

# SHOPSHIRE COUNCIL

## HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2023

Times Not Specified in the Shrewsbury/Oswestry Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate,  
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND

**Responsible Officer:** Ashley Kendrick

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### **Present**

Councillor Steve Charmley (Chairman)

Councillors Nicholas Bardsley, Gerald Dakin, Geoff Elner, Kate Halliday, Heather Kidd,  
David Minnery and Dan Thomas (Vice Chairman)

### 42 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies had been received from Councillor Tracey Huffer, who was being substituted by Councillor Bernie Bentick.

### 43 **Disclosable Interests**

No interests were declared.

### 44 **Minutes**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

### 45 **Public Question Time**

A public question was received from Gill George in relation to the Hospital Transformation Programme.

The full question and response provided are available from the webpage for the meeting:  
[Response - Public Questions - Jan 2023 HTP.pdf \(shropshire.gov.uk\)](#)

### 46 **Members Question Time**

There were no member questions.

### 47 **Update from the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)**

Members were advised that the last meeting of JHOSC took place on Monday 23 January 2023, where members received an update on staffing in maternity units. Members noted that the main areas of focus for the work programme were community-based services, emergency and urgent care, and mental health services.

Members noted that the staffing levels were at full occupancy within the maternity units and queried the level of support for this service and whether this could be duplicated in other service areas to improve staffing numbers.

#### **48 Welsh Air Ambulance - Changes to Sites**

Members were advised that proposals had been made to change the location of the Welsh Air Ambulance bases. This included the current site at Welshpool which was the closest to the Shropshire border and often provided assistance to Shropshire residents.

It was confirmed that the committee would submit a formal response to any consultation and members were encouraged to also submit responses as individuals. A new date for the consultation was awaited following a delay from 9 January 2022.

Members requested a presentation on any proposed closures, together with a request for data relating to the number of emergencies dealt with by the Welsh Air Ambulance in Shropshire.

#### **49 Carers Strategy**

Laura Tyler, Assistant Director for Joint Commissioning, and Margarete Davies, Care Support Team Manager, gave a presentation which provided an overview of the All-Age Carer Strategy (AACCS) Review 2022- 2027 which details the priorities carers feel are most important to them to support them in their caring role.

The Strategy is supported by an action plan to demonstrate how Shropshire Council will deliver the priorities and what measures are in place to monitor success. These documents would be taken to Cabinet for adoption in March 2023.

Concern was raised that carers in rural areas would not receive the same support offer as those in towns. It was suggested that a session is held with local members to understand the needs of those in rural areas, build on support systems already in place and improve outreach support. It was noted that there should be a focus on rural areas in the action plan.

Members noted that the data suggested that over 50% of carers were not known to Shropshire Council or Mobilise Online and therefore the correct support may not be in place. It was questioned as to how these people could be reached. Members were advised that this was a priority and further work with parish councils, GP surgeries and hospitals could lead to more efficient communication and lead to a whole system approach. Raising awareness was vital in ensuring carers were aware of the support available to them. A briefing session for Shropshire Councillors and Town and Parish Councillors was requested. A further request for the number of carers, prior to the age standardisation method being used when collating data from the census, was received.

The Executive Director for People advised members that it is proposed that the Strategy together with the action plan are discussed with colleagues at the ICS. She encouraged members to consider factoring the action plan into the committee's work programme.

Members queried the amount of people waiting for care packages, how the strategy acknowledges the budget cuts and why patients who had been declared fit to leave hospital were not being discharged. Members were advised that data was not to hand at the meeting but was requested on a regular basis. They were further advised that the team were looking at how to support people during the discharge process and the support available to carers.

It was felt that it would be useful to have a map detailing the geographic spread of new and existing carers across the county.

## 50 Updates on Shrewsbury Health and Wellbeing Hub

Gareth Robinson, Jackie Robinson and Emma Pyrah from NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin gave a presentation to provide an update on the Shrewsbury Health and Wellbeing Hub, which provided an overview of engagement to date, options and project timelines.

Members were made aware that 9 essential criteria had been agreed and applied when selecting 47 initial sites with 10 sites now being shortlisted. It was not possible to share the location of these sites at present due to commercial sensitivity.

Members requested further information regarding the weighting of the criteria. It was confirmed that this would be provided following the project board meeting next week.

It was clarified that although there may be some flexibility within the Hub for additional services, the focus was on Primary Care.

NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin were thanked for the improvement in engagement and communication. A request for an update on the impact on pharmacies associated with the existing GP Practices was received. It was advised that the pharmacies are an important part of the stakeholder group and that colleagues from the NHS would endeavour to speak with Pharmacy Liaison group to provide an update.

Members noted that WSP would be carrying out a Traffic Impact Assessment for proposed sites which should address concerns of the impact of the Hub on the local area.

Members noted that a further update would be given at the committee meeting in March 2023.

## 51 Work Programme

It was agreed that the following topics would be covered at the March meeting:

- Update on the Health and Wellbeing Hub – some discussions may be held in exempt session due to commercial sensitivity.
- Welsh Air Ambulance (dependent on when the consultation is launched)

- Health in All Strategy – progress and impact update although it would be confirmed if this would be held as a briefing session.
- Rural proofing in terms of health services – agreeing how this could be addressed.

It was suggested that mental health services in Shropshire should be added to the work programme, which would then feed into Joint HOSC.

It was further suggested that the committee look at how adult social care is going to achieve the proposed budget savings.

With regards to rural proofing, a request was made to look at how the ICS strategy is being rolled out; this could be through a Task and Finish Group to identify what questions need to be raised and what answers are being sought.

A suggestion was received that health data is more readily and more regularly available, such as the number of patients fit for discharge and ambulance waiting times, as currently data had to be requested. This would allow members to monitor and identify issues in advance and take early action rather than retrospectively. The Scrutiny Manager would discuss this further with the Executive Director of People and the Executive Director of Health.

A query was raised on Highley Medical Practice regarding the size and location of the practice, the scope of the tender and who would be providing the service. The Executive Director for Health agreed to provide an update and reassured members that there would not be a gap in provision.

## 52 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the Health & Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held at 10am on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date: .....