

HEALTH SCRUITNY COMMITTEE

25 JULY 2024

PRESENT

Councillors: D Butt (Chair), S. Taylor (Vice-Chair), S. Gilbert, B. Hartley,
W Hassan, J Leicester, S. Lepori, J Lloyd, J Slater.

In attendance

Pamela Wilson	Practice Manager, Conway Practice
Nathan Atkinson	Corporate Director Adults and Wellbeing, Trafford Council
Stephanie Ferraioli	Democratic Officer, Trafford Council

1. ATTENDANCES

An apology for absence was received from Councillors Devlin, Jones and Western.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

A disclosure was received due to attendees' employment in the NHS.

3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions from members of the public were received.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2024 be noted as a true and correct record.

5. PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

Following on from the work that the Task and Finish Group carried out during the municipal year 2022/23 relating to Access to GPs in Trafford, the Committee welcomed Mrs Pamela Wilson, Practice Manager for Conway Practice in Sale who described a day in the life of the practice so that Members could better understand the pressures GPs and staff face daily.

The Practice Manager explained that what sets the practice apart from others is a combination of good leadership and several services they provide. Specifically, the practice offers face to face GP appointments with some availability also for evening appointments, blood tests and have a pharmacist on site as well as a social prescriber that can give direct advice to patients. They have qualified staff that can test for asthma and identify skin blemishes too. More importantly, the practice carries out an average of 60-80 ECG tests which although not cost effective for the surgery are of great benefit to the patient. The relationship between management and staff is excellent to the point that they now have a long waiting list of administrative and medical personnel wanting to work at the practice given the excellent working conditions.

The practice does provide online services via the askmyGP app as per contractual duty but the patients' feedback is very negative. Patients prefer to ring the practice and visit in person; they do not find the app useful.

Members thanked the Practice Manager for the comprehensive update and stated that certainly the surgery serves as example of good practice that others can learn from.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

6 ADULTS SOCIAL CARE BUDGET AND DIGITISATION

The Corporate Director Adults and Wellbeing provided an extensive overview of the Adults and Social Care financial position for 2024/25, illustrating existing expenditures, the Better Care fund, savings plans and budget changes from the previous financial year.

He also provided an overview of the digital transformation plans across the directorate with the implementation of the Liquid Logic case management system for Adult Social Care (LAS) - stating that the work is being carried out by Trafford employees and former Liquid Logic staff who are very familiar with the system.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

7 CQC INSPECTION UPDATE

The Corporate Director Adults and Wellbeing advised Members that under the Health and Care Act 2022 all local authorities are now subject to mandatory inspections carried out by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and it is envisaged that inspections at GM level would be carried out by March 2025.

He informed that a lot of knowledge sharing and learning from other local authorities was taking place across the region and particularly Trafford Council performed very well to the LGA Peer Challenge back in September 2023 against the CQC Assurance Framework, when the Improving Lives Every Day programme was launched.

Crucially, the programme permits the delivery of better outcomes for service users as well as enabling the Council to be prepared for future inspections.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

8 DENTAL UPDATE

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the Head of Primary Care Operations could not attend tonight and it was agreed to postpone the Dental update to a future meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Dental Updated be presented at a future meeting.

9 TASK AND FINISH GROUP

New Members were informed of the purpose of the Task and Finish Group which is to explore into Health matters in more in depth and inform the Council of its findings.

Six Members volunteered to take part and the first meeting for the Group has been called for the first week of September when the Terms of Reference and future meeting dates will be agreed.

RESOLVED – That a Task and Finish Group be convened for the first week of September 2024 to deep dive into Health matters.

10. WORKPROGRAMME

Members were presented a draft work programme for the Health Scrutiny Committee displaying items of interest and within the remit of the Committee. This is a flexible programme that can be added to as needed throughout the year and that will serve as the basis for reporting on the Committee's achievements at the end of the municipal year 2024/25.

Members discussed at length the draft work-programme and agreed to consider a report on maternity services and on ICB funding to obtain a clearer understanding of the current situation in the borough.

RESOLVED – That the work programme 2024/25 be approved.

11 URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There was no urgent business to discuss.