

Health Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Thursday, 16th January, 2020.

Present:- Councillors A Sandhu (Chair), Smith (Vice-Chair), Ali, Begum, Gahir, N Holledge (until 7.34 pm), Mohammad, Qaseem and Rasib

Non-Voting Co-optee - Colin Pill, Chair of the Healthwatch Slough Board

Also present:- None

PART I

38. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mohammad declared she was a GP Practice Manager. She remained in the Council Chamber throughout the meeting.

39. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 20th November 2019

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2019 be approved as a correct record.

40. Member Questions

None had been received.

41. First Annual Report on Immunisations and Screening in Slough

The Service Lead, Public Health introduced the first Annual Report on Immunisations and Screening in Slough.

It was explained that NHS England was responsible for commissioning screening and immunisation programmes throughout England. Locally this was co-ordinated and managed across Thames Valley by the Public Health Commissioning Team at NHS England, South East.

Historically, Slough had some of the lowest uptake of screening and immunisation programmes in the South East of England, and this contributed to poor health in adults and children. The uptake of screening and immunisation acted as a marker of health inequality in certain groups; therefore it was particularly important that the Public Health Team remained vigilantly aware of these issues.

Some of the recent successes that had benefitted the local population included programmes to increase uptake, and improvements to data quality to allow closer monitoring of progress. For example, the development of a GP toolkit to provide advice to primary care employees to improve the immunisation uptake of patients; the toolkit was now being used widely across practices in Slough. In addition, data on immunisations delivered in primary care were now auto-extracted from the clinical record and entered

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electronically onto the Child Health Information System; this was both more efficient and improved the accuracy of the data.

Joint working had been undertaken by Slough Borough Council, the school immunisation provider and NHS England to address cultural and language barriers to improving the uptake of immunisations and screening in groups with historically lower vaccination rates.

The Chair then invited comments and questions from Members.

During the course of the discussion, the following points were raised:

- The Healthwatch representative asked why the availability of the flu vaccine had been delayed. The Service Lead, Public Health explained that NHS England distributed the vaccine; she agreed to find out if there had been a national delay or if this had been localised to Slough.
- A Member asked what percentage of children in Slough had received a measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) immunisation. In response, the Panel was referred to Table 2 on page 22 of the report that set out the uptake statistics for children aged up to five years old in Slough compared to the national uptake. It was reported that between 2016-2019 83.7% of children, aged five, had received their first and second MMR immunisations; this was slightly below the national average of 86.4%.
- In relation to the Bowel Scope screening programme, it was queried why a one-off test was only offered to people aged 55 years old. It was explained that the programme was currently being rolled out, but was not yet available to the entire population.
- It was highlighted that two out of ten people were affected by prostate cancer; a Member asked if there was a screening programme in place to detect for this form of cancer. It was explained that prostate cancer was more difficult to accurately screen for than other forms of cancer. Consequently, a misdiagnosis could give people a false assurance or cause unnecessary anxiety. During the discussion, the importance of assessing the particular health needs affecting members of the black and minority ethnic populations was noted. For example, it had been recognised that prostate cancer disproportionately affected Afro-Caribbean males. The Service Lead, Public Health agreed to provide some information to the Panel regarding prostate cancer screening.
- It was noted that steps had been taken by Thames Valley Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) to improve access and the uptake of AAA screening in Slough by working with local faith groups to understand the needs of populations who had historically been less likely to take up the offer of screening. As a result, the programme had recently revised its local screening clinic times to provide better access to men in the Muslim community. A Member asked what more could be done to engage with residents of Slough. In response, it was reported that on 6th February 2020 a Loneliness and Social Isolation event was being held at The Curve, Slough. The event would provide an

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opportunity to explore different means of tackling isolation and building relationships with community groups.

- Concern was raised that not enough was done by the Council to proactively raise awareness and prevent illness occurring. It was explained that funding arrangements were complex and the reduction of the local government grant had had a detrimental impact on the resources available to promote initiatives. The Council undertook collaboration work with partnership organisations to promote initiatives and communicate with residents.
- A Member asked what arrangements were in place to ensure that children entering the community from abroad received the necessary immunisations. It was explained that when a person registered with a GP, if necessary they were offered a full immunisation 'catch up programme' regardless of the age of the person.

On behalf of the Panel, the Chair thanked the Service Lead, Public Health for the report.

Resolved –

- (a) That the Service Lead, Public Health be requested to circulate information to the Panel regarding prostate cancer screening.
- (b) That the actions being taken to deliver the national programmes for immunisation and screening, and the progress in tackling health inequalities in Slough be noted.
- (c) That an update on the progress of the Slough Local Action Plans for Immunisations and Screening be provided to the Health Scrutiny Panel annually (around June), to ensure the actions addressed the relatively low uptake of immunisations, and health inequalities relating to screening in Slough.
- (d) That an Annual Report on Immunisations and Screening from the NHS England / NHS Improvement be provided to the Health Scrutiny Panel in January 2021.

42. Adult Social Care Strategy and Budget

The Leisure Strategy Manager introduced the report on behalf of the Director Adults and Communities. It was explained that the Director had sent his apologies and was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. Therefore, Members were requested to focus their attention on the Adult Social Care budget and the proposed Slough leisure fees and charges elements of the report and to defer consideration of the Adult Social Care Strategy until the next meeting.

The Panel was provided with a presentation that outlined: the Adult Social Care Budget 2020/21 and how the funding was spent; the Slough leisure offer and the proposed fee and charges for use of the Everyone Active centres.

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It was highlighted that Slough residents were some of the most inactive in the country. However, over the last 12 months there had been a 'turn in the tide' with a recent 3.4% drop in the level of inactivity amongst residents, as measured by the Sport England 'Active Lives' survey.

The Panel was informed that Slough residents were fortunate to have one of the most comprehensive and affordable leisure offers in the region, along with modern, flagship leisure facilities. In addition, there were a number of budget gyms and sports clubs situated in the town. Over the last five years sports facilities in parks and open spaces across the Borough had seen significant investment including: the installation of twenty-six green gyms, seven new multi-use games areas, a skate park, a parkour park, seven artificial cricket wickets, four cricket practice nets and a network of dedicated walking tracks, all of which were free to use.

The Active Slough Team offered a comprehensive and affordable activity programme of over 90 sessions a week, 30% of the sessions were free to use. On average 1,250 participants engaged with the Active Slough programme every week.

In relation to leisure centre fees and charges, it was explained that the current prices had been approved by the Council's Leisure Strategy Board, and had been benchmarked against neighbouring authorities, including Windsor and Maidenhead, Bracknell, Ealing and Brent. Slough's leisure centre prices remained as one of the lowest in the surrounding area.

The Chair then invited comments and questions from Members.

During the course of the discussion, the following points were raised:

- Concern was raised regarding disabled access to the Council's leisure centres. In particular, the misuse of blue badges was highlighted. The Leisure Strategy Manager undertook to investigate this issue further.
- A Member congratulated the continued success of Slough's Mental Health Services for being ranked amongst the highest nationally in several measures and noted that it had been shortlisted for a national 'Innovation in Health' award for the approach adopted to treat mental health.
- It was noted that membership of Council owned leisure centres was £42 per month, whereas other gyms in Slough charged £14 per month. Concern was raised that membership of the Council owned leisure centres was too high. In response, it was explained that there was a variety of leisure offers available in Slough. The Council owned leisure centres had received significant investment and offered good quality facilities with large swimming pools. Residents had the option of choosing a budget or a quality offer.
- Concern was raised that the significant Council investment in leisure facilities was not reflected in improved health outcomes for residents. A Member queried if the barrier to engagement in physical activity was

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due to a lack of information, the cost or lack of motivation. It was explained that the reasons for inactivity were complex. The Council had provided the infrastructure; and marketing and awareness raising would continue to be promoted. It was noted that Everyone Active was a national company with a large, expert marketing team to undertake public communication campaigns. Tackling resident inactivity would remain central to the Council's Five Year Leisure Strategy. Members were informed that a research project had indicated that when a local authority provided a free leisure pass to residents it had not motivated the intended target residents to become active. Rather, existing gyms users had cancelled their memberships and opted to use council owned gyms and non gym users had continued to remain inactive.

- A Member asked how many people had a Council gym membership. The Leisure Service Manager agreed to seek this information and circulate a response to the Panel.
- It was highlighted that events such as the Slough half marathon encouraged residents to take up exercise and train for an event. A Member asked if there were any plans for the Council to organise a marathon event. It was explained that running events were very expensive and complex to arrange; the feasibility of hosting a future event was currently being considered.

The Chair thanked the Leisure Service Manager and the Service Lead, Communities and Leisure for the report.

Resolved –

- (a) That the fees and charges for leisure provision in Slough be noted.
- (b) That in the absence of the Director Adults and Communities, the Panel agreed to defer further consideration of the Adult Social Care Strategy and Budget report until the meeting scheduled to be held on 23rd March 2020.
- (c) That the Leisure Service Manager be requested to circulate to the Panel responses to the queries raised during consideration of the report, as detailed above.

(Councillor N Holledge left the Council Chamber)

43. Mental Health Update

The Head of Mental Health introduced a report that detailed the locally commissioned services available to residents in Slough to promote positive mental wellbeing and prevent mental ill health.

Members were informed that there was a wide range of services available to residents, both reactive and preventative. It was explained that prevention was a crucial factor in creating sustainable mental health provision and was considered as the only way lasting change could be achieved.

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In 2015, the Council commissioned Hope Recovery College in partnership with Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust. The College was a place for service users to attend courses and workshops which were co-facilitated and co-created by people with lived experience, in order to learn how to better manage their mental health issues. Recovery colleges had been developed out of the recovery movement which had a strong focus on the service users own personal journey.

The College had further expanded during 2019 with the integration of another Slough community mental health psychological service called EMBRACE. Over the last six years, Slough Mental Health Services had been developing an innovative and comprehensive pathway, by creating an 'enabling environment' that aspired to meet the needs of residents requiring mental health services. A 'whole - town' approach was adopted that was founded on therapeutic community principles of attachment, safety, respect, communication, interdependence, relationship, participation, process, balance and responsibility. The approach aimed to tackle loneliness and isolation, a common cause of poor mental health.

Members were informed that the 'Enabling Town Slough' model had recently won recognition at the National Awards for Positive Practice in Mental Health Services held in October 2019. The award was presented for the work that had been undertaken to address inequality in mental health services, and as a nationally awarded strategy, the model was being replicated in other areas across the country. The Head of Mental Health had also recently been invited to present at the forthcoming International Conference on Integrated Care in April 2020.

A further initiative that had been developed in partnership with and funded by Slough Public Health was the Enabling Town Slough website, which aimed to create a mental health forum. The website would be launched in March 2020. Experts with lived experience had been recruited to lead on the co-production of the project to ensure it upheld the Slough values.

The Chair then invited comments and questions from Members.

During the course of the discussion, the following points were raised:

- A Member asked what the most common reasons for someone with mental health problems not engaging with the service were. It was explained that there were a number of reasons, including, stigma, inadequate provision, and social isolation.
- The Healthwatch representative recounted the successful experience of a service user. He highlighted the effectiveness of the Hope Recovery College, in particular the collaborative co-production approach adopted.
- A Member sought further information regarding the peer mentor roles. It was explained that community and voluntary sector support was a crucial element of the overall preventative offer in Slough. Peer

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mentors and 'experts with lived experience' assisted in building a therapeutic community that provided service users a sense of belonging, as loneliness was a huge contributor to mental health problems. The Hope Recovery Hospital had been very successful and had outgrown its current venue. In the future it was hoped that the College could move into its own building.

- A Member asked what the most common reasons were for someone to develop a mental health problem. It was explained that it was common for mental health problems to develop as the result of a traumatic event or experience.

On behalf of the Panel, the Chair commended the excellent work of the Mental Health Team.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

44. Update on the Activity of the Slough Wellbeing Board

Consideration was given to an information report regarding the activities of the Slough Wellbeing Board over the last 12 months.

The Slough Wellbeing Board's Annual Report 2018/19, set out in Appendix A of the report, provided the full details of the work that had been undertaken.

Resolved – That the report be noted.

45. Health Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme 2019/20

The Panel agreed that the following reports would be considered at the next meeting:

23rd March 2020

- Slough Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report
- Air Quality Report
- Adult Social Care Strategy and Budget (additional report, deferred from earlier in the agenda)
- Adult Social Care Local Account 2019-20
- Disability Task and Finish group – Implementation Progress

The Healthwatch representative reported that as a blue badge holder he had received a letter from the Council's Parking Services department notifying him that the car parking arrangements in Slough Town Centre had been reviewed. Subsequently, a scheme had been designed 'under an experimental order' for High Street, High Street West and Church Street to relocate existing parking bays, including disabled parking bays. In addition, a bus gate would be introduced preventing vehicles except buses, motorcycles, taxis and cycle from entering the high street; any other vehicle entering would receive a Penalty Charge Notice. It was suggested that this matter could be raised as a Member question at the next meeting.

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Resolved – That, subject to the amendment detailed above, the Forward Work Programme, as set out in Appendix A of the report be agreed.

46. Members' Attendance Record

Resolved - That the details of the Members' Attendance Record be noted.

47. Date of Next Meeting - 23rd March 2020

Resolved – That the date of the next meeting was confirmed as 23rd March 2020.

Chair

(Note: The meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.24 pm)