

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission held on Thursday 10 September 2020 at 7.00 pm at Online/Virtual. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Please contact FitzroyAntonio.williams@southwark.gov.uk or Julie.timbrell@southwark.gov.uk for a link.

PRESENT: Councillor Victoria Olisa (Chair)
Councillor David Noakes (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Helen Dennis
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Charlie Smith

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT: Councillor Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and Public Health

OFFICER SUPPORT: Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning, Southwark Council
Julie Timbrell, Scrutiny Project Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Cllr Maria Linforth-Hall sent apologies for absence.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Cllr Helen Dennis advised the Commission that she previously held the position of Deputy Cabinet Member for mental health, and had also been nominated as a governor for SLAM.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting on held on 16 July 2020 were agreed as an accurate record.

5. REVIEW: MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE - BLACK THRIVE PRESENTATION

Natalie Creary, Black Thrive, and Cllr Marianna Masters, Lambeth Council, provided a presentation on Black Thrive's work.

The following points were raised in the subsequent discussion:

- Black Thrive does not provide direct services; instead the organisation's work is focused on influencing and changing the underlying system to address the sources of distress. Black Thrive work strategically and with partners to co-design services such as peer support and inpatient services.
- Black Thrive work across the across the life course. Their approach is to look at data and levers for change; for example Early Help, Vascular Dementia, or emerging strategies on Serious Youth Violence and Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), to ensure there is a black perspective.
- Challenges include the presence of structural racism. Over time grappling with racism, white fragility and supremacy has become easier and as more partners understand the issues.
- Black boys are disproportionately disciplined and less likely to have their suffering addressed positively and more likely to have behaviour labelled negatively. Education is a protective factor, however there is great variability in outcome and even well educated black people still often do not have the same mobility, although the data and picture is highly complex.

6. INTERVIEW WITH CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Councillor Evelyn Akoto was interviewed on the Public Health part of her portfolio.

7. IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE, INCLUDING DOMESTIC ABUSE

Kirsten Watters, Consultant in Public Health, gave the presentation from Public Health looking at Children & Young People (0-19, with a rapid review of vulnerabilities and the impacts of COVID-19.

Sharon Ogden, Safer Communities Team Manager, gave the presentation on Community Safety and Domestic Abuse.

The following points were made in the subsequent discussion:

- Extra money has been provided from central government for work on providing COVID 19 related housing support and services to domestic abuse survivors. The initial funding was until October, and there is now an intention to extend.
- Referrals to MARAC initially climbed and have now plateaued at a high level.
- It is challenge working online, and does not work so well, particularly in therapeutic work with children
- Support for child carers is important during lockdown however this falls out of the scope of the Domestic Abuse service.
- A recent communication campaign was done to increase access to domestic abuse services as younger and older people are not equitably accessing services. Presently officers are liaising with schools and will restart this promotion now they have reopened.

8. REVIEW: MENTAL HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning, responded to questions on the report on BME access to mental health services and the update on mental health provision for Children and Young People.

The following points were made:

- The NEST is open and providing mental health services online to young people.
- Schools reopening will be key to providing support.

RESOLVED

The scrutiny review work to date will be sent as a letter to the

Cabinet Member.

9. REVIEW: CARE HOMES QUALITY ASSURANCE

The CQC correspondence was noted.

10. REVIEW: CARE HOMES QUALITY ASSURANCE - WORKING AGE ADULTS

This was not covered.

11. GUY'S AND ST THOMAS' FOUNDATION TRUST AND ROYAL BROMPTON & HAREFIELD PLANS FOR CLOSER WORKING

The report provided outlining plans for Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation Trust and Royal Brompton & Harefield plans for closer working was discussed briefly.

RESOLVED

Representatives of the respective NHS Trusts will be invited to attend a subsequent Commission meeting to discuss the planned merger, with a particular focus on the financial impact and any risk of de-stabilisation.

12. REVIEW: CARE HOMES QUALITY ASSURANCE - OLDER ADULTS

The final scrutiny review report on Care Homes Quality Assurance - Older Adults was discussed and the following points were made:

- No care worker deaths, as a result of Covid 19, have been report to social care officers.
- The disproportionate amount of deaths of Tower Bridge Care Home residents could be because of the acuity of residents and a high level of complex needs. The recent CQC report commended their work generally.
- Queen's Oak Care Home had fewer deaths from Covid, even though it provides a mix of residential and nursing care like Tower Bridge, however Tower Bridge is predominately nursing. Tower Bridge is also bigger so there is more risk there, as a greater number of staff.

- In the first wave hospitals were discharging people to care homes without testing - some local care homes were more robust in refusing residents, however there was lot of pressure to accept. The Director of Commissioning wrote to health colleagues about this. The Government has now changed guidance and all patients will be tested on leaving hospital to be discharged to a care home.
- There is now greater access to PPE and testing, with PPE reserves now in place to support providers.
- The aim is to have routine testing of residents and staff - which looks to be starting this week.
- Homes have been innovative with online support, and PPE for end of life visitation. Some care homes have looked to reinstate visits in gardens, windows or set aside rooms. The scrutiny report recommended family and friends be offered PPE to facilitate safe visits. The government is looking at testing being extended to visitors.

13. WORK PROGRAMME

This was not covered.