

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 3 July 2018 at the Town Hall, Royal Leamington Spa at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors Bromley, Mrs Falp, Mrs Knight and Parkins.

Also Present: Councillor Thompson.

1. **Apologies and Substitutes**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs Redford.

2. **Appointment of Chair**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Falp, and duly seconded, that Councillor Parkins be appointed Chair of Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

Resolved that Councillor Parkins be elected Chair of Warwick District Council's Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee for the municipal year 2018/19.

3. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2018 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

5. **Promoting Health & Wellbeing in the Wider District – Focus on Mental Health**

The Sub-Committee received a report from Health & Community Protection which outlined the work being undertaken by the Council and its partners to empower our communities to tackle mental health issues, suicide rates and social isolation.

Appendix 1 to the report detailed what was happening at Warwickshire County Council, in liaison with partners, to ensure local commitment to promoting and protecting the mental health and wellbeing (HWB) of its residents.

Appendix 2 detailed WDC's strategic approach to health and wellbeing for the next two years, with a table of actions for each of the three priorities agreed:

- To embed HWB at a strategic level
- To promote HWB to the wider community
- To address the HWB of our own staff

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Appendix 3 listed what various service areas/departments were doing to support mental health. Appendix 4 listed what the Voluntary Sector was doing to support individuals with mental health issues.

The Sub-Committee discussed what sector of society was most at risk from loneliness and social isolation and which groups were at greatest risk from suicide. The Localities & Partnerships Officer would circulate a copy of the Suicide Strategy to Sub-Committee Members and the Members noted that South Warwickshire County Public Health had successfully made a bid for funding over two years to reduce the suicide rate by 10% by 2021. The Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection would be pushing for the District to receive the benefit of some of this funding as the suicide rate was higher here.

The Sub-Committee was also informed that a training programme was being delivered to front-line staff addressing how to cope with residents with mental health issues. Members suggested that training be offered to provide interventions to people affected by suicide.

Resolved that

- (1) the work that the Council and partners are undertaking in empowering communities to tackle mental health issues, suicide rates and social isolation is noted;
- (2) the intention of the Council to sign up as partner of the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Board to the Public Health England Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health (in appendix 1) is noted; and
- (3) an update report will be given to the Sub-Committee in 12 months' time once the figures for suicide are available. The Localities & Partnerships Officer will check when these will be available.

(Councillor Thompson arrived during this item.)

6. Improved Housing Conditions

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Housing Services which provided an update on actions taken during 2017/18 in improving housing conditions in which residents live, this being a key task in the Health & Wellbeing Plan. This work included the Council's own housing stock and private sector housing.

In response to questions from Members, the Strategy & Development Manager replied that:

- He would circulate the figures for response time for housing adaptations (paragraph 8.7 in the report).

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- He did not know for how long officers would keep trying to visit tenants if attempts to do so were unsuccessful (paragraph 8.10 in the report). He did know that numerous attempts would be made.
- At paragraph 8.26 in the report, the 115 households that were not owners or tenants referred to lodgers or children still living at home with their parents.
- The current waiting list for social housing was 2200.

Resolved that the report is noted.

7. Health & Wellbeing Outside Bodies Updates

Councillor Thompson, Portfolio Holder for Health & Community Protection provided an update on the work being done by the Health & Wellbeing Board at Warwickshire County Council. Prior to the Sub-Committee meeting, he had circulated to Members presentations that had been made at the last meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board at the start May. These presentations provided information on:

- NHS England – Direct Commissioning
Commissioning health services in the West Midlands. These were for dental, general ophthalmic, pharmaceutical and local pharmaceutical services, Section 7a public health services (immunisation, cancer and non-cancer screening, child health immunisation services and sexual assault referral services) and the GP contract team.
- Joint Coventry & Warwickshire Pharmacy Steering Group
Draft terms of reference to deliver the recommendations from the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2018.

Councillor Thompson informed Members that a steering group had been set up at the County Council to monitor the recommendations of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) and it was hoped to engage pharmacists in the process. It might be necessary to conduct a supplementary PNA to include new housing from new developments in the area.

He also spoke about the immunisation programme and reported that there was above-average take-up of the flu vaccine in South Warwickshire. However, at national and local level, there was a significant rise in measles cases, with 11 cases this year reported in Warwickshire, three of which were from the Traveler community.

8. Review of the Work Programme & Forward Plan

The Sub-Committee considered a report from Democratic Services which informed it of its work programme for 2018 and the current Forward Plan for July to September 2018.

Resolved that:

- (1) the meeting of the Sub-Committee in August 2018 is cancelled because there is no business to discuss; and

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- (2) a report giving a 12 months' review on the JSNA be presented to the meeting in November.

(The meeting finished at 6.56 pm)