



To be submitted to the Council at its meeting on 28th September 2023

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

2nd August 2023 at 4.00pm

Present:

Councillor Hudson (in the Chair)
Councillors Astbury, Croft, Haggis, K. Swinburn and Wilson.

Officers in attendance:

- Katie Brown (Director of Adult Services)
- Zoe Campbell (Senior Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Helen Kenyon (Place Director, Integrated Care Board)
- Guy Lonsdale (Deputy Section 151 Officer)
- Stephen McGrath (Strategic Special Projects Lead – Communities)
- Joanne Robinson (Assistant Director Policy, Strategy and Resources)
- Eve Richardson-Smith (Service Manager – Consultancy, Law and Governance)
- Paul Thorpe (Operations Director EQUANS)
- Jacqui Wells (Head of Housing Strategy)

Also in attendance:

- Karen Grimsby (Operational Manager, Therapies, Northern Lincolnshire and Goole NHS Foundation Trust)
- Councillor Shreeve (Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care)

There were no members of the press and one member of public present at the meeting.

SPH.1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN

It was noted that at the Annual General Meeting of the Council held on 25th May, 2023, Councillor Hudson had been appointed the Chair and Councillor Astbury the Deputy Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel for the ensuing Municipal Year.

SPH.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received for this meeting from Councillors McLean and Sandford.

SPH.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

SPH.4 MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel meeting held on the 22nd March 2023 be agreed as an accurate record.

SPH.5 QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from members of the public for this panel meeting.

SPH.6 PROPOSAL TO CHANGE START TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The panel considered a proposal that the start time of future meetings of this panel be changed to 4.30pm.

RESOLVED – That the start time of future meetings of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel be changed to 4.30pm.

SPH.7 FORWARD PLAN

The panel received the current Forward Plan and members were asked to identify any items for examination by this Panel via the pre-decision call-in procedure.

RESOLVED – That the forward plan be noted.

SPH.8 TRACKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY

The panel received a report from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer tracking the recommendations previously made by this scrutiny panel, which was updated for reference at this meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPH.9 PROVISIONAL OUTTURN FINANCIAL REPORT 2022/23

The panel received a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets providing key information and analysis of the council's position and performance at the end of the 2022/23 year.

Queries were raised around the underspend in the Adult Social Care budget. Although members appreciated the savings were being used to help mitigate the council's overall financial position, members would have liked to see that money redirected within adult social care to improve and streamline services for residents.

Referring to the low reserves, a member queried if it was prudent to put earmarked reserves in health because it was a demand led service rather than off set other budget areas. Mr Lonsdale explained that some funding had conditions that would not allow the money to be transferred. He highlighted that the reserves would be reviewed again in the budget setting process in February 2024 and in the meantime information would be available for members through the quarterly monitoring reports.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPH.10 COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT 2022/23 – QUARTER 4

The panel received a report from the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy, Net Zero, Skills and Housing providing oversight of performance against the council plan for the fourth quarter of the 2022/23 financial year.

Members were pleased to see the green RAG rating against the public health outcomes and, in particular, around the health determinants. Members asked if they would see a difference and how quickly. Ms Robinson explained that the report showed that the priority programmes led by our Public Health team were performing as expected. If the panel would like additional information regarding the impact of those specific programmes, it would need to be provided by the service. Ms Brown reminded the panel that the delivery of longer term improvements in the health outcomes linked to a host of other issues in addition to the reported health programmes.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

SPH.11 DISABLED FACILITIES GRANT

The panel considered a report and presentation from the Director of Adult Social Care updating them on progress made within the last six

months on delivering the new approach to managing the Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG).

A member queried why there were a higher number of referrals in May and June compared to other months. Ms Grimsby explained that referrals were seasonal. For example, one reason could be that family members visited elderly relatives over Easter or Christmas and that alerted them to adaptations that might be necessary which increased the number of referrals during those months.

Members were concerned about the numbers of people in the system and were keen to understand where the log jams in the system were. Ms Grimsby explained that it would depend on the number of referrals and capacity to deal with the demand. Ms Grimsby explained that the current staffing situation in the occupational therapy team had improved with the recent successful recruitment campaign, and she highlighted that the 'grow our own' scheme was working well.

Mr Thorpe spoke on behalf of Equans and explained that there was not one single blockage and that it was a combination of the numbers coming through and the more complex adaptations that needed to be completed. He felt that the new approach was positive for the end user but would take time to develop. A new, holistic approach was being taken which would consider all the adaptation works required for each client. He confirmed that after the last contractor framework had been awarded, there had been a reduction in suppliers on the framework, as some asked to be removed, which meant additional time had to be taken to go out to the market to find new suppliers. He explained a second scheme where the suppliers could design and build the disabled adaptations had been developed and this would help speed up the major adaptation works.

Ms Wells referred to the Housing Assistance Policy that had been approved by the Portfolio Holder for Health and Adult Social Care. As a result, there was an advert out for two new trusted assessor posts for low level adaptations, feasibility studies and homeless accommodation. She confirmed that the hospital discharge grant would reduce the timescales and enable those waiting to come out of a nursing home or hospitals back into their own homes.

Members queried if Equans surveyors were taken off DFG work when bigger commercial projects came in. Mr Thorpe confirmed that there was a team of people designated to the DFGs and there were several different roles/skills required in the team which meant it was not possible to move staff around because of the skills and qualifications required. He confirmed that it was imperative to deliver on all projects commissioned, both commercial and residential.

Ms Brown confirmed that officers were determined to make DFGs work and reduce waiting times through the new processes and joined up

working. She confirmed to the panel it would take time to embed but that progress was heading in the right direction.

Whilst members acknowledged the progress made to date, they were concerned over the numbers of residents still on the waiting lists. The panel were keen to continue monitoring progress and for officers to come back to a future panel meeting with an update.

RESOLVED – That an update be brought back to a future meeting of this panel.

SPH.12 HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL – WORK PROGRAMME

The panel considered a report from the Assistant Chief Executive (Statutory Scrutiny Officer). The report reflected on the 2023/24 municipal year and the work undertaken by the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel. The panel also considered, within its terms of reference, suggestions to be included in the 2023/24 work programme.

RESOLVED – That the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel work programme for 2023/24 be agreed.

SPH.13 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER

There were no questions for the portfolio holder at this meeting.

SPH.14 CALLING IN OF DECISIONS

There were no formal requests from Members of this panel to call in decisions taken at recent meetings of Cabinet.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 4.56 p.m.