

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) held at 10.30
am on Wednesday, 7 December 2022

Present:

Members: Councillor M Ali (Chair)
Councillor J Birdi
Councillor J Gardiner
Councillor R Lakha
Councillor C Miks
Councillor B Mosterman
Councillor M Mutton
Councillor S Nazir

Co-Opted Members: Ed DeVane, Coventry Healthwatch

Other Members: Councillor R Lakha (substitute Cllr Jobbar)
Councillor S Nazir (substitute Cllr Lloyd)
Councillor M Mutton (Cabinet Member for Adult Services)
Mrs S Hanson (Co-optee for Education Matters – Scrutiny Board 2)

Employees (by Directorate)

Adult Services J Reading

Education and Skills K Nelson

Law and Governance V Castree, C Taylor

Others Present: M Cresswell (Senior Joint Commissioner for Learning Disabilities and Autism, Warwickshire County Council)
L Gaulton (Chief Officer Population Health and Inequalities, Coventry & Warwickshire Integrated Care Board)
A Parker (Public Health Registrar - Placement)
H Stephenson (Associate Director of Operations, Learning Disabilities & Autism Directorate, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust)
R Uwins (Head of Communications and Public Affairs, Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board)

Apologies: Councillors K Caan, J Clifford, G Hayre, J Innes, A Jobbar and J McNicholas

Public Business

21. Declarations of Interest

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

22. **To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd November 2022 were agreed and signed as a true record.

23. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

24. **Developing an Integrated Care Strategy and Integrated Care 5 Year Plan for Coventry and Warwickshire**

The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) received a briefing note by the Head of Communications and Public Affairs Officer, Coventry & Warwickshire Integrated Care Board and a presentation by the Chief Officer Population Health and Inequalities and the Head of Communications and Public Affairs Officer, Coventry & Warwickshire Integrated Care Board, which provided an overview of the Integrated Care Strategy (ICS) and the Integrated Care 5 Year Plan for Coventry and Warwickshire (ICP).

Members of the Scrutiny Board, having considered the content of the briefing note and presentation, asked questions and received information from officers on the following matters:

- The next steps and timeline for the ICS including the Action Plan.
- How the ICS would be monitored and evaluated using metrics to measure success.
- How engagement had been undertaken with communities and residents.
- The variety of formats utilised to ensure residents could engage fully to provide feedback on the ICS.
- The focus of the strategy on the 20% most deprived residents, leading on 3 key priorities and demonstrating through the priorities that a difference will be made.
- The additional plans the ICS put in place for the most deprived communities, equating to 20% of the city's population.
- Memberships of the boards involved and whether domiciliary care would be represented on them.
- How the Better Care Fund may be used in Coventry.
- How the ICS would impact on finances in the health and social care system.
- Face to face consultation being undertaken as it was more inclusive than online engagement. Consultation being undertaken with groups of each of the 7 protected characteristics.

Scrutiny Board 5 Members expressed concerns that the draft ICS was overcomplicated, the Boards too top heavy with NHS representation and there was not enough representation from the care system. Concerns were also raised regarding finances and the following information was requested:

- That ICB Officers consult further on the Integrated Care Strategy development with the majority of the population.
- That information would be brought back to SB5 regarding who engagement had taken place with, what events had been held and how productive they had been.
- A seminar for all Members on the Integrated Care Strategy Development and how it would align with the One Coventry priorities.
- The draft ICS would be circulated to members of SB5 following the ICP meeting on 8 12 2022.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board engage with the Integrated Care Board and the Integrated Care Partnership on the development of the Integrated Care Strategy.

25. **Autism Task and Finish Group Report**

The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) received a briefing note by the Scrutiny Co-ordinator and an Autism Update presentation by the Senior Joint Commissioner, Disabilities and Autism, working on behalf of Coventry and Warwickshire Councils and Coventry and Warwickshire NHS ICB, the Head of Commissioning and Quality, and the Associate Director of Operations Learning Disabilities & Autism Directorate, CWPT.

The Autism Task and Finish Group, jointly established by Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board 5 and Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board 2, took their recommendations to Cabinet on 12 April 2022. The recommendations within the report were approved. The briefing note updated Members on the implementation of these recommendations in Appendix 1.

The Autism update presentation highlighted:

- The Coventry and Warwickshire Autism Strategy
- Vision
- Five Local Strategy Priorities
- Key Areas of Work and progress so far including referral rates and adult autism diagnostic waiting times
 - A cyber-attack on data had made the August – October 2022 figures inaccessible.
 - The referral rate post Covid was higher in Coventry and Warwickshire than ever. The longest wait in October 2022 was 175 weeks.
 - Benchmarking was taking place with other areas of the country and a new trajectory was being modelled.
- Future Priorities:
 - Supporting autistic people and those with social, communication and emotional health needs to help themselves pre and post diagnosis
 - Reducing inequalities for autistic people and making Coventry and Warwickshire autism friendly places to live
 - Developing a range of organisations locally with the skills to support autistic people
 - Developing the all-age autism specialist support offer

- Co-producing, working together and learning about autism
- Reducing waiting times from 242 to 13 weeks or lower by March 2024, in line with NICE guidelines.

Members of Scrutiny Board 5, having considered the content of the briefing note and presentation, asked questions and received information from officers on the following matters:

- Referrals of children were mainly from schools, social workers and families.
- The increase in referrals across Coventry and Warwickshire had been an even geographic spread.
- Investment in training had meant autistic traits were being recognised earlier.
- Long periods of social isolation due to Covid had impacted on pre-school and school age children.
- 'Dimensions' and the e-brochure assisted with signposting and provision of information and advice for neurodivergent people and their families.
- Benchmarking against other health boards and cities was not possible due to each area recording Autism, ADHD and Neurodivergent data in different ways.
- Assessments were carried out both face to face and online and in healthcare and educational settings. All 8 external providers offered online assessments.

Scrutiny Board 5 Members expressed concerns over the long wait times for diagnostic assessments and requested information on the following:

- How many employees of Coventry City Council were autistic (if available) and how the City Council supported autistic employees.
- Could an alternative funder be found for the Employ Autism scheme? If not, whether there were plans for the City Council to introduce an in-house scheme. It was recommended that for Members participating in Autism Awareness Training, this would be discussed at the Member Training Panel.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board:

- 1. Note the update on the implementation of the recommendations from the Autism Task and Finish Group.**
- 2. Note there is a joint Task and Finish Group considering issues of Autism in Schools which is due to report to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) this municipal year.**

26. Work Programme and Outstanding Issues

The Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board (5) noted the work programme and agreed an earlier start time to meetings of 10:00 am from January 2023.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Board 5 meets at the earlier time of 10:00am from January 2023 onwards.

27. Any other items of Public Business

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 12.30 pm)