

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

26 July 2022

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.20pm

Present: Councillors N Sharif (Chair), Owen (Deputy Chair), Affleck, Bowden, Cooper, Patrick, Warrington

Apologies: Councillors Drennan, Newton, Pearce

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by members of the Scrutiny Panel.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel held on 10 March 2022 were approved as a correct record.

3. ADULT SOCIAL CARE REFORM WHITE PAPER

The Panel welcomed Councillor John Taylor, Executive Member (Adult Social Care); and Tracey Harrison, Assistant Director, to receive an update on proposals and implications set within the White Paper - Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all.

Members received an overview of the Adult Social Care Reform White Paper and detail on key messages and implications for adult services and the wider care sector. The paper sets out a 10-year vision that includes three objectives.

- People have choice, control and support to live independent lives
- People can access outstanding quality and tailored care and support
- People find adult social care fair and accessible

The panel heard that there is an extended emphasis within the paper on the role of the social care workforce and recognition for unpaid carers. A new Health and Social Care Levy supports the proposals, with a 3-year funding settlement to progress the implementation programme at a local level.

The package of measures over next 3 years to include three key principles:

- Everyone should be aware of basic information about adult social care and upcoming reforms to the system – national website underway
- People should have access to personalised advice about adult social care when they need it
- There should be oversight and accountability of information and advice services

It was reported that a priority for Tameside is to invest in preventative services and to ensure care is assessed and provided in the right place at the right time. The paper introduces the use of outcome driven 'I' statements and provides an outline for the council to assess impacts for individuals. In addition, 'We' statements will also consider how care is offered and accessed.

The initial 3-year programme will focus heavily on integration, housing and digitisation. Whilst not directly prescribed, the paper provides measures to which the council will now need to direct the necessary amount of attention and resource. This includes a priority to embed housing within health and care strategies, to boost supply of supported housing and increase local expenditure on supported living.

The panel heard that an early priority is to protect the 20% most vulnerable in care homes with falls technology by March 2024 and to ensure at least 80% of care providers have a digitised care record in place that connects to a shared care record.

Ms Harrison informed members that the reform provides the council will an opportunity to kick-start a change in the services provided to unpaid carers. This will include a new action plan and strategy, most importantly informed by carers.

The Executive Member and Assistant Director responded to a number of questions on:

- Workforce pressures and career pathways across the adult social care sector including commissioned providers.
- Funding available and the ability of the Council to deliver on such programmes beyond the 3-year package.
- Local needs assessment and future projections regarding impacts of the fair cost of care for providers and cap on care costs for individuals.

4. LGSCO LEARNING REPORT

The Panel welcomed Councillor John Taylor, Executive Member (Adult Social Care); and Tracey Harrison, Assistant Director, to receive a service response to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman learning report – Unprecedented Pressure: Learning from complaints about council and care provider actions during the Covid-19 pandemic, published in February 2022.

The Executive provided a detailed and structured response to questions and learning points identified from case studies within the report. Such questions help to ensure learning is shared within the authority and informs scrutiny oversight. The response focuses directly on areas relevant to Adult Services.

Councillor Taylor and Ms Harrison were thanked for attending the meeting

5. CORPORATE PLAN SCORECARD

The Panel received the Corporate Plan Scorecard for information.

6. ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

Tameside Scrutiny Panels are required to publish an Annual Work Programme of planned activity. Scrutiny will continue to adopt a combination of approaches to review service and performance updates, respond to formal consultations, focus reports of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman and areas in need of more in-depth review.

The Chair presented the agreed Annual Work Programme for the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel. Discussion followed on the priority of topics and the timetable for future meetings. The Chair confirmed that the following topics will now be explored to inform future updates and review:

- Health outcomes and inequality, to include poverty and cost of living (Population Health)
- Health system recovery and pressures (T&G ICFT)
- Next steps for health integration - GMICS

The Chair also advised members that certain aspects of activity would continue to take place outside of the formal meetings.

7. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair updated members on the following matters.

- Scrutiny and Overview Chairs received role specific training, delivered by the Local Government Association (LGA) on 20 July 2022.
- Scrutiny reports received at Overview Panel on 25 July 2022, this included a paper providing a summary of work completed during the 2021/22 municipal year.
- All Scrutiny members were invited to attend a training session delivered by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny on 5 September 2022. A choice of two training sessions at 1pm and 6pm were offered.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel will take place on Thursday 4 November 2022.

9. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items for consideration at this meeting.

CHAIR