

Meeting ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH SELECT COMMITTEE

Date 12 December 2022 (commencing at 10.30am)

**Membership****COUNCILLORS**

Mike Quigley MBE (Chair)  
David Martin (Vice Chair)

Reg Adair	Eric Kerry
Steve Carr	Philip Owen
Dr John Doddy - apologies	Mike Pringle
Sybil Fielding	Tom Smith
Paul Henshaw	

**OTHER COUNTY COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE**

Councillor Matt Barney  
Councillor Scott Carlton

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Sara Allmond	Advanced Democratic Services Officer
Sue Batty	Service Director, Adult Social Care & Public Health
Martin Elliott	Senior Scrutiny Officer
Jonathan Gribbin	Director of Public Health

**OTHER ATTENDEES**

Scott MacKechnie – Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Board

**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee held on 6 October 2022, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology was received from Councillor Dr John Doddy (other reasons)

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

None

### **4. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD – ANNUAL REPORT**

Scott MacKechnie the Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board, Sue Batty Service Director, Adult Social Care and Health and Councillor Matt Barney the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health attended the meeting, introduced the report and gave a presentation on the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report which covered the period March 2021 to March 2022. The Committee were informed that the report including a period of time still within the pandemic and that there had been an interim strategy in place during that period focusing on the pandemic response and recovery from the pandemic. The presentation also set out the plans for the Board over the coming year.

The Committee raised the following points and questions in discussion:

- Questions were raised regarding the number of refugees and asylum seekers who were being placed in local areas and concerns regarding their poor health. There had been no advance notification they were coming and there is a mixture of adults and children. Members asked for further information about what was being put into place to support them.
- Members questioned whether there was a backlog of safeguarding reviews and if there was what was being done to resolve this? It was recognised that the system was under strain and members asked what the current situation was and whether there had been any consideration given to bringing in the army to provide support?
- Questions were asked regarding whether any Section 42 enquiries were passed on elsewhere, and if so, who to? ([Section 42 of the Care Act 2014](#))
- Members asked if the Committee could support the work of the Board in anyway?
- It was noted that the MASH dealt with some very complex cases. Questions were asked regarding whether some cases could be resolved on the system but abuse was still taking place, how is this monitored?
- Members asked why had there been a 46% increase in safeguarding referrals?
- Members asked for further information on the mental health services assurance work
- Members asked to receive a 6 monthly update report at Committee, and that the previous annual report also be provided at that meeting. Members also commented that the report contained a mix of percentages and numbers making it very difficult to get a clear comparable picture on the issues surrounding safeguarding.

In relation to the points raised by the Committee, the Independent Chair, the Cabinet Member and Officers provided the following responses:

- A corporate piece of work was underway to support refugees and asylum seekers when they arrived into the County which senior social care managers were linked into.

- The Council was on track to have completed 70% of annual safeguarding reviews, with those with potential issues being prioritised. The system was generally under strain across the region with recruitment and retention of staff having an impact on staffing levels across the system. During Covid the army had been brought in to provide support but the system was not at that critical point currently. The market had stabilised, a comprehensive work force plan had been developed and a number of social worker roles had been filled. An apprentice scheme was in operation to train and develop talent. A review was also being undertaken to identify any tasks that could be done by non-qualified social worker staff. Staff were tired but continuing to do a great job.
- In relation to Section 42 the Council did ask the Police, Fire Service and Health partners to make the enquiries where appropriate. The Council wanted to work more closely with partners next year as it was felt there were opportunities to resolve cases earlier with closer working.
- The offer of support by the Committee to the Board was appreciated and would be taken back to the Board.
- In relation to complex cases at the MASH being resolved whilst abuse might still be happening; it was noted that there was a quality assurance sub-group who monitored cases. It was noted that it was not possible to review everything but the group focussed on cases that needed the most specialist support.
- The increase in referrals came during the pandemic when a lot of people were alone or isolated and that there were issues of self-neglect as well as a rise in domestic abuse in the home. There was also an impact on care home providers as staff were off sick resulting in concerns raised regarding staffing levels and service provision.
- The assurance work being undertaken following the investigation into Edenfield Mental Health Trust would provide assurance to the Council that the correct systems was in place to react and provide a response if any concerns were raised. An update on this would be provided in the next six monthly update report.

The Chairman thanked Scott MacKechnie the Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board, Sue Batty Service Director, Adult Social Care and Health and Councillor Matt Barney Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions.

**RESOLVED: 2022/004**

- 1) That the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report 2021-22 be noted.
- 2) That the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee continue to review the work of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board by receiving and considering its Annual Report each year.
- 3) That the following issues raised by the Committee in its consideration of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board - Annual Report 2021-22 be progressed:
  - a) That the Independent Chair of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board attend the June 2023 meeting of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee to

present a report on the current activities of the Nottinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board and on the progress being made towards its strategic priorities.

- b) That future reports to the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee on Adult Safeguarding display statistics as whole numbers rather than as percentages.

## **5. IMPROVING THE HEALTH OUTCOMES OF PEOPLE IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE**

Councillor Matt Barney, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and Jonathan Gribbin the Director for Public Health introduced the report and gave a presentation on the public health outcomes for Nottinghamshire including the overall picture, the building blocks for improved health, the Public Health Outcomes Framework of around 200 indicators and the recently published Office of National Statistics (ONS) Health index.

The Committee raised the following points and questions in discussion:

- A question was asked about why seven female public health indicators were worsening?
- Members raised questions asking if when looking at local data, was new house building being taken into account as it could alter the figures without the issues actually being resolved as the new housing and population into the area could dilute the figures?
- Questions were asked about Ashfield, Bassetlaw and Mansfield residents traditionally seeing worse public health outcomes, and how the Council could influence the building blocks and culture in these areas to improve outcomes? How much should we expect parents to do themselves, should there be a level of self-reliance? How could the Council resolve all of these issues?
- Questions were asked regarding various pregnancy indicators being worse than the national average.
- Questions were asked about why some indicators were showing as better than average, but the trend line was going down. Questions were also asked about why some of the data appeared to be some years old?
- Questions were asked about smoking and vaping amongst young people, particularly in relation to vaping where the person had never smoked, it was requested that further information on this subject be brought to a future meeting.
- Members also discussed a number of areas that they felt further consideration, as set out in the resolution below.

In relation to the points raised by the Committee, the Cabinet Member and Officers provided the following responses:

- The figures for women were worsening due to some missing building blocks. A strong offer had been developed for women on the maternity pathway.
- Housing building masking problems was a known issue and was why it was important to remain focussed on small neighbourhoods as well as the whole of Nottinghamshire.

- In relation to improving outcomes in more deprived areas, there were environmental impacts, and the Council could do things such as supporting school readiness, continue to support schools once a child started school and supporting the right economic environment to provide good employment in the area. In using the Public Health grant, the Council expected to be held to account for getting proper arrangements in place. The Council has the responsibility for the health and wellbeing of the population overall and that is what the building blocks help.
- Work was being undertaken around the various pregnancy indicators for example the healthy families programme providing support around obesity in early pregnancy and help to support breast feeding. The integrated wellbeing service provided support to people who wanted to do more exercise. Work was also being undertaken with partners to create a better environment for example green spaces.
- Some public health indicators had gone done nationally so Nottinghamshire was doing as well or better than the national average, but it was noted that the national average had reduced. It was noted that it was important to look at these indicators as well as the ones where Nottinghamshire was doing worse than the national average. Members were advised that the data provided in the report was the most up to date national data that could enable the comparisons to be made, but the Council did have more recent data, so if there was an area that Members wanted to particularly look at the this could provided.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Matt Barney, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and Jonathan Gribbin the Director for Public Health for attending the meeting and answering Members' questions.

#### **RESOLVED: 2022/005**

- 1) That the factors as detailed on pages six and seven of the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) which have the greatest impact on the health and wellbeing of the population, and the impacts of any weakness or omissions in these building blocks in terms of reducing healthy life expectancy and increasing inequalities, be noted.
- 2) That it be noted that the areas of work required to address the minority of Public Health outcomes (in the four overarching ambitions of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy) where Nottinghamshire is worse than the England average are largely identified in the Nottinghamshire Plan and in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 3) That the following areas of interest be agreed as areas that would benefit from further and more detailed consideration by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Select Committee:
  - a) the recommissioning of the nationally mandated 0-19 public health service
  - b) access to and take up of the NHS Health Check service
  - c) the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on public health
  - d) tobacco control and the potential public health impacts of vaping.

#### **6. RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE ON THE SUSTAINABILITY FUNDING FOR EXTERNAL ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVIDERS**

Councillor Matt Barney, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public introduced the report which provided an update on spend, usage and benefits of the £500,000 sustainability funding which had been made available for external social care providers.

**RESOLVED: 2022/006**

That the response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health on the current and planned spend of the Provider Sustainability Fund be noted.

**7. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Senior Scrutiny Officer presented the Committee's current work programme.

**RESOLVED: 2022/007**

- 1) That the work programme be noted.
- 2) That committee members make any further suggestions for consideration by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for inclusion on the work programme in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s) and senior officers, subject to the required approval by the Chairman of Overview Committee.

The meeting closed at 12.34 pm.

**CHAIRMAN**