

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 MARCH 2021

PRESENT

Councillor Dr. K. Barclay (in the Chair).

Councillors S. Taylor (Vice-Chair), A. Akinola, Dr. S. Carr, Mrs. D.L. Haddad, B. Hartley, J. Lloyd, D. Acton (ex-Officio), D. Western (ex-Officio), R. Chilton and M. Cordingley

In attendance

Eleanor Roaf

Director of Public Health, Trafford Council

Jane Hynes

Public Health Programme Manager. Trafford Council

Jilla Burgess-Allen

Consultant in Public Health, Trafford Council

Dr. Mark Jarvis

Medical Director, NHS Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group

Adrian Fisher

Director of Growth and Regulatory Services, Trafford Council

Fabiola Fuschi

Governance Officer, Trafford Council

Also Present

Councillors Harding, Executive Member, Adult Social Care

Councillor Slater, Executive Member Health, Wellbeing and Equalities

Councillor Wright, Executive Member, Housing and Regeneration

10. ATTENDANCES

There were no apologies for absence received.

11. MINUTES

The Committee gave consideration to the minutes of the meeting held on the 28th January 2021. With reference to Item 5 Accessibility of Primary Care Services in Trafford, the Committee agreed to receive an update on this matter in the course of Municipal Year 2021/22.

Councillor Lloyd had declared a personal interest with regard to Item 6 – Domestic Abuse in Trafford During the Covid-19 Pandemic by virtue of her role of Trustee at Trafford Domestic Abuse Service.

RESOLVED:-

1. That, subject to the amendment above, the minutes be agreed;
2. That an update on Accessibility of Primary Care Services in Trafford be provided at a meeting of the Committee in the municipal year 2021/22.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

13. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were no public questions received.

14. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN TRAFFORD - FOCUS ON DIABETES

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health which sought to inform of the actions being taken by the Council, the NHS Trafford Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and their partner organisations to reduce health inequalities across the borough, in particular with regard to the prevention of the risk factors for diabetes mellitus and its early diagnosis and management.

The report author, accompanied by the Portfolio Holders for Adult Social Care and for Health, Wellbeing and Equalities and the Consultants in Public Health attended the meeting to present the information and address the questions of the Committee.

The Director of Public Health reported that Trafford 2019 Health and Wellbeing Strategy as well as the recently published Corporate Equality Strategy 2021-2025 had as one of their main objectives reducing health inequalities in the borough. The Consultants in Public Health outlined the key programme to tackle diabetes: the National Diabetes Prevention Programme and its eligibility criteria and performance. In addition to this programme, the officers informed of the non-diabetes specific preventative work represented by the Weight Management Services, the Healthy Lifestyle Service and other work streams such as those on physical activity, stop smoking and social prescribing which contributed to the health and wellbeing of the population and to the universal preventative offer. The officers informed that early screening through the NHS Health Checks was pivotal for the diabetes preventative agenda and work had commenced to ensure that Health Checks were better targeted to specific demographic groups who would need support to engage with the service. A new Consultant in Public Health was in place to lead of this piece of work which would contribute to reduce pressure on Primary Care.

Officers added that, following Covid-19 pandemic, the recovery process and the focus of the CCG, the Council and their partners was to address inequalities.

Members sought and received clarification on a number of matters such as overcoming barriers in primary care to recording ethnicity and protected characteristics for effective planning and to meet the Council's equality duty, alternative models of delivering Health Checks, diabetes preventative offer for patients with mental health issues and learning difficulties, Health Checks performance in the most deprived areas of Trafford.

RESOLVED: -

1. That the content of the report be noted;

2. That a progress report be brought to the Committee in six months with the view to receive a full report in March 2022. The Committee would like to hear from a GP as well as from representatives of the Public Health Team. The report would need to include:
 - a. Information on methods to record patient ethnicity in primary care;
 - b. Progress on delivering Health Checks for the residents of Trafford;
 - c. Information on diabetes education programme;
 - d. Progress on narrowing down inequalities.

15. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN TRAFFORD - HOUSING

The Committee gave consideration to a report of the Corporate Director of Place on the housing provision in Trafford, its relevance as a wider determinant of health and as such, crucial to the health and wellbeing of the population and to reduce health inequalities.

The Director of Growth and Regulatory Services accompanied by the Executive Member for Housing and Regeneration attended the meeting to present the information and address the questions of the Committee.

The Committee received information concerning Trafford's Council Allocation Policy which provided rules, criteria and procedures on how households could access social and affordable rented Registered Provider properties in the Borough.

The Committee noted how the needs for affordable new homes would be addressed through the Trafford Housing Strategy (2018-2023) and how progress on housing sites was monitored by the Council's Strategic Growth Service and other groups which also drove forward the delivery of new affordable housing.

The Portfolio Holder informed that new social rented housing was not easy to deliver mainly for difficulty in sustaining their cost. Both at national and local level, the focus was on shared ownership and affordable rent.

Members sought and received clarification on several matters such as Developer Forum for Housing Associations and proposals for new social housing, discrepancy between average household income in the north of the borough and the percentage of income spent on housing needs, methods utilised by the Council and its partners to gather housing data.

Members also commented on the difficulties encountered by first time buyers to access the housing market, Section 106 agreements and the fact that the developers' offers did not always meet expectations, social landlords and arguments in support of a duty rather than an option to cooperate with the local authority, variable standards in the private sector renting offer and need for a Private Rented Charter.

The Committee sought and received reassurance that a landlord accreditation scheme was being developed and different measures were being evaluated to improve the planning system for Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMO).

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Members advocated for greater innovation in newly built houses and better housing standards for people with disabilities. The Portfolio Holder informed that Accessibility and Improvement in properties for disabled residents were part of the Local Plan for Trafford, currently under consultation.

Members received reassurance that new sites were coming forward in a number of areas in Trafford; this together with the regeneration plan would help to address the need for more social housing and affordable housing, especially in the north of the borough.

Members emphasised the importance of publicity of existing and future housing schemes to address fuel poverty in Trafford such as LAD (Local Authority Delivery scheme) and enquired about how other local authorities within Greater Manchester marketed similar schemes.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted;
2. That the Committee receive an update in six months with regard to:
 - a. The Landlord Accreditation Scheme;
 - b. Improvement to planning process for Houses of Multiple Occupancy;
3. That the Committee receive an update in 12 months on the number of affordable houses built in Trafford;
4. That the Committee receive reassurance on how schemes to tackle fuel poverty are publicised in Trafford.

The Chair thanked Officers and Members for their contribution to the work of the Committee throughout Municipal Year 2020/21.

16. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

There were no items of urgent business received

17. EXCLUSION RESOLUTION (REMAINING ITEMS)

None

The meeting commenced at 6:30 p.m. and ended at 8:10 p.m.