

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMISSION

MINUTES of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Commission held on Tuesday 23 March 2021 at 7.00 pm at Online/Virtual. Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting. Please contact FitzroyAntonio.williams@southwark.gov.uk for a link to the online meeting

PRESENT: Councillor Victoria Olisa (Chair)
Councillor David Noakes (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor Kath Whittam

**OTHER MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning , Southwark Council
Farrah Hart, Consultant - Public Health
Julie Timbrell, Scrutiny Project Manager

1. APOLOGIES

Councillors Bill Williams, Maria Linforth-Hall and Sandra Rhule gave apologies.

Councillor Kath Whittam was present as a substitute for Councillor Bill Williams.

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

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Sunny Lambe notified the meeting that a family member

works for the London Ambulance Service.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2021 were agreed as an accurate record.

5. NHS COMMUNITY COMMISSIONING GROUP (CCG)

Sam Hepplewhite, Director of Integrated Commissioning, Southwark NHS gave a presentation on AT Medics. The chair then invited questions and the following points were made:

- It was confirmed that there are 4 GP practises in Southwark, and 7 across South East London, that are affected by the transfer of ownership from AT Medics to US based company Operose Health. All are on alternative provider medical services (APMS) contracts. AT Medics notified the CCG of the change in directors, which is permitted under the APMS contract, subject to the contractor advising the commissioner. This was agreed by the CCG. The terms of the contracts are nationally agreed and this was backed up with significant legal advice, which allowed the change of ownership to go ahead.
- Sam Hepplewhite went on to emphasise that all GP practices work under the NHS, all contract holders must meet very strict standards, and these standards apply to all providers. It was also emphasised that Operose Health already operate extensively and own hold multiple contracts across London and the UK.
- Concerns were raised by members on the prospect of an American health system moving into the NHS, one that is not based on the principle of a national health service, with the a concern that companies may 'cherry pick', the services they want to provide or reduce services. Sam Hepplewhite said that Operose will have to work within the strict boundaries of the contract they have been given, and there is an end date to the contract with the option of not extending it any further, and furthermore every GP must provide NHS services free on the point of contact.
- A representative from Keep Our NHS Public (KONP), Steve Lancashire requested a number of points to be discussed at a

later date, specifically: the number of AT Medics contracts under the APMS regime at the moment, and when they are due to expire and the safety of patient's individual data under the new contracts.

- Also on the agenda were discussions on 'Integrated Care Systems' and 'Partnership Southwark', but it was agreed that such discussions will take place at a later date.

RESOLVED

Follow up information will be provided on contracts held by AT Medics, end dates and more information on the APMS Contract framework.

6. SLAM CAMHS

A presentation was given on the progress of the SLAM CAMHS organisations by SLaM representative. The presentation detailed how SLaM intends to monitor and address unequal access to CAMHS services by Black , Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) children and young people, with a target of increasing access by 25% by 2023.

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

- SLaM clarified that currently 1 out of 10 people in Senior Management are from the BAME community, which something that SLaM are working to improve and numbers differ across the whole trust.
- Currently, there is a caseload of 2000 people on average across London, with Southwark being a bit higher than the average. The target of BAME people being more equally represented in terms of using mental health services, this is to ensure provision is in lines with the population spilt within the Borough.
- The 25% target of increasing access is relevant across all communities, and some may in fact need greater access. This is something SLaM are trying to determine as across communities there is a difference in service usage according

to ethnicity and it is important to unpick if access rates differ across ethnicities or if people have become disengaged, and the reasons for this.

- There is an emphasis on the importance of equality of access and equality of need across the range of mental health services that providers are addressing with commissioners.

RESOLVED

Genette Laws, Director of Commissioning , Southwark Council, will provide a synopsis of the multi agency work , led by the council, to increase equality of access to services.

7. EQUALITY DATA BAME CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The reports were noted.

8. E CIGARETTES - SAFETY

A report was presented to members by public health consultant, Farrah Hart after which the chair invited questions and the following points were made:

- It was established that e-cigarettes are not permitted in council or NHS buildings.
- The point was also made that although e-cigarettes are not risk free, they do carry a much more reduced risk than cigarettes, but research has not been going on long enough to know the long-term effects – in the report there is more extensive information on the risks from e-cigarettes compared to normal cigarettes.
- It was also discussed that e-cigarettes supplied by the NHS in Southwark is something that is being worked on.

9. SCRUTINY REVIEW : HEALTH INEQUALITIES BAME YOUNG PEOPLE

- The Commission discussed endorsing and tracking recommendations from SLaM on CAMHS, especially increasing access for BAME children and young people and exploring a co-agency approach to support young people.
- It was also suggested that the impact on the NHS and health services by young people losing their jobs should be looked at before the publication of the report and the impact of COVID on young people in general ought to be included in the report.
- The correlation between health inequalities and legislative inequalities was proposed as a topic for a future meeting.

10. WORK PROGRAMME

The next meeting will have an item on Partnership Southwark.