

Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission held on Tuesday 18 April 2023 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Suzanne Abachor (Chair)
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Naima Ali
Councillor Sam Dalton
Councillor Esme Dobson
Councillor Sabina Emmauel

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing

OFFICER SUPPORT: Huw MacDonald, Specialty Registrar in Public Health
Sangeeta Leahy, Director of Public Health
Jin Lim, Deputy Director of Public Health
Martin Wilkinson, NHS full time chief operating officer for Partnership Southwark
Anna Berry, Independent Chair of the Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB)
Pauline O'Hare, Director of Adult Social Care
Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning
Julie Timbrell, Project Manager, scrutiny

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Charlie Smith sent apologies and Councillor Sabina Emmanuel attended as a substitute.

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

There were none.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 2 February were agreed as an accurate record.

5. INTERVIEW WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Councillor Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing, was invited by the chair to provide an overview of her portfolio , and then members were invited to ask questions .

The following officers provided support:

- Pauline O'Hare, Director of Adult Social Care
- Sangeeta Leahy, Director of Public Health
- Martin Wilkinson, NHS full time chief operating officer for Partnership Southwark
- Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning

The interview covered the following themes:

- Food poverty
- Warm Hubs, including provision of hot meals
- Air filters to care homes & schools
- Food in school holidays
- Improved local food provision
- Defibrillator & Bleed Kit roll out
- Adult social care provision approach
- Mental Health hub
- Respite care - consultation on Orange Street and provision
- Paid care workers career progression and investment in skills
- Older people : extra care housing, re-enablement to meet population need as well as provision of residential and nursery homes

- Council ownership of new nursing homes
- Residential care charter and compliance by care homes

RESOLVED

A follow up briefing will be provided on Waterloo Health Centre & Lambeth Walk relocation.

6. INTERVIEW WITH THE INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE SOUTHWARK SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD (SSAB)

Anna Berry, Independent Chair of the Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB), was invited to provide an overview of the annual report and work of the board.

Pauline O'Hare, Director of Adult Social Care, contributed to the discussion.

The Independent Chair reported that there had been good attendance on the board and sub groups by partners. The main priorities this year had been:

- Homelessness
- Domestic Abuse
- Complex safeguarding
- Developing a learning network

The chair invited questions and the following points were made:

Members and the Independent Chair discussed growing concerns about the issue of children being violent towards parents and grandparents, and that this is sometimes associated with behaviour problems, substance abuse and autism. There is specialised support for parents and families to report and interventions.

A member asked about the number of Safeguarding cases in care homes not being upheld and impact on retention of staff. Officers said there is an escalation process used for children, which is being considered for adults. There are 'quality alerts' as well as safeguarding processes. There are no immediate statistics, in part because cases can be complex and result in different remedies.

7. FGM REPORT

The chair explained that this item has been championed by Cllr Naima Ali, who has

met with colleagues to prepare.

The chair invited the following to present:

- Huw MacDonald, Specialty Registrar in Public Health, who will present.
- Sangeeta Leahy, Director of Public Health
- Jin Lim, Deputy Director of Public Health
- Martin Wilkinson, NHS full time chief operating officer for Partnership Southwark

The chair then invited members to ask questions and the following points were made:

- Type 4 FGM can be practices such as a piercing or a tattoo.
- Members are asked about smear tests for women with FGM and how this would be addressed by medical practitioners, and if this would be done with sensitivity.
- Officers said that if FGM was detected then it would be recorded and the women would be offered support - if wanted . Officers said that cultural competence and referral pathways had been highlighted as important to consider in prior discussions to prepare for this item.
- Members voiced community concerns that clumsy interventions around smear tests are putting off some women from attending for appointments, because of fears around being seen as a perpetrator. They added that if the nurse is well trained then this can be okay.
- The Deputy Director of Public Health said that enhanced training is certainly deliverable , for example around smear tests , and using the experience of survivors . Members suggested that there are community leaders and community organisations, which could lead on in depth training and psycho sexual intervention.
- The cabinet lead member said that men also need to be targeted for interventions.
- A member welcomed this and commented that there is an interrelationship between domestic abuse and the increased risk for survivors of FGM.

8. CARE CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE BRIEFING

The chair brought members attention to a report from Pauline O'Hare, Director for Adult Social Care, which was provided to contribute additional information to support the mini review on Care Contributions.

Members requested that this item was deferred until the next meeting and that the Director for Adult Social Care be invited back to take questions on the report.

9. CARE CONTRIBUTIONS SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT

This was noted and deferred to the next meeting.

10. ACCESS TO MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS - SCRUTINY REVIEW HEADLINE REPORT

The chair invited comments on the headline report and the following comments were made:

A member reported that Nexus now give out a specific telephone number to high needs patients – such as over 75s. This additional information will be added to the report, to support recommendation 4 in particular.

Members noted the importance of engagement with communities where English is not the first language, and noted that Healthwatch are doing outreach work with the Latin American community and maybe other communities. A member said she was concerned that the Somalian community is particularly disadvantaged by language.

RESOLVED

Recommendation One: This will be strengthened to add more on engagement and communication, with particular reference to language barriers and the importance of reaching all different type of groups, using a range of methods.

Recommendation Three: This will refer to not only GP receptionists, but also pharmacy receptionists.

Recommendation Ten: This will be more specific.

11. QUEEN'S OAK NURSING HOME AND ANNUAL CARE HOME CABINET REPORT

The report was noted. There will be an officer presentation followed by a Q & A at the next meeting on this report.

12. WORK PROGRAMME

The work programme was noted.