters.

10 COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee noted the items for the November meeting:

- Temporary closure of Chartridge Ward, Amersham Hospital;
- Support for Carers Inquiry – 6 month recommendation implementation monitoring.

Members discussed possible items for the February meeting (date to be agreed) as this would be the last formal meeting before the Unitary council comes into being on 1 April 2020.

- A composite report on ASC Transformation, which tells a story of the success of the transformation programme across the tiers, from a service user viewpoint;
- An update on the Primary Care Networks, including evidence of progress to date and patient improvements;
- Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care System and the alignment of priorities within the long term plan;
- Community hubs – plans for further roll-out across the county;
- Digital strategy – how the improvement plans impact on Bucks residents.

11 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is due to take place on Thursday 14th November 2019 at 10am in Mezzanine Room 1, County Hall, Aylesbury.

CHAIRMAN