

Health Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Monday, 25th March, 2019.

Present:- Councillors A Sandhu (Chair), Smith (Vice-Chair), Ali, M Holledge, Matloob, Qaseem and Shah

Non-Voting Co-optee – Colin Pill, Slough Healthwatch

Also present:-

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Chaudhry

PART I

56. Declarations of Interest

None were declared.

57. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 17th January 2019

Resolved – That the minutes of the last meeting held on 17th January 2019 be noted.

58. Action Progress Report

The Panel noted the progress being made on the actions agreed at recent meetings. It was highlighted that potential dates for the Panel's proposed visit to Respond and Lavender Court had been circulated and Members were asked to confirm their availability as soon as possible. All other actions were either completed, ongoing or would be incorporated into the work programme for the 2019/20 municipal year.

Resolved – That details of the Action Progress Report be noted.

(Councillor Matloob joined the meeting)

59. Member Questions

No questions from Members had been submitted.

60. Adult Social Care Local Account 2017-18

The Strategy and Partnership Manager, Sally Kitson, introduced a report on the Adult Social Care Local Account for 2017/18.

The Local Account provided details about performance, summarised the activities of Adult Social Care for the year to March 2018 and priorities for the future. A new format had been adopted which was intended to make the document more accessible and it included several case studies. It outlined the approach being taken to put people and communities at the centre of how

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social care services were delivered. One of the key themes was the progress that had been made to promote the greater integration of social care with health and the development of a strength and asset based approach. The report included the latest Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) data and the key headlines were summarised.

The Panel welcomed the document and commented that it was both comprehensive and clear in providing an overview of priorities and performance in Slough. Members asked questions and raised points on a variety of issues including:

- Co-production – the Panel had previously noted that this was a key emerging area of work and it was commented that it could come through more strongly in the report. It was responded that a great deal of work had taken place to promote co-production since the reporting period for this Local Account which was to the end of March 2018. This would be reflected in next year's report.
- Inactivity – 34.8% of Slough's population was estimated to be inactive, which was significantly higher than the national average of 22.7%. Members asked whether residents were benefitting from the significant capital investment made in new and refurbished leisure facilities. It was highlighted that most of the facilities were now open and programmes were being developed for key groups and individuals to promote their use and seek to increase levels of activity. Access to facilities in communities, such as green gyms, had been improved, for example by providing wheelchair accessible paths to reach them. There was lag in the timeliness of such data and it was recognised that it would take some time for the impact of leisure investment on levels of activity to be reflected in the data.
- Care homes – £12.2m of the £32m adult social care budget was spent on care home provision and Members asked about the number of people using such services. The approach was to support more people to live independently in their homes and therefore the number of placements into care homes was reducing.
- Healthchecks – the Panel asked about the progress for the take up of Healthchecks. It was noted that 2,598 had received free NHS check in 2017/18 which was an increase on the previous year. However, take up both in Slough and nationally was relatively low. A research project on Health Beliefs had recently been commissioned on one of the issues it would look into the reasons for take up so that messages could be refined and targeted to key groups.

At the conclusion of the discussion, the Panel noted the report.

Resolved – That the Adult Social Care Local Account 2017/18 be noted.

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61. Oral Health in Slough - Update

The Service Lead for Public Health, Dr Liz Brutus, presented a report that updated on the work underway to deliver improved oral health in Slough, particularly for children.

It was recognised that there were real challenges in Slough in terms of oral health and these issues had been set out in the report to the Panel in October 2018. The report updated on the progress made subsequently on the various activities that were underway. The “Slough Healthy Smiles” project was being provided by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust to upskill staff in early years settings in supervised tooth brushings and increase knowledge of good oral health provision. The Healthy Smiles services had now been fully integrated into the “Active Movement” programme to promote wellbeing and the contract with Oxford Health had been extended to March 2020 at which point the service would be evaluated and reviewed. The Public Health England Starting Well initiative worked with dental practices to provide an outreach programme in 6 Slough primary schools. Funding had been secured to continue the programme for a further year and discussions were ongoing about which schools would be engaged in the next phase of delivery. Other work included the recruitment of two coordinator posts to work in early years provision to tackle health and wellbeing and a health beliefs research project to better understand residents’ beliefs and attitudes to health to help design services and communications more effectively.

The Panel was supportive of the projects underway to address the oral health challenges and it was recognised they were linked more widely to both wellbeing and deprivation. Members asked a number of questions including about the early impact of the schemes including the number of people attending the recent open day as part of the “Starting Well” initiative and whether any ward level data was available. The prevalence of poor oral health was closely linked to deprivation and there were also particular issues with certain groups of people such as those with eastern European and south Asian backgrounds. Members queried whether poor oral health in Slough was directly linked to a perceived lack of dentists, but it was reported that the uptake of dental appointments was considered to be more important than their availability. There was a discussion about the role of Health Visitors and the potential for routinely providing dental appointments for children although the ongoing issue of uptake was noted.

At the conclusion of the discussion the report was noted.

Resolved – That the update on oral health in Slough be noted.

62. Disability Task and Finish Group - Report and Recommendations

The Panel considered a report that set out the work and recommendations of the Disability Task and Finish Group.

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Colin Pill, who had chaired the Task & Finish Group, summarised the background, work undertaken and key recommendations of the group as detailed in Appendix A to the report. It was noted that there were approximately 9,400 people with physical disabilities in Slough and the group had looked into all aspects of accessibility. Meetings had been held with SBC officers responsible for transport, taxi licensing, leisure, planning and highways, and external bodies such as AccessAble, who were providers of the new Slough Online Disability Access Guide, and Healthwatch. This work had resulted in seven recommendations, as at paragraph 5.3 of the report, and a range of specific actions to support each recommendation. A more comprehensive action plan would be developed if the headline recommendations were approved. These actions would then be subject to the appropriate financial and risk assessments before being referred to Cabinet.

The Panel commended the chair and members of the Task & Finish Group and commented that the review had been undertaken in an open and positive manner and that the recommendations could help Slough become more of a 'disability friendly town'. The report and recommendations were approved and Members discussed the next steps. The Panel emphasised the importance of ensuring the actions were sufficiently clear and costed to ensure they could be implemented, measured and tracked. After discussion, it was therefore agreed that the Task & Finish Group would continue work to finalise the action plan which would be brought back to the Health Scrutiny Panel on 27th June 2019 with a view to it being recommended to Cabinet on 15th July 2019.

Members unanimously agreed a vote of thanks to members of the group, particularly Colin Pill for chairing it and producing such a comprehensive report.

Resolved –

- (a) That the recommendations of the Disability Task & Finish Group as detailed in section 5.3 of the report and at Appendix A be approved.
- (b) That further work be undertaken to finalise the Action Plan, including for recommendations with financial implications, and that the Action Plan be brought back to the Panel on 27th June for consideration with a view to recommending to Cabinet on 17th July 2019.
- (c) That a Vote of Thanks be given to members of the Task & Finish Group for the work it had undertaken.

63. Members' Attendance Record

Resolved – That the Members' Attendance Record for 2018/19 be noted.

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64. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 27th June 2019.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 7.42 pm)