

Minutes of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board

Wednesday, 28 July 2021 at 6.00 pm
at Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor E M Giles (Chair)
Councillors Bhullar (Vice-Chair), Davies and Fisher

Also present: Councillor Suzanne Hartwell

Officers: Rashpal Bishop (Director of Adult Social Care) and Katharine Willmette (Director of Housing)

15/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Akpoteni, Costigan, Fenton, L Giles and Khatun.

16/21 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

17/21 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 29 March 2021 are approved as a correct record.

18/21 Urgent Item of Business

There were no urgent items of business to consider.

19/21 Scrutiny Review of Mental Health Services in Sandwell Draft



At a work programming workshop held on 15th June 2021, the Board had decided to undertake a review into mental health services, with a particular focus on the impact of the covid-19 pandemic and lockdown. A draft scoping document for the review was presented. The scope would remain fluid and could be amended as the review progressed.

Members felt that it was essential to hear from those with experience of mental ill-health and their experience of accessing services.

The Board agreed that following the receipt of some initial data (to be provided by the Director of Adult Social Care and the Director of Public Health), an enquiry day would be held, involving all members of the Board. Following this, working groups would be set up to explore the key themes.

20/21 Re-Establishment of Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements with Birmingham City Council

The Board was asked to appoint five members to a joint overview and scrutiny committee with Birmingham City Council.

Under health scrutiny legislation, local authorities were required to form joint committees to respond to NHS consultations on proposals for substantial variations in services that affected residents of more than one local authority area. In addition, local authorities could proactively choose to form joint committees to consider health issues that crossed boundaries.

Since 2004 the Council had been establishing joint scrutiny arrangements with Birmingham City Council, to enable both informal working and the establishment of a formal committee. These arrangements had enabled Birmingham and Sandwell to jointly review and scrutinise matters relating to the planning, provision and operation of health services affecting both local authority areas.

Resolved: -

- (1) that the arrangements for the scrutiny of matters affecting the Sandwell and West Birmingham area to be re-established with Birmingham City Council for 2021/22;
- (2) that the following members of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board be appointed to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Birmingham City Council:

Councillors Bhullar, Costigan, Davies, Fisher and E M Giles.

Meeting ended at 6.39 pm

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk