

Cannock Chase Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the

Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Held on Tuesday 30 March 2020 at 4:00pm

Via Remote Access

Part 1

Present: Councillors:

Freeman, Miss. M.A. (Chairman)
Jones, Mrs. V. (Chairman)
Buttery, M.S. Stretton, Mrs. P.Z.
Crabtree, S.K. Sutton, Mrs. H.M.
Dudson, A. Todd, Mrs. D.M.
Muckley, A.M. Witton, P.T.
Smith, C.D.

Also present: County Councillor P.M. Hewitt, Staffordshire County Council

By Invitation: Mr. D. Loughton, Chief Executive, Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

8. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor C. Bennett.

9. Declarations of Interests of Members in Contracts and Other Matters and Restrictions on Voting by Members and Party Whip Declarations

No declarations of interests in additions to those already confirmed by Members in the Register of Members Interests were made.

10. Minutes

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2020 be approved as a correct record.

11. Proposals to from a single Strategic Commissioning Organisation for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

Dr. Free was not in attendance.

12. Update on current situation at the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust and the Minor Injuries Unit at Cannock Chase Hospital

The Chairman and Members welcomed Mr. David Loughton, Chief Executive of the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust.

Mr. Loughton updated Members on the situation at the Minor Injuries Unit at Cannock Chase Hospital and reported that it had been a difficult year, although services were starting to be restored.

He explained that due to the Government guidance that was issued around the Christmas period and easing of social distancing measures, the effects were not seen until around 2/3 weeks later.

He reported that due to the situation some services had suffered. He was keen to ensure that priority was given for those receiving cancer treatment and other treatments. He also indicated that it would take around 2/3 years before the waiting list for operations and treatments was back to where it was before the start of the pandemic.

Mr. Loughton reported that the Minor Injuries Unit was a key priority and he wanted to ensure that services to the public could continue. He explained that staff had been re-deployed and currently staff were taking leave. He was concerned however that there would be an impact on the mental health of the staff.

The Chairman invited Members to ask questions.

A Member commented on the fantastic work being undertaken by hospital staff during the pandemic. He expressed concern that Lichfield was the closest hospital to use, although he appreciated that the Minor Injuries Unit would not open straight away. He asked what the timeframe was looking like and also commented on a recent petition which had attracted local interest.

Mr. Loughton commented that it would be around 3 months before the unit was re-opened. Staff had been re-deployed during the pandemic and there were currently no staff nursing vacancies. As previously reported, he was concerned with the length of time that cancer patients had waited for treatment with some people progressing with their illness, whereby previously it would have been picked up sooner. He also expressed concern that people with very complex mental health cases were visiting A&E and these were people who had not been seen in the past.

A Member commented on the difficulty especially with older relatives and trying to encourage them to use A&E especially at the current time with the pandemic and was happy to see that the Unit would be re-opening.

A Member reported that he was concerned when people were visiting A&E on numerous occasions due to being unable to access a GP surgery to obtain medication.

Mr. Loughton advised that he did not manage GP Practices, however practices in Wolverhampton still provided some services. He explained that staff had become more concerned with face to face contact than previously when the pandemic started last year, and there was some reluctance to have face to face contact in some primary care settings. He commented that in Wolverhampton 'Babylon' was used to undertake digital consultations which had worked well.

The Chairman referred to the current press reports concerning blood clots as a consequence of receiving Covid vaccinations.

Mr. Loughton reported that he managed clinical research across the West Midlands and his staff had previously worked on all the original clinical trials regarding the vaccine. He confirmed that only 3 of his patients had blood clots and this was within the normal range.

A Member commented on the mental health issues caused by the pandemic which could be of concern for many years to come. He asked if there was a plan in place, particularly for those that had to be sectioned under the Mental Health Act.

Mr. Loughton commented that many of his colleagues were under pressure to help, although these types of services were not provided. He also highlighted the impact that had been felt by many people in the community including his staff.

A Member referred to the vaccination process that was going well, although he commented that there was a need to still be cautious.

Mr. Loughton concurred and reported that whilst the number of deaths had reduced, everyone needed to be vaccinated.

Members thanks Mr. Loughton for attending the meeting.

13. Healthwatch, Staffordshire

There was no one in attendance from Healthwatch.

14. Covid-19 Recovery Action Plans Progress Update

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles gave a summary to Members.

Members noted the Covid-19 Action Plans Progress Update.

15. Community Wellbeing (Health, Culture & Sport) Priority Delivery Plan Performance Update – Q3 2020/21

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles gave a summary to Members.

He referred to Item No. 8.2 and the two milestones (Rugeley ATP) that had slipped and reported that just under £500k had been secured and awarded in July, 2020. Progress was slow due to issues with the Football Foundation and sourcing contractors. Contractors had now been appointed and planning conditions being

sorted. It was hoped that the facility would be open by the second quarter of next year.

He then referred to Item No. 8.4 and the two milestones (Physical Activity review/Wellbeing Strategy) and reported that work was being undertaken with Sport England and this would run into next year.

The Head of Environment and Healthy Lifestyles referred to Item No. 8.4 and the milestone (Cannock Chase Can) and reported that progress was being made and was looking to rollout the 'app' during Q1/Q2 next year.

He then referred to the milestone (Health In All Policies) and advised that this action would roll over into 2021-22.

Members noted the Community Wellbeing (Health, Culture & Sport) Priority Delivery Plan Performance Update – Q3 2020/21.

16. Update – Staffordshire County Council's Healthy Staffordshire Select Committee

The Chairman reported that several meetings had been held at Staffordshire County Council. Therefore, she would not provide updates for each meeting, however she advised Members that all information from the meetings could be accessed through the County Council's website by following the link on the agenda supplied for today's meeting.

The meeting closed at 4.45 pm

CHAIRMAN