



## Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission held on Thursday 25 April 2024 at 7.00 pm at 160, Tooley Street, SE1 2QH

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Suzanne Abachor (Chair)  
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall  
Councillor Sam Dalton  
Councillor Esme Dobson

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

**OFFICER & PARTNER SUPPORT:** Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning  
Dr Nancy Kuchemann - Clinical and Care Professional Lead, Partnership Southwark  
Dr Olufemi Osonuga  
Dr Tom Smith - Consultant in Pain Medicine, Service Lead, Guy's and St Thomas'  
Rashida Pickford - Consultant Physiotherapist, Guy's and St Thomas'  
Russell Don - Programme Manager, Partnership Southwark  
Julie Timbrell, Project Manager, scrutiny

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were provided by Councillor Sandra Rhule and Councillor Sunil Chopra.

### 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 Monday 5 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **5. PAIN MANAGEMENT**

The chair invited the following to present the enclosed presentation:

- Dr Nancy Kuchemann - Clinical and Care Professional Lead, Partnership Southwark
- Dr Tom Smith - Consultant in Pain Medicine, Service Lead, Guy's and St Thomas'
- Rashida Pickford - Consultant Physiotherapist, Guy's and St Thomas'
- Russell Don - Programme Manager, Partnership Southwark

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

A member commented that during the pandemic someone was left with no support and was only contacted in March when their doctor intervened. The clinical lead from GSTT pain management clinic said it looks like this patient was 'lost to follow up'. He said there have been problems with the telephone system and records due to a change of system, combined with a lack of administrative capacity/secretarial support. He recommended referral to PALs and re-referral. Dr Nancy Kuchemann suggested that a complaint was made about the individual case and commented that Epic has improved data management.

A member asked about addressing inequalities in pain management because of sex and race, given studies showing that women and black people are left in pain for longer. A clinician said that the gender pain gap is more about greater prevalence of pain in women. The clinical leads spoke about a project in Lambeth that has been co-designed with black women. This has been working with patients in the community to deliver holistic support and the feedback has been phenomenal. Members commented that this would be very welcome in Southwark. Dr Nancy Kuchemann agreed that it would be good to replicate this initiative locally although she noted that this project came with additional research money, however she said that Southwark is keen to learn from the initiative and implement a local version.

## **6. PHYSICIAN ASSOCIATES**

Dr Olufemi Osonuga and Dr Nancy Kuchemann provided the presentation.

The chair invited questions.

Cllr Evelyn Akoto, Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing, asked if patients would be offered a choice and the clinical leads confirmed that patients could choose a GP, rather than a Physician Associate.

A member asked the reason for introducing Physician Associates and was told that there some places where the wait to see a GP is 3-4 weeks, although it is not that bad in Southwark. The solution to the problem of lack of GPs decided by the government was to train Physician Associates as this takes 2 years rather than 10 years for GPs. It is not always necessary to have a highly qualified practitioner. All Physician Associates are supervised by a GP.

## **7. ACCESS TO DENTISTS**

Dr Nancy Küchemann, Clinical and Care Professional Lead Partnership Southwark, delivered the presentation.

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

A member commented that it would good to know if there is further investigation planned on the reason for low levels of discovery of tooth decay . The cabinet member commented that there is early awareness discussion underway with Public Health on preventative with family hubs.

A member commented on the importance of good links with domiciliary care in homes.

## **8. TOWER BRIDGE CARE HOME PROCUREMENT OF A NEW PROVIDER, NURSING HOME PROVISION AND QUALITY**

Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning, Children and Adult Services, Southwark Council provide a summary of the report circulated.

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

- A member commented that it was very encouraging to have 6 providers and asked if this indicated that the market has improved. The Director of Commissioning agreed that is could indicated that organisations are excited to work in Southwark as the council has had good feedback on our work, and in particular the investment in the care home charter has been

welcomed by providers .

- The Director of Commissioning was asked to explain the care home / provider model expected to be pursued, with reference to Camberwell Lodge and Country Court. The officer explained that this is a freehold with a long lease with the stipulation that the premises must be used as a care home. A member asked if the premises would revert to the council if the provider went bust. The officer said that this is unlikely to happen, however if County Court were to become unviable as a business, then County Court would be obliged to rent out the premises to another provider. A member asked about the scenario of serious concerns with the care delivered by County Court. The officer explained that there are clauses allowing to the council to parachute in a care manager, although this is a nuclear option. The council would start with support and other actions to address quality concerns first.

#### **9. SCRUTINY REVIEW: ACCESS TO TOILETS - OFFICER BRIEFING**

The chair draw members attention to an officer briefing provided to clarify some issues connected to the toilet review. The report is to note and will be integrated into the final scrutiny review report.

#### **10. SCRUTINY REVIEW: ACCESS TO TOILETS - REPORT ON PREVENTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The chair drew members attention to an report on anti- social behaviour provide by Age Uk London The report is to note and will be integrated into the final scrutiny review report.

#### **11. SCRUTINY REVIEW: ACCESS TO TOILETS - HEADLINE REPORT**

The chair explained that the headline report circulated has been updated following the last meeting, to note.

She invited members to email in further comments and explained that the final report will come to the last meeting on 14 May.

#### **12. SCRUTINY REVIEW: SAFEGUARDING IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE**

The chair drew attention to the briefing is enclosed, which was provided to give more detail on 'Safeguarding Concerns and Enquiries 22-23'. This was requested by the Commission following the interview with the Independent Chair on the Adult Safeguarding Annual Report, at the last meeting. This is to note.

### **13. WORK PROGRAMME**

The work programme was noted.