

## **Health Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Thursday, 27th June, 2019.**

**Present:-** Councillors Ali, Begum, Gahir (from 6.45pm), N Holledge, Mohammad, Qaseem, Rasib, A Sandhu and Smith

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

**Apologies for Absence:-** None

### **PART I**

#### **1. Declarations of Interest**

None were declared.

#### **2. Election of Chair 2019/20**

The Panel was invited to make nominations for the position of Chair for the 2019/20 municipal year.

Councillor Atiq Sandhu was proposed by Councillor Rasib and seconded by Councillor Ali.

**Resolved** – That Councillor Atiq Sandhu be elected Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel for the ensuing year.

*(Councillor Sandhu in the Chair for the remainder of the meeting)*

#### **3. Election of Vice-Chair 2019/20**

The Panel was invited to make nominations for the position of Vice-Chair for the 2019/20 municipal year.

Councillor Smith was proposed by Councillor Rasib and seconded by Councillor Ali.

**Resolved** – That Councillor Smith be elected Vice-Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel for the ensuing year.

#### **4. Minutes of the last Meeting held on 25th March 2019**

A query was raised in relation to Minute No.60 Adult Social Care Local Account 2017-18. The Director of Adults and Communities confirmed that the Council's strategy was to support people to live independently in their own homes and this approach enhanced people's quality of life.

In addition, he explained that the Council, along with other local authorities nationally, was experiencing difficulties keeping pace with the level of service demand. The Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) had recently published its key messages arising from the Annual Budget Survey

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2019. In summary, there was an escalating crisis in adult social care. The issues local authorities faced had gotten progressively worse and the system was failing financially. The Director of Adults and Communities agreed to circulate a copy of the ADASS report to the Panel.

In relation to Minute No.62 – Disability Task and Finish Group Report and Recommendations, the Director of Adults and Communities confirmed that the recommendations that could be implemented within existing budgets would be progressed without delay.

### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th March 2019 be approved as a correct record.
- (b) The Director of Adults and Communities to provide the Senior Democratic Services Officer with a copy of the ADASS Annual Budget Survey report for circulation to the Panel.

## **5. Member Questions**

Councillor Smith asked a question about reported new national ranking figures relating to oral health. The Director of Adults and Communities advised that no new data from the Public Health Outcomes Framework had been published since the recent report to the Panel. The Council was continuing work to address children's oral health. A copy of the question and answer would be circulated to the Panel and published on the Council's website.

*(Councillor Gahir joined the meeting)*

Councillor Sandhu asked about the membership fees for the recently refurbished Langley Leisure Centre. He reported that a full membership was £45 per month and he raised concern that the charge was prohibitive. Following a discussion it was agreed that the Panel receive a report regarding the proposed fees and charges for 2020/21 before being considered by Cabinet in February 2020.

*(At this point in the meeting Councillor Gahir declared that he was a Hackney Carriage driver. He remained in the room throughout the meeting).*

*(At this point in the meeting Councillor Mohammad declared that she was a General Practice Manager at a Medical Centre. She remained in the room throughout the meeting).*

### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the Director of Adults and Communities provide the Senior Democratic Services Officer with the following, for circulation to the Panel:

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- A written copy of the response to the question raised by Councillor Smith.
- An update on progress since the last Oral Health in Slough report provided to the Panel on 25th March 2019.

(b) That a report regarding the Council's Leisure Fees and Charges be added to the Health Scrutiny Panel Work Programme to allow the Panel to scrutinise the proposals before they were presented to Cabinet for agreement.

### 6. **Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care Systems Long-Term Strategy**

The Director of Adults and Communities introduced an update report detailing the steps being taken to develop the Frimley Health and Care Integrated Care Systems (ICS) Long-Term Strategy.

Frimley Health and Care had first developed a five-year Strategy in 2016. Since then, partners from across health and local government had been working together with local communities to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals and were using their collective resources more flexibly as part of a commitment to achieve the best possible value. Significant progress had been made implementing the Strategy and Frimley Health and Care was considered a leading ICS. The development of a five-year Strategy presented an opportunity to refresh the ambition and ensure the work undertaken delivered on its priorities.

The Panel discussed the lack of mental health provision in Slough. Concern was raised that mental health services at Wexham Park Hospital had been moved to Prospect Park Hospital and many people were experiencing difficulties visiting inpatient family members and friends. The cost of frequent travel to Reading was unaffordable for many Slough residents and this created financial pressure for families during an already difficult time.

Colin Pill, Healthwatch representative, reported that financial support was available to people wishing to travel to Reading Prospect Park Hospital and grant application forms were available at the hospital.

The Director of Adults and Communities explained the importance of an integrated mental health and social care approach and commended the excellent service provided by Slough Mental Health Team. He explained that it was often preferable for people to be supported to live independently, rather than spending extended periods of time as a hospital inpatient.

Discussion took place about patients experiencing extended periods in hospital due to a delay in preparing social care arrangements. The Director of Adults and Communities explained that managers attended a weekly meeting and reported to him the patients who had not been discharged on time, including the reasons and an action plan to progress each case.

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Referring to page 20 of the report Members noted that the Frimley Health and Care public survey had closed on 14th June 2019. The Director of Adults and Communities explained that there would be a range of future opportunities for Members to contribute to the development of the Strategy in the coming months. Members were keen for the survey to be published widely and for copies of the survey to be made available in public libraries and community centres.

**Resolved** – That the report be noted.

### 7. Disability Task and Finish Group - Update and Proposed Timescales

The Panel considered a report that detailed the proposals of the Disability Task and Finish Group and sought approval to forward the recommendations on to Cabinet.

The Task and Finish Group had been formed in response to concerns around disability access continually emerging through discussions at meetings. The aim of the Group had been to help Slough become a 'disability friendly town' encompassing a wide range of matters, such as building access, transport and leisure options.

Members' attention was drawn to section 5.5 of the report which listed the proposals officers felt they could not, or not currently implement, along with explanations and alternative proposals. Section 5.6 of the report set out the recommendations that could be implemented within existing budgets and indicated timescales.

A discussion ensued, during which the following issues were raised:

- Disabled car parking bays – the Panel highlighted the need to provide a sufficient number of disabled car parking spaces in shopping and residential areas. It was noted that in response to the Group's recommendation officers would be reviewing disabled car parking throughout Slough and conducting a statutory consultation on provision near to shopping areas.
- In relation to the recommendation set out on page 26 of the report: *'Displaying notices in taxis as to the rights of disabled service users not to be charged differently'*, the Scrutiny Officer confirmed that the Transport Planning Officer fully supported the recommendation. In addition, he explained that where there were no notes/comments listed next to a recommendation, this indicated that officers had no comments to add.
- Members felt it was important to monitor progress of recommendations to ensure they were implemented. It was suggested that a progress update report be provided to the Panel at every other meeting.

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- Disability access – Members were informed that the Council had partnered with AccessAble to create access guides containing information on accessibility throughout venues in Slough. The guides were free and available to view and download via the AccessAble website.

### Resolved –

- (a) The proposals officers felt they could not or could not yet implement, as set out in section 5.5 of the report be noted.
- (b) The proposed timelines for implementing the Task and Finish Group's proposals, as set out in section 5.6 of the report be noted.
- (c) The Task and Finish Group's report be taken forward to Cabinet for approval as Council policy.
- (d) A report detailing the progress made implementing each of the Task and Finish Group recommendations be provided to the Panel at alternate meetings.

## 8. Update on the Slough Local Action Plan for Immunisations

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the Slough Local Action Plan for Immunisations and Screening.

Members were informed that historically Slough had some of the lowest uptake of screening and immunisation programmes in the South East of England. NHS England was responsible for commissioning screening and immunisation programmes in England. Locally this was co-ordinated and managed across Thames Valley by the Public Health Commissioning Team at NHS England, South East. Through partnership working some progress had been made in recent years, however considerable challenges remained across the various immunisation and screening programmes.

Slough Public Health was leading on the Local Action Plan tasks in partnership with key stakeholders. Over the next 18 months the objectives of the Plan were to increase overall immunisation uptake of Slough residents and to reduce inequalities across Slough's population groups. Areas of action included: understanding the needs of the population, improving the quality and sharing of data, improving uptake in priority groups and addressing the issue of vaccine hesitancy.

A proposal of the Local Action Plan was to host a workshop for partners during October 2019. The aim of the workshop was to bring key partners and stakeholders from across Slough together to update on the current immunisation position and provide an opportunity for networking and collaboration. To support events and to raise awareness, the Panel was asked to elect a 'Panel Champion for Immunisations'. Councillor Ali was

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nominated and it was subsequently agreed that he would act as Panel Champion.

There was some discussion in relation to awareness raising and overcoming vaccine hesitancy. The Director of Adults and Communities acknowledged the challenge of countering anti-vaccine messages; nevertheless he highlighted the evidence about the safety of vaccines and the importance of promoting immunisation as a social norm.

A Member asked if the uptake of bowel screening in Slough had increased. In response, the Panel was advised that the number of people being screened had increased but the uptake remained below target. The current priority was to improve the uptake of immunisations and the next phase of work would be to promote screening.

In relation to the Slough Immunisation Action Plan, set out on page 72 in Appendix 1 of the report, Members asked if the following action had been completed: *'Multi-agency flu planning workshop to enable stakeholders in each locality to identify key actions for inclusion in their local 'Flu Action Plan' building on work done in the previous flu session'*. The Public Health Programme Manager agreed to check the status of the action and report back to the Panel.

### **Resolved –**

- (a) The Panel was satisfied that the proposed Local Action Plan for Immunisations had actions tailored to the needs of Slough and relevant partners to address the relatively lower uptake and health inequalities in immunisation.
- (b) Councillor Ali to act as 'Panel Champion for Immunisations' to raise community awareness and support events such as the proposed Immunisation Workshop, scheduled for 1st October 2019.
- (c) The Panel requested a further six month update on the Local Action Plan for Immunisations (to coincide with the next Annual Screening and Immunisations Report) in January 2020.
- (d) The screening element of the Local Action Plan be postponed until January 2010.
- (e) The Public Health Programme Manager to check the status of the action, as detailed above and provide a response back to the Panel.

## **9. Forward Work Programme**

The Scrutiny Officer introduced a report that set out the proposed Work Programme for 2019/20 and a list of potential items to be scheduled.

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There was some discussion about the closure of a number of General Practice surgeries in Slough and Members asked if the Disability Task and Finish Group could recommend that provision be increased. The Panel was advised that the issue was beyond the remit of the Group, as the location of a surgery was somewhat determined by its business model and often residents did not visit their nearest practice. It was suggested that the Panel would find it useful to look at the health profile of wards in Slough to identify the health needs of residents.

Members requested that the following items be added the Work Programme:

### 10 September 2019

- Primary Care Networks
- Slough Health Issues by Ward
- Integrated Care System (oral report)

### 15 October 2019

- Director of Public Health's Annual Report

### 20 November 2019

- Keeping Well Strategy / Leisure Strategy (to include details about uptake of memberships at Langley Leisure Centre)
- Adult Social Care Strategy and Budget

### 16 January 2020

- Leisure Centre Fees and Charges

**Resolved** – That subject to the inclusion of the items listed above, the Health Scrutiny Panel Work Programme 2019/20 be approved, as set out in Appendix A of the report.

## 10. Date of Next Meeting - 10th September 2019

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Chair

(Note: The meeting opened at 6.30pm and closed at 8.10pm)