

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: Wednesday 17 February 2021
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Committee Room 2, Shire Hall

Membership

Councillor Wallace Redford (Chair)
Councillor Margaret Bell (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Helen Adkins
Councillor Jo Barker
Councillor Sally Bragg
Councillor Mike Brain
Councillor John Cooke
Councillor Andy Jenns
Councillor Keith Kondakor
Councillor Barry Longden
Councillor Judy MacDonald
Councillor Penny O'Donnell
Councillor Pamela Redford
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse
Councillor Kate Rolfe

Items on the agenda: -

1. General

(1) Apologies

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election or appointment to the Council. A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which s/he has a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless s/he has a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if s/he has not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Must leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with

- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting Non-pecuniary interests must still be declared in accordance with the Code of Conduct. These should be declared at the commencement of the meeting.

(3) Chair's Announcements

(4) Minutes of previous meetings

5 - 14

To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020.

2. Public Speaking

3. Questions to Portfolio Holders

Up to 30 minutes of the meeting is available for members of the Committee to put questions to the Portfolio Holder: Councillor Les Caborn (Adult Social Care and Health) on any matters relevant to the remit of this Committee.

4. Questions to the NHS

Members of the Committee are invited to give notice of questions to NHS commissioners and service providers at least 10 working days before each meeting. A list of the questions and issues raised will be provided to members.

5. Merger of the Clinical Commissioning Groups

The Committee will receive an update from Phil Johns on the merger of the Clinical Commissioning Groups in Warwickshire.

6. West Midlands Ambulance Service

To receive an update from Mark Docherty, Director of Nursing, Quality and Clinical Commissioning at West Midlands Ambulance Service.

7. Covid-19 Update

Dr Shade Agboola, Director of Public Health will provide an update to the Committee.

8. Update on Scrutiny Review

15 - 34

To receive an update on the independent review of the county council's overview and scrutiny function.

9. Work Programme

35 - 44

To review the Committee's work programme for 2020/21.

Monica Fogarty
Chief Executive
Warwickshire County Council
Shire Hall, Warwick

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Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web

<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

Public Speaking

Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire, or who is in receipt of services from the Council, may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter within the remit of the Committee. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak please notify Democratic Services in writing at least two working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Council's Standing Orders.

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Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Wednesday 18 November 2020

Minutes

Attendance

Committee Members

Councillor Wallace Redford (Chair)
Councillor Margaret Bell (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Jo Barker
Councillor Sally Bragg
Councillor Mike Brain
Councillor John Cooke
Councillor Andy Jenns
Councillor Keith Kondakor
Councillor Judy MacDonald
Councillor Pamela Redford
Councillor Penny O'Donnell
Councillor Jerry Roodhouse
Councillor Kate Rolfe
Councillor June Tandy

Other Members

Councillors Les Caborn (Portfolio Holder), Pam Williams and Parminder Singh Birdi

Officers

Shade Agboola, Jagdeep Birring, Becky Hale, Nigel Minns, Deb Moseley, Paul Spencer and Pete Sidgwick.

Partner Organisations

Chris Bain (Healthwatch Warwickshire) (HWW)
Councillor Joe Clifford (Coventry City Council)
David Eltringham (George Eliot Hospital (GEH) and Warwickshire North Place Executive)
Jenni Northcote (GEH and Coventry and Rugby Clinical Commissioning Group (C&R CCG))
Anna Hargrave (South Warwickshire CCG)
Rose Uwins (Warwickshire North and C&R CCGs)

1. General

(1) Apologies

Councillor Helen Adkins, Councillor Tracy Sheppard replaced by Councillor June Tandy (Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council) and Adrian Stokes (Warwickshire North and C&R CCGs)

(2) Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Councillor Jo Barker declared an interest in any matters raised which concerned the Ellen Badger Hospital. Councillor Jerry Roodhouse declared an interest as a director of Healthwatch Warwickshire.

(3) Chair's Announcements

The Chair welcomed Councillor Penny O'Donnell who had replaced Councillor Chris Kettle as the representative for Stratford-on-Avon District Council. He placed on record thanks to Councillor Kettle for his service to the committee.

The Chair welcomed David Eltringham, Managing Director of GEH and Chair of the Warwickshire North Place Executive, together with Jenni Northcote who was employed as Chief Strategy Officer across both GEH and C&RCCG. They would provide a verbal update to members, to pick up points raised at the last committee.

A standard item would be included at future meetings to provide for 'questions to the NHS'. Initial discussions had taken place at the recent Chair and spokesperson meeting. This would be an item early on future agendas, similar to questions to the Portfolio Holder, for members to raise any questions to NHS commissioners or service providers. Members would be asked to indicate areas they wished to raise ahead of the meeting. Consultation would take place with service providers and commissioners to finalise the details.

The Chair had written to all acute hospital trusts to seek waiting time data and the responses from all three trusts been circulated to the committee. He added that the agenda for the next meeting included an update from the West Midlands Ambulance Service and asked members to submit question areas to shape this item.

(4) Minutes of previous meetings

The minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2020 were accepted as a true record.

Arising from matters raised at the previous committee, the Chair invited David Eltringham and Jenni Northcote to address the meeting. David Eltringham initially gave a general position update on Covid-19 and the increase in data over the last week, with over 30 patients in hospital currently and sadly six deaths. He reminded members of the importance of following health guidelines to address the spread of the virus. Mr Eltringham spoke about the recovery work implemented after the first wave of Covid-19, updating on the reduction in waiting times for cancer patients. Linked to this were diagnostic services with 90% having been reintroduced. However, there was a shortage of MRI radiographers. In terms of outpatient,

day case and elective inpatient activity, GEH was currently operating at a level higher than that prior to the pandemic. This had been assisted by the opening of a new 30 bed surgical unit and theatre. An area of challenge for the local system was those patients waiting over 52 weeks for routine operations, which had been impacted by the pandemic. It was around 1,200 cases, had reduced to 900 cases presently and he spoke about the planned trajectory for continued reduction. Mr Eltringham outlined improvements to urgent care, the known challenges for the A&E department, and the improvements in performance when compared to the same period last year.

Jenni Northcote gave a short presentation to update on the phlebotomy service, with the slides comprising:

- Phlebotomy service
 - Covid-19 impact
 - Community clinic delivery model
 - New sites at Bulkington Community Centre, Coleshill Leisure Centre and the Leicester Road Stadium
 - Patient feedback
- Phlebotomy capacity
 - Clinic space at GEH had not been available
 - Capacity impact – 7,500 patients displaced from GEH creating pressure on community clinics
 - Social distancing requirements reducing the number of patients who could be seen
 - Resource diverted to keep the most vulnerable patients safe
- Phlebotomy appointments
 - Appointment only service – to protect staff and patients
 - Appointment booking – an outline of the systems in place
 - Clinically urgent – appointments reserved for urgent cases
- Phlebotomy waiting times – a table showing current waiting time data across eight sites
- Next steps
 - Resource request to the Health and Care Partnership for system level support
 - Blood tests were required for a myriad of services and pathways

Questions and comments were submitted, with responses provided as indicated:

- It was agreed that a copy of the presentation slides would be circulated.
- Discussion about the blood test delays in Nuneaton and plans to increase capacity at busier times. There were difficulties in getting to the Bulkington site for those without a car. This site had been put in place to ease pressures at the Bedworth clinic and there was public transport between the areas.
- Further information was sought about the speed of Covid swab test results at the GEH. David Eltringham confirmed that swab tests were currently processed at the UHCW laboratory and took 24 hours. New technology was expected to be operational from the week of 30 November, which would increase capacity and provide rapid turnaround of swab tests.
- A question about increase in pregnancies following the first wave of the pandemic, but there had been no growth in service demand presently. Many services were being monitored as the full impact of the pandemic was still unknown. An offer was made to brief the committee on such aspects in a few months.

Page 3

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

18.11.20

- It was requested that thanks be communicated to all GEH staff for their dedicated service.
- A question about the resumption of ophthalmology and hearing clinics. GEH was restarting all services, including ophthalmology and audiology. Mr Eltringham spoke of plans to offer such services in 'out of hospital' settings and further information could be brought to the committee in the coming months.
- Discussion about the variance in phlebotomy waiting times across the north of Warwickshire and in Nuneaton this was currently 11 days. Also, the commissioning arrangements in the north of Warwickshire and the rationale for it. Further aspects raised were GP service provision and those for patients who were shielding, which comprised both protected clinics and home visits.
- The Portfolio Holder, Councillor Caborn confirmed the frequent meetings held with David Eltringham, himself and council leaders in the areas served by GEH. He recorded his thanks to all for the service improvements achieved. The Chair echoed these thanks to GEH and to both speakers for the updates. The Committee would welcome the further updates offered to future meetings.

2. Public Speaking

None.

3. Questions to Portfolio Holders

The Portfolio Holder reported on the joint government and NHS project for a 'mega' laboratory serving all of England to be located at Leamington Spa. This would be operational early in 2021, employing 1500 people initially, rising to 2000 with both highly skilled employees and technicians. There would be supply chain job opportunities too and recruitment was already underway. The centre would focus initially on Covid, but subsequently for illnesses like influenza and cancer in the longer term. This was an excellent opportunity for the area and good close working was taking place between the district and county councils. The news was welcomed with an enquiry about interim arrangements until the new laboratory was available. There was not expected to be any capacity issues.

The Portfolio Holder also confirmed that all patients discharged from hospital to go back to into care were having a Covid test 48 hours before leaving.

4. Mental Health - Healthwatch Warwickshire Survey

The Committee received a report and presentation from Chris Bain, Chief Executive of Healthwatch Warwickshire (HWW) on the findings from its survey of how Covid-19 had affected the health and wellbeing of people in Coventry and Warwickshire.

The presentation included slides on:

- The survey questions:
 - How had local people accessed information during the pandemic and was that information given in a way that they understood?
 - What changes had been made to NHS, adult social care services, or the support needed or received during the pandemic?

- How the pandemic had impacted peoples' mental health and wellbeing, what services had been affected and the impact on the person receiving support?
- 1117 people had responded to the survey, with data on the location and ethnicity of respondents.
- Findings:
 - Information to stay safe and well – people had found it easy to access information but difficult to keep up to date. The types of information people needed clarity on were reported
 - Additional communication needs, with 'easy to read' information being a common area
 - Changes to healthcare – 401 people had experienced changes to their healthcare
 - Experiences of healthcare for Covid-19 symptoms
 - Themes in what we are hearing – maternity and dentistry examples
 - Changes to social care
 - Mental health and wellbeing – the key area with 839 respondents, many saying there had been an impact on their mental wellbeing
- Next steps showing work undertaken already and that planned

The Committee was invited to submit questions and responses were provided as indicated:

- The Chair asked if the survey had identified anything that WCC needed to address. Chris Bain spoke of the feedback around loneliness and isolation, people feeling forgotten and how to engage with them, perhaps through the third sector. The restriction on care home visits impacted on residents causing anxiety, especially those with dementia, but also for their relatives too.
- The points about anxiety were echoed by several members. One referred to a telephone support group she assisted with and the change in feedback on the wellbeing of those being contacted. There had been an impact for younger single people who were working at home, especially those living in rural areas, due to the lack of social contact.
- Chris Bain endorsed this as 60% of the survey respondents were of working age and had made this point, sharing concerns for their own wellbeing and also the impacts on their families.
- There was a mental health impact for relatives of not being able to visit people in care. Where they were coming to the end of their life (EoL), it was questioned whether family members could have a Covid test to be able to visit them. An example from the survey feedback showed the mental health impact for family members where Covid restrictions prevented them from being present when a loved one passed away.
- A question on survey feedback for people aged under 25 and especially access to the Rise service. Endeavours had been made to get feedback from this cohort, but nothing had been received. It was considered this would be a useful area for further focussed research. Levels of awareness of the Rise service may be a related issue.
- The portfolio holder shared the concerns raised about access for relatives to care homes and there were ongoing discussions with officers to find a solution, so that Warwickshire continued to provide compassionate care. Lateral flow testing (LFT) may provide a solution and there were adequate supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE). The government and WCC had provided iPads to some care homes as a means of communication between residents and their families. He spoke about EoL care specifically and the importance of companionship, also referring to the frequent guidance issued to care homes and he urged member feedback to himself. Nigel Minns referred to a national pilot scheme in care homes

with testing to enable visits for a single named person. EoL care was an exception to the current restrictions and care homes could operate differently. WCC informed care homes regularly on this aspect.

- It would be useful to compare feedback from this lockdown against the first, to assess how the time of year influenced people's mental health. The survey feedback included sentiment analysis to assess the feelings of respondents, enabling such comparison. Chris Bain expected that a further survey would be undertaken, but its timing was key to include the impact of winter pressures. It did seem from recent responses that more younger adults were making contact, with anxieties around quality of life, mental health and not being able to see a conclusion to the pandemic.
- The survey had provided clear messages on anxiety and depression, which could be worsened by the time of year. From a clinical perspective, these were considered to be lower level mental health challenges but could escalate to more serious issues. A key role for the council was around communication and support to those front line Covid groups to assist with community capacity on a cross-cutting basis. It could be an area for scrutiny to assess how this was working in practice. HWW intended to continue gathering evidence to build on the baseline it had established.
- Some existing mental health patients were not coping well with the way that services were having to be delivered. It would be useful to hear from the C&W Partnership Trust on how they were adapting services to ensure patients' conditions were not worsening. There were new cases from people not responding well to the lockdowns. A need to galvanise the third sector services and early help offer. It was not clear if those responding badly to lockdowns would suffer longer-term mental health issues and require ongoing support.
- An aspect worthy of exploration was the impact for carers both in supporting people and the strains they were facing themselves. There was evidence both from the survey and anecdotal member feedback, but the scale of this issue was unknown.
- Many people receiving domiciliary care lived alone, were missing contact with their families and some were not able to use technology. A suggestion about provision of PPE so family members could visit them. A further point on those anxious about people visiting their homes.
- There may be hidden issues, which could extend to safeguarding or domestic abuse.
- Councillor Caborn offered to pick up the points on support for carers with officers. He also offered to circulate the latest guidance issued to care providers for the committee's information.
- Becky Hale offered to share information on the work being undertaken with informal carers. She publicised carers rights day which would take place on 26 November. Also, reference to the links between alcohol and mental health as this was alcohol awareness week.
- Contributions were made via the meeting chat supporting the points raised above, praising the document, additional evidence of anxiety, depression and concerns about safeguarding or domestic abuse issues.

The Chair thanked Chris and Healthwatch for the survey and its findings, which had provided useful information and areas for further consideration.

Resolved

That the Committee notes the presentation from Healthwatch Warwickshire.

5. Mid-Year Performance Progress Report

The committee received the mid-year quarterly progress report, which was supplemented by a presentation from Becky Hale, Assistant Director, People Strategy and Commissioning.

The Council Plan quarter 2 performance report for the period 1 April to 30 September 2020 was considered and approved by Cabinet on 12 November. The report provided an overview of progress of the key elements of the Council Plan, specifically in relation to performance against key business measures (KBMs), strategic risks and workforce management. A separate financial monitoring report for the period covering both the revenue and capital budgets, reserves and delivery of the savings plan was presented and considered at the same Cabinet meeting.

A tailored report was provided for the services under the committee's remit. This included strategic context and a performance commentary, assessed against the KBMs. It expanded on areas of note and two areas concerning inspection activity which had needed to be paused. Four areas were currently not on track and further commentary was provided on those areas. A financial commentary was also provided.

The presentation pulled out key aspects of the report relating to the following areas:

- Council overview – the council plan, high level outcomes and key business measures (KBMs)
- The People Directorate overview and the 14 KBMs within the committee's remit.
- Areas of success, those paused and areas for improvement
- The financial aspects

Questions and comments were submitted, with responses provided as indicated:

- New legislation was being introduced which placed statutory duties on councils in regard to domestic abuse. There was a correlation to mental health and drug/alcohol abuse. It was suggested that performance indicators for this area could be refined to provide smarter reporting arrangements and a briefing on the new duties would be helpful too. The points on reviewing indicators would be taken on board. Reference was made to the multi-disciplinary team approach with service providers to understand people and their needs. A lot of work was taking place to prepare for the new duties and for the recommissioning of domestic abuse support services. A briefing note would be prepared as requested.
- Further information was provided about people reducing care visits for day care and respite services. Compared to the first wave of the pandemic, there had been a significant increase in take up of domiciliary care support.
- Discussion about the financial aspects, which were complex, with multiple income streams. Overall activity levels were expected to be slightly higher than normal, but not significantly so. A specific area raised was the revised guidance limiting entitlement to free care and support for some service recipients.
- Officers had noted that some people who self-funded their care costs seemed reluctant to go into care. This was impacting on admissions and there were occupancy rate considerations for some providers, but the council was working closely with them. The same level of reduction was not being seen for community-based support.

- The impact of lockdowns for the elderly, causing a decline in both mental and physical health. Additional support may be required for those who previously had been independent, to give them more confidence.
- A positive impact from the hospital discharge process was that more assessments now took place in the community, supporting more people with reablement and domiciliary care, getting them home sooner and often reducing their social care needs.

Resolved

That the committee's comments on progress of the delivery of the Council Plan 2020-25, as outlined above, are noted.

6. Covid-19

The Committee received a presentation from Dr Shade Agboola, Director of Public Health. The presentation included slides showing:

- An outline of the focus on for the session:
 - Comparison between waves one and two and differences in what is happening.
 - An update on test and trace arrangements
 - Uptake of the Covid-19 mobile telephone application
- Wave One vs Wave two
 - Chances of survival are better
 - The age composition is different
 - Hospital admissions and excess death rates, so far, are lower than the rates during the first wave of the pandemic
- A breakdown by district and borough area of Covid-19 cases in each wave
- Data by age groupings showing the number and percentage of cases in each wave and a 'heat map' showing recent case rates by age group
- Test and trace data with details of the testing services being used
- Case rates and positivity of tests for each district and borough area
- Contact tracing activity – including the establishment of a local team and the need to build capacity
- Asymptomatic testing
 - Seen as key to stopping the spread of Covid-19
 - Contact tracing starts more quickly, as results are ready within 30 minutes
 - Comment about the sensitivity of the LFT and potentially the need for follow up tests
 - Planning underway to deploy this
- Data for the mobile telephone application:
 - Downloaded by 40% of eligible adults with smart phones, a total of 19.62 million times. Estimated that this equates to 190,000 downloads in Warwickshire
 - 56% of the general population, or 80% of current smartphone owners, would need to use a contact-tracing application for it to be effective in helping stop the coronavirus.
 - Over 160,000 businesses have downloaded unique QR codes
- A summary of current priorities
 - Incident management teams and support
 - Targeted messaging to the over 60s
 - Workplace outbreak prevention

- LFTs/mass testing roll-out, partnerships, resourcing, risks
- Exiting lockdown

Questions and comments were submitted, with responses provided as indicated:

- For people living close to the county boundaries, the nearest testing services were in neighbouring areas. A question on the consistency of approach being used.
- Whether the relaxation of the restrictions over the Christmas holiday was sensible, given the potential for another increase in case numbers. Whilst people had messaging fatigue, they needed to 'do the right thing' and follow guidance to reduce spread of the virus.
- Some members commented that people would celebrate Christmas with their families and there was a need for clear guidance to minimise the risk of transmission and a third lockdown. It was agreed that communications were needed to reassure people, but also encourage them to celebrate safely.
- A member commented on whether the wider impacts and costs of responding to Covid, now outweighed the disease itself.
- Feedback from people receiving multiple calls as part of the tracing process and considering this to be excessive. This point had been raised repeatedly with the national test and trace service.
- With students coming home for Christmas, a suggestion that they be tested beforehand. Universities had been approached directly about use of the LFT. Warwick University had requested 20,000 test kits and it was understood that most universities were doing likewise.
- Reference to the different age ranges used for some of the slides. The 'heatmap' had been sourced from Public Health England, with other data produced locally.
- Discussion about transmission in schools and sixth forms. Shade Agboola advised that schools were a priority area for the LFT and there would be a targeted process which would extend to school sixth forms. Bespoke work for sixth form students would be considered.
- The exit arrangements from the current lockdown. Guidance was not expected to be received from the government until the end of November, but it was understood that a range of metrics would be used to determine the tiers that each area would go into.
- The report was praised and contained lots of detail. This would be shared with all members and officers at NBBC and it was suggested that others share the information too.

The Chair thanked Shade Agboola for the report and asked that thanks be passed to all Public Health staff for their considerable efforts.

Resolved

That the Committee notes the presentation from the Director of Public Health.

7. Work Programme

The Committee reviewed its work programme. The Chair reminded that the next meeting would include an update from the West Midlands Ambulance Service, the merger of the clinical commissioning groups and the standing item on Covid-19. He asked that any questions be submitted ahead of the meeting so they could be forwarded to those providing the updates.

Resolved

That the Committee notes its work programme.

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Councillor Wallace Redford, Chair

The meeting closed at 12:35pm

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Update on Scrutiny Review

17 February 2021

Recommendation(s)

1. That the Committee considers and comments upon the findings of the independent review into Overview and Scrutiny

1. Executive Summary

1.1. In February 2020, Dr Jane Martin CBE was appointed to provide advice upon appropriate principles for scrutiny in light of the statutory guidance, key opportunities to improve upon our current ways of operating scrutiny, and how WCC might move forward to develop its scrutiny approach to deliver on the Council Plan and objectives.

1.2. The review was conducted via a series of remote interviews with members, officers and Corporate Board, and included a desk top analysis of past agendas, minutes and Task and Finish Group outputs and covered the following themes:

- Culture and behaviours;
- Reinforcing the value and importance of challenge;
- Ownership of recommendations and actions;
- Support for scrutiny members;
- Aligning scrutiny more effectively to our Council Plan objectives; and
- How to involve the public in scrutiny more effectively.

1.3. The feedback was positive and highlighted examples of good practice including the commitment of all involved to improvement and the support for the review at member level. However, despite some good examples (particularly in recent times with member working groups on Covid recovery) there is a conclusion that the scrutiny function needs to be reinvigorated and a principles-based approach was recommended to reset and drive the refreshed approach, reflecting the principles of good scrutiny embedded in statutory guidance:

- independent ownership;
- driving improvement;
- critical friend challenge; and
- public voice.

- 1.4. There was positive feedback of the role of Democratic Services officers to date and an acknowledgement of resource constraints.

2. Opportunities to Improve

- 2.1 The review outlined a number of opportunities for improvement. These were:

- **Parity of esteem:** Scrutiny must have an authoritative voice and support to enhance executive policy development and decision-making.
- **Scrutinising performance:** Scrutiny discussions should be clearly led so that presentations add value, there is a clear line of sight to corporate success indicators and interpretation of the data is usefully aligned to risk.
- **Build a corporate partnership:** Scrutiny should hold the executive to account where necessary. Scrutiny members own the process recognising the wider public interest for Warwickshire. The agenda should be focused on corporate business with purposeful evidence-based discussion.
- **Work smarter:** Meetings should be more flexible, proactive and responsive to corporate priorities. Meetings should be collegiate, constructive and challenging.
- **Member support and training:** Members and officers involved in training should be supported and provided with appropriate training to maximise the benefit from their roles in the scrutiny process.
- **Develop external focus:** Imaginative thinking to reach local people is needed. Scrutiny should be aligned with public consultation exercises to inform executive strategy.

3. Principles proposed

- 3.1 The report focussed on a series of principles that would drive the refreshed approach. These were:

- **Partnership:** The scrutiny function is an integral, authoritative corporate partner with the executive in policy development and decision-making. This partnership is focused and aligned with the council's strategic objectives, corporate performance indicators, and the corporate business and planning cycle. Whilst the function is independent of Cabinet and owned by scrutiny members it will be flexible, dynamic and pro-active in support of the executive decision-making process.
- **Purposeful:** The scrutiny function is focused on making an impact and exerting influence on corporate policy and practice to develop learning

and improvement. Its main aim is to ensure WCC can be the best it can be by building corporate experience and expertise based on a sense of place, especially in a fast-paced transformational change environment.

- **Challenging:** The scrutiny function will provide constructive cross-party challenge to hold the executive to account based on evidence and reflecting the views of local people. This includes both internal and external scrutiny. As 'critical friends', scrutiny members should respectfully ask the tough questions of the executive and professional officers of the Council, as well as external partners and providers, from an informed perspective and expect considered and informative answers.
- **Transparent:** The scrutiny function should shine a light internally and externally. It is an important vehicle for public consultation which should engage external partners, local people, and service users, and represent their views. Overview and Scrutiny should provide open and transparent scrutiny in the public interest to enhance the legitimacy of the local authority and build public trust and confidence.

4. Recommendations from the review

4.1 The recommendations reached in the review were as follows:

- The Council should relaunch the scrutiny function, championed by the Leader and Cabinet, with a corporate 'common purpose' WCC scrutiny guide setting out the ambition and expectations for the function based on a partnership of mutual respect, transparency and constructive challenge. This should highlight a behaviour code based on the 3 C's: *collegiate, constructive and challenging*.
- Create greater alignment with corporate objectives by restructuring scrutiny committees in parallel to foster greater scrutiny of corporate themes and objectives and corporate performance. In the current circumstances, restructuring to follow the change portfolio themes could be an effective way forward. Any restructure would have to take into account statutory requirements.
- Provide recognised authoritative leadership and direction for the scrutiny function by creating a new role of Chair of Overview and Scrutiny to chair a new Overview and Scrutiny Panel comprised of all scrutiny Chairs. This post could be an elected position by all council members.
- Greater use of virtual meetings technology and, where appropriate, social media to engage the public, service providers and external partners and encourage elected member active participation. A move to allow remote meetings beyond May 2021 will require legislative change
- Consider creating a dedicated team of Overview and Scrutiny officers resourced adequately, to provide data (particularly performance data)

and information, advice and support to O&S Chairs and members, including liaison with strategic directors and senior staff.

- Review the timetable for scrutiny committees to ensure meetings are held at the optimum time alongside the corporate business cycle and Cabinet meetings. Allow for greater meeting and agenda flexibility and greater use of Task and Finish Groups for scrutiny work, from single issue to corporate strategic themes, conducted to a strict brief and timescale with a project planning methodology. Dynamic Task and Finish Groups should be able to conduct a review in as little as one day where appropriate. But also conduct in-depth longer pieces of work.
- Making use of virtual technology, in-house training and briefings should be provided for scrutiny Chairs and members on appointment and on-going, including subject updates as required and skills development. The Adult Health and Social Care Committee model of in-committee member briefings should be rolled out further. Committees should conduct an annual self-evaluation. A suite of scrutiny questions may be a good prompt to build confidence.

5. Points to Consider

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to consider the recommendations and suggestions summarised above and set out in more detail in the Independent Review Report at Annex 1, and to provide its views on the way forward for the refresh of scrutiny activity in Warwickshire.
- 5.2 The following points and questions are intended to help that consideration:
 - 5.2.1 Does the Council wish to consider reconfiguring the Overview and Scrutiny Committees to align with the Council Plan or change portfolio themes or in some other way? If so, the practicalities of this approach would need to be considered to ensure that we meet statutory obligations, that scrutiny covers all Council functions, that there is balance across committees and that routing is clear for cross over items.
 - 5.2.2 How should agendas be reinvigorated?
 - 5.2.3 What are members views on the opportunities identified to improve (Section 2 of this report) and are there any others which members would wish to highlight?
 - 5.2.4 Do members support the principles that the review recommends? (Section 3 of this report)
 - 5.2.5 Do members support the recommendations from the review (Section 4 of this report), and if so,

- How could we make greater use of technology to support Overview and Scrutiny? What type of meetings would be better delivered remotely or would members prefer to see continue remotely (if the law allows)?
- How would training be best delivered and should we consider a bespoke training plan for all Scrutiny members?
- From an officer perspective, creating a dedicated team of Democratic Services Officers (DSO) to support Overview and Scrutiny could create unintended recruitment and retention issues within the Service. A preferable option would be to consider how we enhance the Overview and Scrutiny support whilst retaining roles which cover both aspects of the DSO role (committee support and scrutiny support).

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The revenue implications of any change cannot be quantified at this time as it will depend upon the recommendations received and the working up the implementation plan. Full consideration will be given to the cost of any proposals which will be included within the report to council noted at para 8.2

7. Environmental Implications

- 7.1 An increase in digital meetings could reduce journeys to Shire Hall and thus have a positive impact. Whether that is possible will depend in large part upon whether legislation is permanently altered to enable such meetings to go ahead. Other environmental implications may present themselves as the proposals are developed and will be dealt with more fully in the report to council noted at para 8.2

8. Timetable for the decision and next steps

- 8.1 The Report was presented to Leaders and Deputies meeting in February 2021. It will be taken with a duplicate of this report to the other Overview and Scrutiny committee meetings in February and March in order to obtain views and suggestions for developing proposals for future scrutiny.
- 8.2 Officers will then prepare and implementation plan for discussion prior to a report to Council post elections with recommendations for implementation.

Appendices

1. Report of Jane Martin OBE

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Nichola Vine	nicholavine@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Sarah Duxbury	
Lead Director	Strategic Director for Resources	
Lead Member		

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:
None

**Review of the Overview and Scrutiny Function
Warwickshire County Council**

FINAL REPORT

**Dr Jane Martin CBE
October 2020**

Contents

The Brief

Methodology

Overview

Appropriate principles for scrutiny

Key opportunities to improve

Recommendations to develop WCC scrutiny approach

Appendix 1 : List of interviewees

The Brief

WCC (consistent with revised statutory guidance May 2019) believe effective overview and scrutiny should:

- Provide constructive ‘critical friend’ challenge;
 - Amplify the voices and concerns of the public;
 - Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role; and
 - Drive improvement in public services.
-
- Scrutiny will not be effective unless an organisation’s culture, behaviours and attitudes support it
 - Resourcing of scrutiny is critical to its long-term success and to embedding the culture within any authority
 - Effective scrutiny requires good planning. The recommendations of scrutiny should make a tangible difference to the work of the authority and, in order to do so, require a long-term agenda and forward plan that is flexible enough to accommodate any matters of urgency that may crop up.
 - Warwickshire’s model of specialist OSCs supported by Democratic Services Officers and with expert input from specialist officers is a valid model, provided it is adequately resourced but there are other models and approaches which may provide a greater level of benefit in the new landscape we are operating in

Corporate Board agreed that now is an appropriate time to review the approach to scrutiny. The Leader of the Council is fully supportive of this review.

A final report will present recommendations to Corporate Board and subsequently members on:

- (a) appropriate principles for scrutiny (considering the challenges above and in light of the statutory guidance),
- (b) feedback on key opportunities to improve upon our current ways of operating scrutiny, and
- (c) a recommendation as to how WCC might move forward to develop its scrutiny approach to deliver on the Council Plan and objectives.

Methodology

In order to gain a broad insight into the current arrangements, challenges and opportunities of the overview and scrutiny function, telephone interviews were conducted with 27 participants during June, July and August. These included:

The Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council
Cabinet Portfolio Holders
Chair of Scrutiny Committees
Representatives from each of the political parties
The Chief Executive
Strategic Directors
Democratic Services Officers

The interviews were confidential and no interviewee will be quoted. The interviewer took written notes of the discussions for the sole purpose of this report which will be destroyed when the report is received and signed off.

Interviews were based on questions organised around the following themes:

1. How do we embed scrutiny in the DNA of the organisation and drive the necessary culture and behaviours required to ensure scrutiny adds value to delivery of our organisational priority outcomes?
2. How do we give voice to and drive a change in the approach/attitude to scrutiny by members and officers; i.e. Reinforce the value and importance of challenge, remove the perception that it is “fault finding”, and drive an effective and collaborative approach to scrutiny which is impactful?
3. How do we manage disagreements in approach - i.e. executive-scrutiny protocols etc.?
4. How do we embed ownership with members and officers of recommendations from scrutiny, and ensure that the actions that arise are followed through and monitored?
5. How do we ensure scrutiny members are supported in having an independent and open mind-set and have the right skills set to fulfil their role?
6. How do we align scrutiny more effectively to our Council Plan objectives – including commitments to climate change and commercial approach to problem solving?

7. How do involve the public in scrutiny more effectively?

Desk-based background review of relevant corporate documents including minutes of scrutiny meetings was also undertaken.

Throughout this report the overview and scrutiny function will be referred to as the scrutiny function or scrutiny.

Overview

Warwickshire County Council currently operates with four Overview and Scrutiny Committees: Resources and Fire & Rescue; Communities; Children & Young People; Adult Social Care and Health with an additional joint Health Committee. The Council has a Conservative majority group of 33 elected members with small opposition groups formed by 7 Labour, 8 Liberal Democrat and 2 Green Party representatives. In addition, there are 4 Independents. There are 3 vacant seats at the current time. The Council has in the past often had no political party in overall control. The ways of working from this tradition seem to have coloured a consensus approach and some deference to officers which persists. Reflecting the current political environment, members of the majority group have been nominated for the Chairs of all Scrutiny committees. The Leader of the Council and her Deputy both value the importance of an effective scrutiny function and want to encourage a more impactful role.

Across all interviewees there was clear support for developing an effective scrutiny function. In most cases, from a range of perspectives, interviewees were positive about the work carried out and felt that the Cabinet were open to different views, ideas and challenge. But there is inconsistency between committees and the contribution of committee members, sometimes coloured by party politics, and often a general lack of constructive challenge. Reasons for this are not entirely clear, but it is certainly felt that scrutiny members need to be fully supported, with clearly presented information; that they need to keep their knowledge base up to date; and fully understand the role they can play and the influence that can be brought to bear on corporate policy development and decision. Frustration expressed around some of these issues demonstrates the need for change, and the willingness to change. The potential of the scrutiny function is not currently being developed or harnessed to support the strategic ambition of the Council.

There is, however, much good practice. Some Chairs are particularly mentioned for their skilled chairing and effective approach to reviews which have been greatly valued. For example, the cross-party work of the Climate Change Working Group; external scrutiny of GP provision; and the scrutiny review of Home/School Transport.

The Council clearly fosters good relationships. There is good cross-party working and a good working relationship between executive and scrutiny. Although scrutiny appears to make few recommendations back to the executive, when they do these are fairly considered. It is notable that although not formally scrutiny groups, the cross-party Cabinet Working Groups for post-Covid strategy development have been universally welcomed, not least for the clear focus and deadlines. The regular agenda setting meetings between scrutiny committee Chairs and their portfolio holder counterparts (spokes and chairs meetings) supported by officers are clearly very effective. It must be said, however, that although Council officers

are supportive of scrutiny, scrutiny committee members expressed a sense that they felt the needs of executive members were usually prioritised.

All concerned were positive about the support from Democratic Services Officers and valued the role they played. But it was acknowledged that resources had been pared back over recent years and the department was mainly focused on administration. The lack of resources was most acute in limiting the number of task and finish scrutiny groups. These groups were regarded as the most effective way of working but required proper resourcing which was now lacking. Resourcing may also have a knock-on effect on public engagement arrangements and there could be opportunities to build on the corporate 'Let's Talk' public consultation exercise. In any event, there is potential for more imaginative thinking on public involvement in scrutiny, which is often best tapped into in a task and finish group environment. Whilst there are some very good examples of external scrutiny which involve external partners and user groups, there is more that could be done. It was acknowledged that the geography of the County could mitigate against participation and that the use of technology for more remote engagement could be an opportunity

In the main, however, the scrutiny function seems to be 'stuck in a rut' and needs to be reinvigorated. Routine scrutiny committee meetings are in danger of losing their way based on a formulaic cycle with the addition of members' topics of interest. Indeed the balance currently being struck is between review of individual scrutiny members' special interests which motivate engagement, and effective scrutiny of corporate business (especially performance) and good overview of policy development which is not yet seen as meaningful by some members. There is also frustration on the part of many members at the length of some agendas, and the way business is conducted which can stifle robust discussion. Scrutiny business needs to be much more purposeful and prioritised in relation to the Council corporate cycle and forward plan. Across the piece scrutiny members need to be better engaged in this regard and scrutiny Chairs need to be both supported and more open to achieving this. The routinised approach to committee meetings with a set timetable is frustrating for many, including the executive, and means that scrutiny is not timely and too slow. Indeed, many interviewees were critical of the lack of flexibility and pro-activity. This devalues the role of scrutiny. The Council's ambitious plans for transformational change only highlights the lack of dynamism.

Appropriate principles for scrutiny

The following principles should be adopted to reset and drive a refreshed approach to the overview and scrutiny function. They reflect the principles of good scrutiny embedded in statutory guidance: independent ownership; driving improvement; critical friend challenge and public voice.

- 1. Partnership: The scrutiny function is an integral, authoritative corporate partner with the executive in policy development and decision-making.** This partnership is focused and aligned with the council's strategic objectives, corporate performance indicators, and the corporate business and planning cycle. Whilst the function is independent of Cabinet and owned by scrutiny members it will be flexible, dynamic and pro-active in support of the executive decision-making process.
- 2. Purposeful: The scrutiny function is focused on making an impact and exerting influence on corporate policy and practice to develop learning and improvement.** Its main aim is to ensure WCC can be the best it can be by building corporate experience and expertise based on a sense of place, especially in a fast-paced transformational change environment.
- 3. Challenging: The scrutiny function will provide constructive cross-party challenge to hold the executive to account based on evidence and reflecting the views of local people.** This includes both internal and external scrutiny. As 'critical friends', scrutiny members should respectfully ask the tough questions of the executive and professional officers of the Council, as well as external partners and provider, from an informed perspective and expect considered and informative answers.
- 4. Transparent: The scrutiny function should shine a light internally and externally.** It is an important vehicle for public consultation which should engage external partners, local people and service users, and represent their views. O&S should provide open and transparent scrutiny in the public interest to enhance the legitimacy of the local authority and build public trust and confidence.

Key opportunities to improve

There are a number of key areas where there are significant opportunities to improve.

Parity of esteem: Scrutiny should not be seen as a second-class function. It must have an authoritative voice. This means that all members and officers should demonstrate in their day to day practice how best to realise the potential for an effective scrutiny function to enhance executive policy development and decision-making.

Scrutinising performance: The way in which corporate performance is scrutinised is not yet satisfactory. The way in which performance data is presented to scrutiny has been carefully considered and reviewed recently, and the general view is that this is now better, but there is still room for improvement so that scrutiny members make the best use of the data. Scrutiny discussions should be clearly led so that presentations add value, there is a clear line of sight to corporate success indicators and interpretation of the data is usefully aligned to risk. Effort put into this by both officers and members will pay dividends

Build a corporate partnership: From a strong base of good working relationship and mutual member and officer respect there must be more rigorous challenge from scrutiny and acknowledgement that the scrutiny function should hold the executive to account where necessary: a 'one Council' model. The executive and senior management are open and welcome the challenge from scrutiny. It is notable that scrutiny is rarely the theatre for oppositional politics but scrutiny members must collectively own the process and not depend on officers. This means more rigour but best behaviour. It is also importance that members get the balance right between representing the views of their constituents and recognising the wider public interest for Warwickshire. They should set the agenda but be focused on corporate business with purposeful evidence -based discussion. All scrutiny members from all parties have a role to play in this endeavour.

It is also notable that the recent opportunity to work together to develop common aims in Cabinet cross-party working groups post-Covid has been universally welcomed. To build this partnership in practice, scrutiny needs to work cross-boundaries and not be silo focused. Scrutiny chairs and members should be thinking of how they can impact constructively on policy development and decisions. This does not mean routinely 'clearing' executive decisions but prioritising and acknowledging where challenge and accountability is most needed. It also means working with senior management and portfolio-holders but also holding them to account. Scrutiny needs to understand the evidence-base for policy and decisions and the impact on local people but recognise corporate objectives and understand that the executive has to work effectively and often quickly to respond to local issues and/or government initiatives. The overview function of policy is equally important in driving

transformation, improvement and learning by shaping policy throughout the annual corporate planning cycle.

Work smarter: Scrutiny meetings vary in their practice and impact but there is much potential for improvement. The 'chairs and spokes' meetings work well but still agendas can be too long and packed with pet topics. Meetings must be more flexible, pro-active and responsive to corporate priorities. The respectful environment must not be cosy but nor should it be confrontational. Behaviour in meetings should follow 3 C's: collegiate, constructive and challenging. The development of virtual meetings using remote technology has shown that more efficient use of time can be made. Many interviewees said this should be continued not least to avoid travel time and costs.

Member support and training: Scrutiny members need adequate support from officers across the Council so they are properly informed and advised. This is especially the case for scrutiny Chairs. This review presents an opportunity to redefine 'what good looks like' for scrutiny and agree how best to achieve this. It seems that resources for training and support is lacking but virtual technology provides a cost-effective opportunity for in-house briefings and scrutiny skills development. The in-committee member training initiated in the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee was acknowledged as effective and helpful

Develop external focus: There are some very good examples of external scrutiny reviews including transport providers and Academy Trusts, but this requires sufficient resources. Scrutiny is the Council function designed to gather the views and experiences of service users and providers to feed into the corporate cycle. Imaginative thinking to reach local people and not just known activists is needed. A one Council approach means that scrutiny should be aligned with and can often lead public consultation exercises to inform executive strategy.

Recommendations to develop WCC approach to scrutiny

1. The Council should relaunch the scrutiny function, championed by the Leader and Cabinet, with a corporate 'common purpose' WCC scrutiny guide setting out the ambition and expectations for the function based on a partnership of mutual respect, transparency and constructive challenge. This should highlight a behaviour code based on the 3 C's: collegiate, constructive and challenging.
2. Provide recognised authoritative leadership and direction for the scrutiny function by creating a new role of Chair of Overview and Scrutiny to chair a new Overview and Scrutiny Panel comprised all scrutiny Chairs. This post could be an elected position by all council members.
3. Create greater alignment with corporate objectives by restructuring scrutiny committees in parallel to foster greater scrutiny of corporate themes and objectives and corporate performance. In the current circumstances, restructuring to follow the four change portfolio themes; Place, Economy and Climate; Community; Health and Wellbeing and Social Care; and Organisation could be an effective way forward. Any restructure would have to take into account statutory requirements.
4. Review the timetable for scrutiny committees to ensure meetings are held at the optimum time alongside the corporate business cycle and Cabinet meetings. Allow for greater meeting and agenda flexibility and greater use of Task and Finish Groups for scrutiny work, from single issue to corporate strategic themes, conducted to a strict brief and timescale with a project planning methodology. Dynamic Task and Finish Groups should be able to conduct a review in as little as one day where appropriate. But also conduct in-depth longer pieces of work.
5. Create a dedicated team of O&S officers resourced adequately to provide data (particularly performance data) and information, advice and support to O&S Chairs and members, including liaison with strategic directors and senior staff.
6. Greater use of virtual meetings technology and, where appropriate, social media to engage the public, service providers and external partners and encourage elected member active participation.
7. Making use of virtual technology, in-house training and briefings should be provided for scrutiny Chairs and members on appointment and on-going, including subject updates as required and skills development. The Adult Health and Social Care Committee model of in-committee member briefings should be rolled out further.

Committees should conduct an annual self-evaluation. A suite of scrutiny questions may be a good prompt to build confidence.

Dr Jane Martin CBE 2 October 2020

Appendix 1

List of interviewees

1. Councillor Adrian Warwick
(Chair of Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC)
2. Councillor Alan Cockburn
(Chair of Communities OSC)
3. Councillor Andy Crump
(Portfolio Holder for Fire & Rescue and Community Safety)
4. Councillor Colin Hayfield
(Portfolio Holder for Education and Learning)
5. Councillor Heather Timms
(Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture)
6. Councillor Izzi Seccombe
(Leader of the Council and Conservative Group and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development)
7. Councillor Jeff Clarke
(Portfolio Holder for Transport & Planning)
8. Councillor Jeff Morgan
(Portfolio Holder for Children's Services)
9. Councillor Jerry Roodhouse
(Leader of the Liberal Democrats)
10. Councillor John Holland
(Labour member)
11. Councillor Jonathan Chilvers
(Leader of the Green Party)
12. Councillor Kam Kaur
(Portfolio Holder for Customer and Transformation)
13. Councillor Keith Kondakor

(Green Party Member)

14. Councillor Les Caborn
(Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health)

 15. Councillor Peter Butlin
(Deputy Leader of the Council and Conservative Group and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property)

 16. Councillor Wallace Redford
(Chair of Adult Social Care & Health OSC)

 17. Councillor Yousef Dahmash
(Chair of Children and Young People's OSC)
-

18. Helen Barnsley – Democratic Services Officer

19. Mark Ryder – Strategic Director (Communities)

20. Monica Fogarty – Chief Executive

21. Nic Vine - Strategy and Commissioning Manager (Legal and Democratic)

22. Nigel Minns – Strategic Director (People)

23. Paul Spencer – Senior Democratic Services Officer

24. Paul Williams – Democratic Services Team Leader

25. Rob Powell– Strategic Director (Resources)

26. Sarah Duxbury - Assistant Director (Governance & Policy)

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Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

17 February 2021

Work Programme

1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 That the Committee reviews and updates its work programme.

2. Work Programme

The Committee's work programme for 2020/21 is attached at Appendix A for consideration. The programme was reviewed by the Chair and party spokespeople at their meeting on 25 January 2021. A copy of the work programme will be submitted to each meeting for members to review and update, suggesting new topics and reprioritising the programme.

3. Forward Plan of the Cabinet

The Cabinet and Portfolio Holder decisions relevant to the remit of this Committee are listed below. Members are encouraged to seek updates on decisions and identify topics for pre-decision scrutiny. The responsible Portfolio Holder has been invited to the meeting to answer questions from the Committee.

Date	Report
12 February 2021	Portfolio Holder Decision - Residential Rehabilitation and Inpatient Detoxification Commissioning. In relation to a decision to enter into a commissioning arrangement with Coventry.
17 June 2021	Cabinet - Warwickshire Joint Procurement Activity for Community Services for Working Age Adults, with learning disabilities, autism, mental health or physical disabilities; permission to formally consult on proposals.

4. Forward Plan of Warwickshire District and Borough Councils

This section of the report details the areas being considered by district and borough councils at their scrutiny / committee meetings that are relevant to

health and wellbeing. The information available is listed below. Further updates will be sought and co-opted members are invited to expand on these or other areas of planned activity.

Date	Report
North Warwickshire Borough Council	
	In North Warwickshire, the meeting structure is operated through a series of boards with reports to the Community and Environment Board. There is a Health and Wellbeing Working Party and a Warwickshire North Health and Wellbeing Partnership (covering both North Warwickshire and Nuneaton and Bedworth).
7 December 2020	<p>The Health and Wellbeing Working Party met with agenda items including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 Pandemic • Draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy • Air Quality • Public Health / JSNA Update • Health and Wellbeing Action Plan Update • Feedback from Relevant Partnership Meetings <p>The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for 22 February.</p>
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council – External Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
	The Borough Council's External Overview and Scrutiny Committee includes within its remit the consideration of health matters.
4 February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 Update on policing aspects. • Addressing Teen Conception
15 April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JSNA and Public Health update and presentation. • Improving stroke services presentation from the Clinical Commissioning Group. • Covid-19 – joint update from the NHS and Public Health.
Rugby Borough Council – Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
	<p>The Borough Council has moved to a single overview and scrutiny committee and the use of task groups.</p> <p>Looking at the Rugby BC website, the work programme lists health and wellbeing as a future topic with the date to be agreed.</p> <p>Meetings of the scrutiny committee are scheduled for 8th March and 19th April.</p>

Stratford-upon-Avon District Council – Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
	The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 6 th January. The agenda included an update on HEART (Home Environment Assessment and Response Team) shared services partnership. From examination of the website, further meetings are scheduled for 17 th February and 3 rd March.
Warwick District Council – Overview and Scrutiny Committee	
	The Overview and Scrutiny Committee met on 9 th February. The agenda included an update on HEART (Home Environment Assessment and Response Team) shared services partnership. Further meetings are scheduled for 16 th March and 20 th April.

4.0 Briefing Notes

- 4.1 The work programme at Appendix A lists the briefing notes circulated to the committee. Members may wish to raise questions and to suggest areas for future scrutiny activity, having considered those briefing notes.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 None arising directly from this report

6.0 Environmental Implications

- 6.1 None arising directly from this report

Appendices

1. Appendix A Work Programme

Background Papers

None

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Paul Spencer	01926 418615 paulspencer@warwickshire.gov.uk
Assistant Director	Sarah Duxbury	Assistant Director of Governance and Policy
Strategic Director	Rob Powell	Strategic Director for Resources
Portfolio Holder	n/a	

The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): None

Other members: Councillor Wallace Redford

Adult Social Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2020/21

Date of meeting	Item	Report detail
Every Meeting	Covid-19 Updates	At the committee's meeting on 30 th July 2020, the Chair advised members that there would be a standing item on every agenda until further notice, to provide for updates to members on Covid-19.
17 February 2021	West Midlands Ambulance Service and the Paramedic Service	At the Chair and Spokesperson meeting on 2 November, it was agreed that this item be added to the programme for February to receive an update from West Midlands Ambulance Service and the paramedic service. Questioned how these services are coping with the pandemic, as there is anecdotal evidence of the strains being placed on WMAS staff. A previous issue to explore is delays with handover at acute trusts.
17 February 2021	Merger of the Coventry and Warwickshire Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)	This item was discussed at two special meetings of the committee held on 30 th July and 19 th August. An update to be provided for this meeting.
17 February 2021	Covid-19 Update	An update from the Director of Public Health.
Date TBC	111 First	A briefing document was circulated to members in September and the Chair suggested that this item be brought for further discussion at the November committee meeting. Clarity is awaited on the official launch of 111 first.
	Covid-19 – BAME Communities and Social/Health Inequalities	At the Committee's meeting on 24 th June, it was agreed to add this to the work programme. This report concerns the higher proportion of people affected from BAME communities and the links to social and health inequalities too. For information an item was considered on this subject by the Health and Wellbeing Board on 15 th September.
	Primary Care Networks	At the Chair and Spokesperson meeting on 21 January, it was agreed to replace a proposed update on GP Services with an item on Primary Care Networks (PCNs). Linked to this is the item below on pharmacy services. This item was deferred from the 29 April meeting which was cancelled.
	Pharmacy Services	<p>At the Committee meeting on 6 March 2019, it was agreed that an item be added to the programme to receive an update on pharmacy services. The key aspects raised previously were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confusion over the services provided in each pharmacy and where patients should present,

		<p>e.g. for minor ailments. Pharmacists have different levels of experience and expertise and local signposting is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through PCNs, it is planned to provide a broader and more integrated range of services including closer collaboration with pharmacy. • There is a healthy living pharmacy programme, supported by the County Council. In Warwickshire, 80% are healthy living pharmacies which deliver health, wellbeing and other services.
	Alternate Provider Medical Services Contracts	A motion was debated at Council on the retendering of Alternate Provider Medical Services (AMPS) contracts. It was agreed that this matter be brought back to the committee for further consideration and a brief update was provided at the February 2020 meeting. The CCGs have been asked to provide a written briefing to update members (December 2020).
	George Eliot Hospital (GEH) - Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection	GEH had an unannounced visit from the CQC in December 2019. Members asked in both the January and February committees when it would be able to discuss the CQC report and associated action plan. It was confirmed that the CQC had given notice of certain 'must do' and 'should do' actions. The CQC report has been published and contact was made with GEH with a view to the item being considered at the cancelled April Committee.
	Coventry and Warwickshire Strategic Five-Year Health and Care Plan	The Joint Coventry and Warwickshire Health OSC received a presentation from Sir Chris Ham on 14 October 2019 ahead of the deadline for submission of the draft Coventry and Warwickshire Strategic Five-Year Health and Care Plan to NHSE&I. It would be useful to programme a date for this item to come to the ASC&H OSC.
	Out of Hospital Programme.	Suggested by Councillor Parsons at a Chair/Spokes meeting.
	Mental Health and Wellbeing George Eliot Hospital (GEH) - Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection	This item was added to the work programme in June 2018, with the item scheduled for the November Committee. Further discussion at the Chair and Party spokesperson meeting on 29 October 2019, when the item was deferred. A revised date and scope for this review area needs to be agreed.
	Better Health, Better Care, Better Value (BHBCBV) – Proactive and Preventative Workstream	Suggested by Councillor Margaret Bell. The Proactive and Preventative work stream of the STP. The suggestion is to find out more: What is happening; what is the plan; how is it to be funded; when will we see results?
	Review of the Adult Transport Policy	Cabinet approved a revised Adult Transport Policy on 25 January 2018. This has been suggested as an area for the Committee to review after 12 months of implementation.
	Local Commissioning of Services	Suggested by Councillor Mark Cargill. A pilot scheme has been undertaken in Alcester.
	Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust	Suggested by Healthwatch. There has been a re-inspection of the CWPT by the Care Quality Commission. Originally planned for the Trust to present its progress against the action plan to the January 2018 meeting, which was considered to be too soon for the Trust to have implemented

		actions from the CQC review. Suggestion to have a written update and then programme for a formal report to provide assurance that the 'must do' and 'should do' recommendations are being implemented.
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BRIEFING SESSIONS PRIOR TO THE COMMITTEE

Date	Title	Description
<i>Date to be confirmed</i>	Admiral Nurses	Cllr Redford is minded to ask representatives of Dementia UK to provide a briefing session on the work of Admiral Nursing.
20 November 2019	Assistive Technology Developments.	<i>This item was postponed.</i> Officers would like to share the positive outcomes of the project on assistive technology and the self-help tool "Ask Sara" to enable people to remain independent in their daily lives. This briefing will enable councillors to be informed and assist in promoting the information with their constituents.
25 September 2019	Older People Adult Social Care Market	This briefing session will provide context ahead of the consideration of a formal report in the Committee meeting.
3 July 2019	None	
6 March 2019	Access to Primary Care Services for Homeless People	Healthwatch Warwickshire will provide an interim report on their project on access to primary care services for homeless people. WCC has a project mapping such services. This will be a joint briefing session from both WCC and HWW.
30 January 2019	Direct Payments and the introduction of Pre-payment cards.	At the Chair and Party Spokes meeting in October 2018, it was agreed to have a briefing session prior to this meeting on direct payments and the introduction of pre-payment cards.
21 November 2018	None	
26 September 2018	Dementia Awareness	A detailed report and presentation was provided in September 2017. The Committee agreed to consider the additional work being undertaken through Warwickshire's Living Well with Dementia Strategy (2016-2019), the potential areas of focus being timely diagnosis and support in acute/residential housing with care settings.

BRIEFING NOTES

Date Requested	Date Received	Title of Briefing	Organisation/Officer responsible
09/01/21		An update on mental health service needs, requested by the Chair. Comparative data sought on caseloads by age group to compare the position in 2019 against 2020.	Shade Agboola
18/11/20		At the November committee, a request for a briefing on the new legislation and statutory duties placed on councils in regard to domestic abuse.	Becky Hale
2/11/20		Quality assurance and CQC ratings for adult provision. This was discussed in regard to the first quarter monitoring report and context will be provided.	Steve Smith / Olivia Cooper
30/09/20	02/11/20	Extra Care Housing – an update on the impact of Covid-19 and the strategic plan moving forward.	
24/06/20		The Warwickshire North Place Board had received a presentation on smoking in pregnancy. The data for the north of the county shows that one in five expectant mothers smoked. A briefing with data and the actions being taken would be useful. The report from the HWBB on 15 September has been provided to the committee.	Director of Public Health
24/06/20		At the June Committee meeting, a request for more information about the use of developer contributions from Section 106 planning funding to fund additional health services. A briefing note was requested on where these monies would be allocated. Raised by Councillor Golby.	Clinical Commissioning Groups
21/01/20		Home Environment Assessment and Response Team. The Chair and party spokespeople agreed on 21 January to move this item from the work programme and to receive a briefing note instead.	
21/01/20		Adult Social Care Strategic Review. The Committee received a presentation at its meeting in September 2019. The Chair and party spokespeople agreed on 21 January to move this item from the work programme and to receive a briefing note instead.	
21/01/20	30/10/20	The review and redesign of Warwickshire Employment Support, a service for adults requiring learning support and those with autism. The Chair and party spokespeople agreed on 21 January to move this item from the work programme and to receive a briefing note instead. The briefing is expected to be available in April 2020.	
21/01/20	30/10/20	Local Suicide Prevention Plan. This item was scheduled for the meeting on 20 November 2019. At the Chair and Spokesperson meeting on 21 January, it was agreed that this update be provided via a briefing note. The County Council has an approved suicide prevention plan; it has a higher number of suicides than for comparative councils and has received extra funding from NHS England for two years to start implementation of the suicide prevention strategy.	

TASK AND FINISH GROUPS

ITEM AND RESPONSIBLE OFFICER	OBJECTIVE OF SCRUTINY	TIMESCALE	FURTHER INFORMATION
Health Inequalities and the Impact of Covid-19	Proposed at the Chair and spokesperson meeting and confirmed at the September 2020 committee.	Revised date to be agreed	Agreed on 2 November to delay the TFG due to the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.
Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	This is the first of the joint committees, working with Coventry City Council to focus on Stroke Services.	Completed January 2020	A series of meetings took place involving the joint HOSC and individual health OS committees, between October 2019 and January 2020.
Maternity and Paediatric Services	The Committee agreed this TFG area at its meeting on 15 September. The detailed scoping of this area is still to be determined.	Review starts after completion of the GP Services TFG.	A briefing was provided to the joint meeting of this Committee and the C&YP OSC held on 28 January 2020.
GP Services	The Committee agreed this TFG area at its meeting on 15 September. The report of the TFG presented in May 2018.	May 2018.	The review report was approved by Cabinet in June 2018 and submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2018.

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