

APPENDIX

# West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

## Report of Topics 2022/23 for Adur & Worthing Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Cathy Glynn-Davies, Member for Broadwater, Worthing Borough Council

Joss Loader, Member for Marine Ward, Shoreham-by-Sea, Adur District Council

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### Introduction

The Councils appointed us as the representatives on the West Sussex Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee. (Joss is in the second period as Adur's representative on the HASC). We were co-opted onto this committee with a view to reporting back on issues relating to Worthing and Adur and in that time have developed a greater understanding about the Committee's role and work programme.

Importantly HASC has shone the spotlight on a number of key health issues across Adur and Worthing and their impact on our communities, including primary care and dentistry. It has already helped to build awareness of consultations about key services such as hospital-based Stroke Services.

Around 40 people are invited to attend these meetings. Their role is to scrutinise, comment and question policies, strategies and changes currently taking place in health and care services in West Sussex and beyond (Coastal West Sussex). The cohort of attendees consists of cabinet members for WSCC and members from Mid Sussex, Crawley, Arun, Adur, Horsham, Chichester and Worthing; co opted members from Borough and District Councils; WSCC officers, as well as experts in relevant fields including organisations such as University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust, and NHS Sussex Integrated Care Services (formerly known as West Sussex Coastal Commissioning Group).

The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee is responsible for the overview and scrutiny of Cabinet portfolios areas set out below:

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1. Adults Services portfolio
  2. Public Health and Wellbeing portfolio relating to both adults and children
  3. Review and scrutiny of the planning, provision and operation of health services in West Sussex (The health functions of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee arise under Part I of the Health and Social Care Act 2001)

The committee is open to suggestions on what they should scrutinise. Careful consideration is given to each proposal, with members first needing to satisfy themselves that scrutiny could have a positive impact before agreeing to add an item to a future agenda.

### **Format of Meetings:**

Once the Agenda is agreed, members are invited to attend a pre meeting, usually via Zoom, to examine important and relevant issues which are likely to be the subject of discussion, how these relate to our communities, and to formulate questions and establish whether additional background information may be required.

**Task and Finish Groups (TFGs):** These are established by scrutiny committees to carry out time-limited examinations of specific issues of interest or concern. This may include reviewing particular proposals or decisions as well as giving input to policy development.

A Strategic Budget Options TFG reported to HASC in November 2021. Outcomes from this are available online.

A Mental Health TFG was agreed in September 2022 and an evidence gathering session is currently being established. Chair, Members and a timeline for this has yet to be confirmed.

There are no other TFGs in progress.

### **SUMMARY OF TOPICS COVERED BY HASC SINCE SEPTEMBER 2022**

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## **September 2022**

### **Adult Services:**

A Financial Assessment Improvement Plan was presented in September 2023. There were highly critical responses to the survey (although only 15% responded). Increases to the cost of assessment and support was opposed by some service users (a demonstration took place outside County Hall and members of the public were present during discussion). Users were highly critical at slow or non-responses. Some are faced with financial hardship. West Sussex County Council are following a national policy on this issue. HASC supported undertakings to improve service responses and engage with the public. HASC asked to be kept updated on the success of proposed improvements in response times, sharing of information, engagement with those in financial difficulties and the level of complaints.

### **CQC Inspections University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust:**

University Hospitals Sussex: RSHC has been rated as inadequate. Staff shortages were cited. Midwifery requires improvement at all the Trust's hospitals. This includes Worthing hospital. HASC requested data on staffing at Worthing Hospital. Information on perinatal premises currently in use in Worthing as a result of closure of Family Centres was also requested. There is a backlog at all hospitals caused by the pandemic. HASC asked to receive updates on improvements and assurances on the level of staffing in midwifery as well as assurances of the quality of care and perinatal facilities in Worthing.

A maximum waiting time of 78 weeks is hoped to be achieved for planned surgical care and the Trust was also micromanaging the pathways for patients with cancer care to ensure that they do not experience any delays.

A report by the Director of Law and Assurance was presented and included Obesity Strategies, Life Expectancy (which has lowered) and Prevention services (lower take up). HASC will receive a report from the Director of Public Health identifying causes, preventative measures and barriers to people accessing services.

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## **November 2022:**

### **NHS Winter Preparedness:**

HASC identified concerns over bed shortages, Ambulance services, working with partners to make the best use of resources, vaccination rates, delayed discharges from hospital,, domiciliary care and rehabilitation.

University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust increased capacity by 106 beds. Assessment capacity was also increased.

Urgent Treatment Centres are at Worthing Hospital and St Richards.

Hospitals were near capacity going into the winter.

A 'Haven' and a new Mental Health Clinical Decision Unit is to be based in Worthing and investment in crisis services and the ambulance service to ensure timely responses.

HASC agreed to lobby the government via West Sussex MPs for extra capacity in hospital beds and increases in workforce, vaccination messaging to be revisited to improve take up, and to receive updates on 'virtual wards'.

### **Access to Primary Care:**

This report set out difficulties experienced by users trying to access appointments with GPs and other professionals. It set out the changes to primary healthcare provision. Concerns were raised by the committee over new models of primary healthcare provision including online consultations and pharmacy consultations. The NHS delivery plan proposes a strategy involving a number of partner organisations, (Integrated Care Services), moving towards a more European approach to primary care.

The committee received assurances that measures to optimise capacity are being addressed and requested data regarding face to face appointments, and population to GP

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data.

### **South East Coast Ambulance Service Update:**

The committee had to consider an important report which clearly set out the need for investment in social care and community services to reduce ambulance delays. Delays of over one hour have increased from 1% in 2018 to 18% in 2022. Handover times have increased substantially which has resulted in an increased level of harm. Handover processes are under review in Worthing, Chichester, Brighton and East Surrey. Staff well being is an issue. Frontline clinicians have been under considerable strain. Urgent Treatment Centres and Community Services can take some of the strain but are time dependent. A system using Mental Health Practitioners to support on scene may result in reduction in A&E conveyance.

Assurance was received that CQC concerns raised at previous HASC are being addressed. Committee asked for further information on 'make ready centres', and evidence that wait times are reducing.

### **Quarterly Performance and Resources Report:**

Committee considered areas such as the Non-Smoking Campaign, Sexual Health and Healthy Child Programme (Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust) and how these would feed into Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services. Delivery of bereavement counselling for young people, vaccination take-up etc were considered. It also considered Central Government funding issues and payment of care packages. Delivery of adult education is an issue now that Aspire has closed.

### **January 2023**

#### **West Sussex Stroke Programme:**

A proposal is in place to close the stroke unit at Worthing Hospital and develop a specialist acute stroke unit at Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton and the new model also includes a new Acute Stroke Centre (ASC) at St. Richard's Hospital, Chichester. This means that the population of Adur, Arun and Chichester, Worthing and south of Horsham would access acute stroke services for the full episode of acute care at a single site ASC at St

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Richard's Hospital in Chichester or the comprehensive stroke centre at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton. This all has implications in terms of receiving specialist treatment within the 'golden hour'. Current estimates are that travel time for patients from Worthing would be 45 minutes. There will be investment in staff and recruitment and retention of existing staff is being developed.

Committee supported the current proposal for acute stroke centres but requested further data on travel times and the decision making process i.e. which centre would patients be transferred to and why?

### **Adult Social care Strategy 2022-2025 'The life you want to lead'.**

Extra Care Schemes will be developed cross county. People who are homeless would be prioritised. No change to Central Government Funding is anticipated. A national workforce strategy is anticipated to help with recruitment. The Council has a 'strength based' approach to social care which is hoped will deliver preventative services. The Council is stretched because it is working quickly and working on sustainability at the same time. Few providers have been rated inadequate. (CQC inspections have ceased but are due to start again this year). Commissioning is important and supporting work is being restructured.

Committee requested that Adult Social Care funding continues to be on the agenda for meetings with local MPs; share information on funding owed to the Council and agreed that annual updates on the Adult Social Care Strategy be added to the work programme.

### **Terms of Reference for Mental Health Task and Finish Group.**

The Committee suggested the following areas of focus for this:

- Suicide prevention
- Children and adolescent mental health services
- Eating disorders
- Transition to adults' services
- Digital/social media impact on young people's mental health
- Minority groups
- Older people on medication
- Existing provision

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- Stigma

**19th January 2023**

**Dentistry Evidence Gathering Committee**

Councillor Glynn-Davies also attended the above committee to gain understanding of current dentistry provision and identify concerns raised by residents and develop a proposed way forward to address concerns. There were presentations from witnesses and a particularly powerful one by Agi Tarnowski, Chair of the West Sussex Dental Committee. Services to NHS patients are clearly at crisis point and it's clear that the NHS is no longer attracting dentists as terms and conditions that exist are not favourable to them. A report will be brought to the March meeting.

Cathy Glynn-Davies

Borough Councillor for Broadwater, Worthing

Joss Loader

District Councillor for Marine Ward, Shoreham-by-Sea