

COUNCIL
14 JULY 2022

OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

1. Since the last meeting of the Council, the following are the main areas of work the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee has undertaken.

CAMHS Update

2. We welcomed a presentation from the Director of Operations and Transformation (CAMHS and Learning Disability services) Durham Tees Valley, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust on the children and young people's services for Darlington.
3. We were provided with details of the five key areas of the programme and were informed that the Trust had moved to a nationally recommended framework, i-THRIVE, a whole system and evidenced-based approach in supporting families with their emotional wellbeing and mental health needs.
4. Members noted the key components of the framework and the work being undertaken to deliver this. We were also provided with details of the actions in response to the concerns raised by the CQC.
5. The wait times to assessment and treatment for non-neuro referrals and wait time for specialist neuro assessment were outlined and we welcomed details of the next steps for the service.
6. We did raise a number of concerns regarding the service, including staffing shortages, impact of wait times on children's education, the perceived lack of follow up and lack of support after a diagnosis and we were informed that the service was only commissioned to undertake the assessments and once a young person had a diagnosis they would not have any input from the service unless there was a co-existing mental health need.
7. We noted that staffing shortages were being addressed in the short term through the relocation of staff to support Darlington and that detailed workforce planning was being undertaken; and the roll out of mental health support teams to provide school based support, early help and prevention would create capacity in 'Getting more Help' teams to meet the needs of the more complex and risky cases. The service also worked closely with the voluntary and community sector in supporting young people.
8. We have requested further information regarding waiting list figures, national target for wait times and look forward to receiving a written response from the Director of Operations and Transformation (CAMHS and Learning Disability services) Durham Tees Valley, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust.

Health and Safety Compliance in Council Housing

9. We also received a presentation from the Assistant Director Housing and Revenues updating Members on Health and Safety Compliance in Council Housing.
10. The presentation outlined the performance results for 2021/22 in relation to Asbestos, electrical safety, fire regulatory reform audits, gas safety and legionella.
11. Following a question regarding access to properties, we were advised of the mechanisms in place to inform tenants of upcoming checks and details were provided of the new MOT process that was in place.

Housing Services Anti-Social Behaviour Policy

12. Scrutiny received a report on the draft Housing Service Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2022-2026 prior to its consideration at Cabinet on 6 September 2022.
13. Members were advised that one of the four statutory Consumer Standards set by the Regulator of Social Housing was the Neighbourhood and Community Standard and that this standard set expectations for registered providers to publish a policy on how to work with relevant partners to prevent and tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB).
14. The draft policy sets out how the Council will deal with reports of ASB and hate crime and Members were provided with details of the areas covered within the policy. Particular reference was made to the role of the two full time tenancy enforcement officers employed by Housing Services and we noted the performance in relation to reports of ASB to Housing Services.
15. We were informed that the Tenants Panel were consulted in May 2022 and overall supported the proposed policy and noted the examples of the Panel's comments.
16. This Scrutiny Committee supports the onward submission of the draft Housing Services Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2022-2026 to Cabinet for approval.

Performance Indicators – Quarter 4 2021/2022

17. We received an update on performance against key performance indicators for 2021/22 at Quarter 4.
18. We noted that of the twelve Housing and Culture indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee, all indicators had data available. We were advised that seven indicators were showing performance better than the same period last year, whilst five were showing performance worse than the same period last year.
19. Of the 24 Public Health indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee, fourteen had new data available. It was reported that of the fourteen indicators, eight were showing an improved performance when compared to the same period last year, whilst five indicators were showing performance not as good as the previous year and one indicator was showing a performance the same as the previous year.

Work Programme

20. We have given consideration to the Work Programme for this Committee for the Municipal Year 2022/23 and to any additional areas that Members would like to be included.
21. We have agreed that an item be included on dental services and have suggested that a joint piece of work be undertaken with Adults Scrutiny Committee to examine those Care Homes in Special Measures. The work programme will be updated accordingly.

Councillor Ian Bell
Chair of the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee