

## **Health Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Tuesday, 15th October, 2019.**

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

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

**Also present under Rule 30:-** Councillor Strutton

**Apologies for Absence:-** None.

### **PART I**

#### **21. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Gahir declared that he had previously been a Trust member of Wexham Park Hospital before he was elected as a councillor. He remained in the Council Chamber throughout the meeting.

#### **22. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 10th September 2019**

**Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019, be approved as a correct record.

#### **23. Member Questions**

None had been received.

#### **24. Health Issues by Ward: Updating the Ward Health Profiles Through a New Data Observatory and Website for Public Health Slough**

Members were provided with an overview of how ward health profiles were being updated through the development of a new Public Health Data Observatory and Public Health website.

Historically, the Public Health Team had commissioned 15 ward health profile reviews every two years from the Berkshire Public Health Shared Team. The resultant data represented a 'snapshot in time' and stakeholders had expressed frustration regarding the time lag.

The development of the Slough Public Health Data Observatory provided an opportunity to present public health data in a user-friendly format. The data would be automatically updated and published; therefore assuring users that they had the latest data available. Slough Data Observatory would contribute to a library of resources available for decision makers and residents, enabling them to make informed decisions either at an organisational or personal level. The creation of the Public Health website was a key platform for sharing the information.

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The Chair thanked Dr Liz Brutus, Service Lead Public Health for the report and invited Members to comment and ask questions.

Members had a wide-ranging discussion, during which the following points were raised:

- The development of the Data Observatory was enthusiastically supported by the Panel.
- Members felt the Observatory was an excellent toolkit for policy makers and residents. The availability of timely data would allow officers to target specific health issues by tailoring the provision of services offered to residents.
- The Public Health website would provide residents with data that could be used to improve their own health and to lobby the Council for services to improve the health of their communities.
- It was noted that the website would be 'user-friendly' and would have a language translation option available for the six most commonly spoken languages in Slough.
- Voluntary sector organisations would be able to utilise the data and there could be opportunities to 'up-skill' volunteers to enable them to make the best use of the information available.
- A Member queried how the data could be used to provide reassurance to residents. In response, the Panel was advised that the first stage in the process was to gather reliable data; the next stage would be to consider how the Council could use the information to commission services. Better quality data would highlight health issue 'hotspots'. The Data Observatory and the website would be widely publicised through the Council's Citizen newspaper, Twitter and Facebook. In addition, the information would be promoted through organisations such as Healthwatch, Slough Council for Voluntary Service and the Clinical Commissioning Group.
- A Member asked how the information would be communicated to residents who could not read English. In reply, the Panel was advised that alternative methods of communication were being considered and video/YouTube would be explored. It was agreed that promoting the Data Observatory and website via screens in GP waiting rooms would reach a wide cross section of residents. As a means of reaching all residents, it was suggested that an information leaflet be included with all Council Tax bills.

The Chair then invited Councillor Strutton to address the Panel under Rule 30.

Councillor Strutton welcomed the development of the Public Health Data Observatory and website. He noted that the availability of timely information would enable different Council departments to work collaboratively to tackle

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issues. For example, the detrimental impact that poor quality housing had on residents' health. He said the data could be used by officers to action preventative measures to combat ill health in the Borough.

The Director of Adults and Communities explained that the Frimley Health and Integrated Care System was working in partnership with the local population to target those residents most in need of support. Through a focus on individuals, as opposed to organisational structures, there was increased priority placed on prevention and proactive care rather than reactive treatment. He noted that there were limitations to the services that could be provided given the financial constraints. The Panel was informed that the Slough Wellbeing Board (SWB) had recently considered local health issues as part of a review of its priorities.

The Panel welcomed the report and requested that a link to the Public Health website be circulated to Members as soon as the site was live.

### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the report and presentation be noted.
- (b) That an update report be provided to the Health Scrutiny Panel on 16th January 2020, to demonstrate the Public Health Data Observatory in practice, and present the up-to-date Ward Health and new Ward analyses from the Health Beliefs Research project.
- (c) That a link to the new Public Health website be circulated to Health Scrutiny Panel Members, by the Service Lead Public Health as soon as the site was live.

## **25. Health Beliefs and Physical Activity Research**

Dr Liz Brutus, Service Lead Public Health provided the Panel with an update on the Health Beliefs and Physical Activity research project.

The aim of the project was to provide an evidence base to inform the Council's approach to supporting and engaging with local residents. In particular, the project would support the following Joint Wellbeing Strategy priorities: increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities; and improving mental health and wellbeing.

The project had involved an in-depth, community led research project to engage Slough residents in a local conversation on health, primarily focussing on what residents believed they could do to keep physically and mentally well and to prevent poor health. The project had explored residents' health beliefs, health literacy and behavioural insights. In addition, the project had sought to ascertain a picture of residents prevailing rates of inactivity by exploring behaviour and attitude towards undertaking regular physical activity.

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The project had been delivered in two phases. The first phase, which had taken place between February and June 2019 was a qualitative phase, and had comprised of a borough wide stakeholder workshop, six 'chatabout' and two focus group sessions. This element of the project had utilised the COM-B behaviour change model (Capability, Opportunity and Motivation = behaviour). The COM-B model assisted in identifying triggers and motivations to improve health literacy. The qualitative research stage had shown that residents had a broad capability to lead healthy and active lifestyles, but opportunity and motivation needed to be focussed on.

The second phase of the project was quantitative and had been undertaken between 24 July and 28 August 2019. This phase had involved a statistically representative cohort of residents, selected by random sampling, being asked to complete a survey. Quotas had been set to ensure representation for key population groups of gender, age and ethnicity. The 20 minute survey had been undertaken with 1,605 residents. The findings from the survey would be used to prioritise the actions needed with the relevant sections of the population.

Over the coming months, work would be undertaken with departments across the Council, and partners in Slough to ensure that the learnings of the project were embedded within the work programmes, and were used to inform strategies and develop service specifications.

The Chair then invited Members to comment and ask questions.

Members had a wide-ranging discussion, during which the following points were raised:

- The Panel welcomed the report and commended the project.
- A Member asked if there was any regional or national comparator information available. It was advised that Slough was unique and this type of research had not been undertaken by other local authorities.
- A Member queried how the information could be used to dispel misconceptions in relation to immunisations. In response, the Panel was informed that a working group involving the voluntary sector and Clinical Commissioning Group representatives had been considering how communications to residents could be used to address concerns regarding immunisations.
- Concerns were raised that 44% of residents had not used any Slough leisure facilities, and 37% of those cited time as a reason. Time was cited as the most common barrier along with cost. 32% of residents wished to see free gym and leisure provision, and 30% of respondents had indicated that pricing should be lowered.
- The Panel was informed that the Council's Leisure Strategy aimed to increase awareness of the facilities available and promote usage. The Director of Adults and Communities agreed to circulate a copy of the

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Council's Leisure Strategy to Panel Members. It was noted that a report setting out the proposed leisure fees and charges would be presented to the Panel at the January 2020 meeting, before being considered by Cabinet. It was explained that the contract with Everyone Active included an income target to offset the cost of the refurbishment. Therefore, fees and charges would increase.

- Concern was raised that 51% of residents claimed to be unaware of the Council's Active Slough programme. The Director of Adults and Communities recognised the need to promote the programme through a variety of channels.
- Members noted the provision of free activities, including the free outdoor Green Gyms.
- Referring to the findings of the qualitative research, a Member noted that good oral health was not consciously linked to leading a healthy lifestyle. In response, the Panel was advised that oral health was a national issue. The Council was undertaking work with Early Years, and vulnerable groups, including people with mental health issues and older people. It was highlighted that the cost of treatment was often a barrier that prevented people visiting a dentist.
- A Member noted the average Short Warwick Edinburgh Mental Well-Being Scale (SWEMWBS) scores by ward, set out on page 87 of the report. The higher the score, the better the mental well-being. Foxborough and Elliman wards had the highest average, whereas Haymill, Lynch Hill and Upton wards had the lowest. The SWEMWBS scores for differing sub-groups of the sample were small; however, those people who were not working had a significantly lower average score than those who were. Significant factors determining well-being related to levels of deprivation and community support.
- A Member asked what measures the Council was taking to motivate people to use the leisure facilities. The Service Lead Public Health explained that one of the key barriers preventing people from using the leisure facilities was the perception that gyms were for 'beautiful people'. To tackle this perception, a promotional campaign depicting imagines of 'every day' people using gyms was being rolled out. Members were encouraged to promote the use of the Council's Green Gyms and leisure facilities to residents in their wards.

The Chair invited Councillor Strutton to address the Panel under Rule 30.

Councillor Strutton reiterated the importance of Members 'leading by example' and promoting the use of the available leisure facilities. He highlighted the free activities residents could be encouraged to participate in, such as gardening and walking. He noted that historically GPs had referred patients

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to 'exercise by prescription' and this initiative was being relaunched in some areas.

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

### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the report be noted.
- (b) That the Director of Adults and Communities be requested to circulate a copy of the Council's Leisure Strategy to Panel Members.

## **26. Health Scrutiny Panel - 2019-20 Work Programme**

The Policy and Insight Manager noted that the 'Mental Health Update' had erroneously been listed for both the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 and 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 meetings. It was agreed that this item would be presented to the 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019 meeting and therefore, should be deleted from the list of items for 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Councillor Smith noted that the Council produced an annual Air Quality report and suggested that the Health Scrutiny Panel consider how air quality impacted on the health of Slough residents.

### **Resolved –**

- (a) That the Forward Work Programme be amended, as set out above.
- (b) That a report regarding Air Quality and the impact on Slough residents' health be added to the list of scheduled items for the 16th January 2020 meeting.

## **27. Members' Attendance Record**

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

## **28. Date of Next Meeting - 20th November 2019**

**Resolved –** The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Chair

(Note: The meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.15 pm)