
Meeting	Health, Housing and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Date	14 November 2018
Present	Councillors Doughty (Chair), Cullwick (Vice-Chair), Cuthbertson, Flinders, Richardson and K Taylor
Apologies	Councillors Warters

38. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, any prejudicial interests or any disclosable pecuniary interests which they may have in respect of business on this agenda. None were declared.

39. Minutes

Members requested that the following amendment be made to minute 35 (Implementation of the Extension of HMO Licensing).

a) Amend line to read as follows:

- “Officers stated that the rough estimate on the amount of rooms to be lost by the ~~Council~~ *City*, as a result of the new minimum requirements, would be 70 out of the 495 *and a total of 400-500 rooms by 2021*”.

The Chair informed the committee that during the most recent meeting of the Children, Education and Communities Policy and Scrutiny Committee, it was decided that the potential joint scrutiny review into Tenant Engagement would not be taken forward in this municipal year.

40. Public Participation

It was reported that there had been three registrations to speak under the Council’s Public Participation Scheme.

Gwen Vardigans, a member of *Defend Our NHS York*, had submitted a question to the committee prior to the meeting regarding the treatment of children with severe autism. The question and the replies from Michael Melvin and Maxine Squire, Interim Corporate Director’s

for Health, Housing and Adult Social Care and Children, Education and Communities, are attached as an annex to this minute.

John Brown, speaking on behalf of the York and Selby Service Users Network (SUN) spoke on the proposed changes to the Mental Health Support Line. Mr Brown stated that the consultation on the reduction in hours of the Mental Health Support Line had been inadequate and that the TEWV Crisis Line did not provide an adequate alternative as it was not a listening service. Mr Brown went on to suggest that the current situation offered an opportunity to improve what is currently a fragmented provision of intermediate mental health support and create a service which fit the needs of its users.

Councillor Denise Craghill also spoke to the committee regarding the Mental Health Support Line. Councillor Craghill highlighted that there had been little strategic insight in the report provided and that the rationale behind the reduction in hours was still not clear. Councillor Craghill asked the committee to set up a task group to investigate all aspects of telephone based mental health crisis support involving all the necessary stakeholders.

41. Mental Health Support Line (MHSL) Review and Refresh

Officers updated the committee on the review and refresh of the Mental Health Support Line (MHSL).

Officers informed the committee that:

- The use of the line had declined in recent years
- The Mental Health Support Line was not a bespoke service and had been created to respond to a need and prior to TEWV's (and other agencies) involvement in York.
- It was an opportune time to review the MHSL provision

Members were keen to understand why this service was being provided by the Council and not the CCG. Members were informed that the Council stepped in to provide a service that was required at the time.

In response to member's questions, officers highlighted that:

- Mental Health Services were moving towards bespoke help for individual patients and away from assessments.
- Whilst a listening service was valuable, it was not clear that the MHSL was that service

- 22 The Avenue was primarily a supported living service and that the MHSL was being operated overnight by the same member of staff in charge of the patients using the supported living service.

Members were concerned at the reduction in hours of the MHSL and whether a valid alternative was being provided. Members requested further information to inform the need for a task group on the issue.

42. Home First Engagement - Initial Feedback Report

Officers presented the initial feedback from the Home First project which has been designed to help understand the needs of service users when being transferred from hospital to home.

Officers explained that Home First, which will be named 'Why not home? Why not today?' when it is developed into the new Joint Protocol for the Transfer of Care, was an important first step in understanding the needs of service users with co-production at the heart of the service being created.

Officers also explained that medical professionals are just beginning to understand the significant negative impact of staying in hospital, especially for older patients, where muscle wastage can be a serious issue.

Under questioning from Members, officers informed the committee that the next steps for the Home First project was to continue to reach out to more forums and service users for a second round of engagement.

Members were pleased to hear about the significant level of consultation and engagement with residents on this topic.

43. Healthwatch York: Performance Monitoring / Six Monthly Review

The Manager of Healthwatch York presented the organisation's biannual report.

Under questions from Members, officers gave an update on the Burnholme Project, the publishing of the recent investigation into the experiences of LGBT patients and also on why there was a projected overspend.

The officer did point out one correction from the report, that the dates from the Finance section of the report should have read, April 2018 to October 2018.

Members asked the officer to elaborate on the item of 'Healthwatch Visits', to explain where and when these visits took place. Members were highly complimentary of Healthwatch and of its management in what has been a tricky time for the organisation.

Members also offered their support to Healthwatch, suggesting further links with Parish Councils and their support in promoting the programme. The Chair was also keen to point out to officers that should there be any issues with regard to particular services, then they should feel free to raise them to this committee.

44. Suicide Prevention and Self-harm Overview Report

Officers presented an overview report into Suicide Prevention and Self-harm, outlining the current work taking place in this area.

The officers highlighted to the committee that this is a particularly challenging area of public health work and whilst recently there had been a slight drop in deaths by suicide in York, the longer trend still showed an upward trajectory.

Members and officers discussed the provision of training and its sustainability. Officers pointed out that continued support from statutory service providers would be required if the current training provision were to continue and even expand in the future.

Members were keen to understand how the ambitious aims in the York Suicide Safer Community Strategy were to be evaluated. They were informed that it is difficult to report on this area of work and it would be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Members discussed the recommendations attached to the report, which showed a high level of detail and thought and it was decided that Members from the committee would meet outside of the meeting to discuss how best to take forward the recommendations listed.

45. Update on Oral Health in the City of York

The committee received an update on Oral Health in the City and officers also outlined the aims of the Oral Health Improvement Advisory Group (OHIAG).

The officers explained that the OHIAG had been created in order to investigate York's high numbers of hospital admissions for dental care. Officers also highlighted that it did not seem to match the statistics suggesting that children's oral health in York was good.

Under questioning from members, officers stated that they were not yet in a position to understand the reasons for this anomaly. Officers mentioned that it could be a matter of custom and practice and they would continue their work in this area.

46. Work Plan

Members discussed the work plan for the 2018/19 municipal year.

Following the earlier suggestion that a report be requested on the types of Mental Health Support Services currently being provided in York, the Interim Corporate Director of Health Housing and Adult Social Care informed members that he would report back to the committee on this. This report will then assist the committee in deciding whether it was necessary to set up a task group. It was also agreed that an informal meeting of the Committee be arranged by the scrutiny Officer to discuss the recommendations in the Suicide Prevention and Self-harm report.

Cllr P Doughty, Chair

[The meeting started at 5.30 pm and finished at 8.30 pm].

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