

Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission held on Thursday 20 July 2023 at 7.00 pm at 160, Tooley Street, SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Suzanne Abachor (Chair)
Councillor Sam Dalton
Councillor Esme Dobson
Councillor Sabina Emmanuel (Reserve)

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Sunil Chopra

OFFICER SUPPORT: Rachel Isted, Public Health Policy Officer for Obesity & Physical Activity
Jin Lim, Deputy Director of Public Health,
Sangeeta Leahy, Director of Public Health
Gillian Boundy, School Food Improvement Officer.
Arrthi Pangayatselvan, Consultant in Public Health (Healthy Adults)
Nick Sinclair, Public Health Head of Programme (Drug and Alcohol)
Everton Roberts, Head of Scrutiny

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall.

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

There were no late urgent items.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. HEALTHY WEIGHT

The commission received a presentation from Rachel Isted, Public Health Policy Officer for Obesity & Physical Activity on the council's healthy weight strategy. The commission also heard from Jin Lim, Deputy Director of Public Health, Sangeeta Leahy, Director of Public Health and Gillian Boundy, School Food Improvement Officer.

Officers in attendance answered questions of the commission. The following topics were covered:

- Councillor training and how to support low income constituents
- Referral routes given pressure on NHS appointments
- Promotion and outreach
- Affordable, healthy food
- Increasing exercise in and around schools
- Cultural enjoyment of food
- High fat, sugar and salt convenience food
- Planning's role in reducing the obesogenic environment
- Healthy Streets and increasing walking & cycling
- Evidence of the impact of healthy school meals

RESOLVED

Officers will provide:

- A research paper on the impact of universal free school meals on obesity,
- More information on work with school children to increase active travel.

5. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

The commission received a presentation from Arrthi Pangayatselvan, Consultant in Public Health (Healthy Adults) on drugs and alcohol in terms of the health impacts and why it was an important public health issue. The commission also heard from Nick Sinclair, Public Health Head of Programme (Drug and Alcohol) and Sangeeta Leahy, Director of Public Health.

Officers in attendance answered questions of the commission. The following topics were covered:

- Vaping and young people,
- Communication , engagement & outreach to prevent harm - particularly with children and young people,
- First 1000 days and role in prevention,
- Higher mortality in 2021 from alcohol,
- Criminal justice system and multi agency work.

6. WORK PROGRAMME

The commission discussed the proposed work programme for 2023-24. The following points were made:

OSC has recommended that a joint review be carried out with the Environment and Community Engagement Scrutiny Commission looking at Healthy Streets and air pollution, including a focus on school streets.

The topic on improving access to dentists will look at the availability of NHS dentists and include a request for pricing information.

The Blue Badges topic will cover the application process - including assistance/ advocacy with form filling online, scope to reduce the time to process an application, and the award criteria.

Commission members will discuss the Care Contributions cabinet response report at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed work programme for 2023-24 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

The meeting ended at 8.48pm