

HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 29 June 2022

PRESENT – Councillors Bell (Chair), Layton, McEwan, Mills, Newall, Preston, Mrs H Scott and Wright

APOLOGIES – Councillor Heslop

ABSENT – Councillor Dr. Chou

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Jill Foggin (Communications Manager, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust), Jennifer Illingworth (Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust), Michelle Thompson (Healthwatch Darlington) and Kayleigh Gamblin (We Are With You)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Penny Spring (Director of Public Health), Ken Ross (Public Health Principal), Anthony Sandys (Assistant Director - Housing and Revenues), Natalie Creighton (Housing Team Leader - Repairs and Maintenance) and Hannah Miller (Democratic Officer)

HH1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23

RESOLVED – That Councillor Bell be appointed Chair of this Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

HH2 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23

RESOLVED – That Councillor Mrs Scott be appointed Vice-Chair of this Committee for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.

HH3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

HH4 TO CONSIDER THE TIMES OF MEETINGS OF THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2022/23 ON THE DATES AGREED IN THE CALENDAR OF MEETINGS BY CABINET AT MINUTE C100/FEB/22

RESOLVED – That the meetings of this Scrutiny Committee be held at 10.00am for the remainder of the 2022/23 Municipal Year on the dates, as agreed on the calendar of meetings by Cabinet at Minute C100/Feb/22.

HH5 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON :-

(1) 27 APRIL 2022: AND

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 27 April 2022.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 27 April

2022 be approved as a correct record.

(2) 18 MAY 2022

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 18 May 2022.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 18 May 2022 be approved as a correct record.

HH6 CAMHS UPDATE

The Director of Operations and Transformation (CAMHS and Learning Disability services) Durham Tees Valley, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust gave a presentation (previously circulated) updating Members on the children and young people's services for Darlington.

It was reported that there five key areas of the work programme, Keeping in touch (KIT), Waits, Staffing, Caseload and case management and Training; 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; the key components of the framework were outlined and it was noted the framework draws a clear distinction between treatment and support. Members were informed that 1 in 6 young people have mental health needs, of these 30 per cent would require advice, 60 per cent would require 'Getting Help' and 5-10 per cent would require 'Getting more Help' and/or 'Risk Support'.

Details were provided of the work being undertaken to deliver the i-THRIVE framework; and reference was made to the actions response to the concerns raised by the CQC.

Details were also provided of the wait times to assessment and treatment for non-neuro referrals; wait time for specialist neuro assessment; and the next steps were outlined, including work with partners to further embed i-Thrive, work to develop the upstream offer to families and schools to reduce demand for specialist neurodevelopmental assessments and embed mental health practitioners into primary care networks to enhance the whole system offer.

Members raised 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. The Director of Operations and Transformation (CAMHS and Learning Disability services) advised Members 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; 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. Members were assured that the KIT process had been evaluated

and that a child's need and risk level determined how often KIT contact was.

Members requested further information regarding waiting list figures, national target for wait times and it was suggested that the work of this service be reported in to the Cross Party Autism Working Group.

RESOLVED – (a) That the Director of Operations and Transformation (CAMHS and Learning Disability services) Durham Tees Valley, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, be thanked for her informative presentation.

(b) That a written response to Members questions be provided by the Director of Operations and Transformation (CAMHS and Learning Disability services) Durham Tees Valley, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust.

HH7 HEALTH AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE IN COUNCIL HOUSING

The Assistant Director Housing and Revenues gave a presentation (previously circulated) updating Members on Health and Safety Compliance in Council Housing.

The presentation outlined the performance results for 2021/22 in relation to Asbestos, electrical safety, fire regulatory reform audits, gas safety and legionella.

It was reported that there was 100 per cent compliance for both the asbestos programme for 2021/22 and the asbestos management surveys 2021/22. It was also reported that of the 890 electrical installation condition report checks due to be completed, 611, which equated to 68.7 per cent had been completed; the performance had been significantly impacted due to Covid, however the terms of the new tenancy agreement would enable the Council to issue tenancy breach notices should access not be permitted. Members also noted that all 19 of the sheltered, extra care and community centres were within compliance.

In relation to Fire Regulatory Reform Audits, Members were informed that performance in relation to sheltered schemes had been significantly impacted by a number of factors including Covid; and that compliance was at 66.6 per cent. However, out of the six sheltered schemes not audited in 2021-22, three had now been completed and three were due for completion in July. In relation to blocks of flats, of the 73 blocks due for risk assessment, 100 per cent had been completed on time.

Reference was made to Gas Safety, Members noted that of the 4977 properties due a service, 4967 had been completed; that of those 10 remaining, only three were outstanding in 2021/22 and these had now been completed; and that the target of 99.5 per cent had been exceeded, with 99.8 per cent achieved. Members also noted that there was 100 per cent compliance for legionella risk assessments for sheltered accommodation.

Following a question, the Housing Team Leader – Repairs and Maintenance informed Members of the mechanisms in place to inform tenants of upcoming checks; and details were provided of the new MOT process that was in place.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

HH8 HOUSING SERVICES ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR POLICY

The Assistant Director Housing and Revenues submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the draft Housing Services Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2022-2026 (also previously circulated) prior to Cabinet on 6 September 2022.

The submitted report stated that the Housing Services Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2022-2026 sets out how the Council will deal with reports of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and hate crime; the Tenants Panel had been consulted, with proposals receiving overwhelming support; and details were provided of the areas covered within the policy.

It was reported 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 ASB.

Details were provided of the role of the two full time tenancy enforcement officers employed by Housing Services; and the performance in relation to reports of ASB to Housing Services was outlined. It was reported that 2.7 per cent of all calls received by Housing Services in 2021/22 related to ASB; that cases were opened for 370 reports; the main reason for reports of ASB was noise nuisance; and 21 Notices of Seeking Possession/Notices of Possession Proceedings were issued.

It was reported that the Tenants Panel were consulted in May 2022 and overall supported the proposed policy; and examples of the Panel's comments were outlined.

Discussion ensued regarding the definition of ASB and links between the Council and Housing Associations.

RESOLVED – That Cabinet be advised that the Health and Housing Scrutiny Committee supports the onward submission of the draft Housing Services Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2022-2026 to Cabinet for approval.

HH9 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - QUARTER 4 2021/2022

The Group Directors of Operations, People and Services submitted a report (previously circulated) providing Members with an update on performance against those key performance indicators within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee for the period 2021/22.

Details were provided of the 36 indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee, twelve indicators were reported both Housing and Culture and 24 by Public Health.

At Quarter 4 data was available for all of the twelve Housing and Culture indicators and of those indicators two had targets to be compared against. It was noted that HBS 013 – Rent arrears of current tenants in the financial year as a % of rent debit (GNPI 34) was showing performance better than the target whilst HBS 016 – Rent collected as a proportion of rents owed on HRA dwellings * including arrears b/fwd, was showing performance not as good as the target.

It was reported that of the twelve indicators, seven demonstrated an improved performance compared to the same period in the previous year, four of which were Culture indicators; and that five indicators showed a performance not as good as that recorded at the same period in the previous year.

Details were provided on the Public Health indicators which had updated information to report at quarter 4, of which there were fourteen indicators. It was reported that of the fourteen indicators, eight were showing an improved performance when compared to the same period in the previous 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.

RESOLVED – That the submitted report be noted.

HH10 WORK PROGRAMME

The Assistant Director Law and Governance submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee's work programme for the Municipal Year 2022/23 and to consider any additional areas to be included.

Discussion ensued on the current work programme and it was also suggested that items be included on dental services and that a joint piece of work be undertaken with Adults Scrutiny Committee to examine those Care Homes in Special Measures.

RESOLVED – That the Work Programme be updated to reflect the decisions of this Scrutiny Committee.

HH11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Members noted that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for 7 July 2022.

RESOLVED – That Members look forward to receiving an update on the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board at a future meeting of Scrutiny Committee.