

HEALTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY PANEL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Panel held virtually on Thursday 18 November 2021 at 1.30pm.

Present

Councillor Lee Mason (Acting Chair)
Rob Wood (from 2pm)
Arthur Agate, East Hampshire District Council
Ann Briggs, Hampshire County Council
Trevor Cartwright, Fareham Borough Council
Lynn Hook, Gosport Borough Council
Roger Bentote, Winchester City Council

34. Welcome and Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Apologies were received from Councillors Ian Holder and Judith Smyth.

35. Declarations of Members' Interests (AI 2)

The Chair declared a non-prejudicial in item 7: he is registered at Portsdown Hill Surgery.

36. Minutes of the Previous Meeting - 16 September 2021 (AI 3)

Consideration of the previous minutes were deferred to a future meeting.

37. Adult Social Care (AI 4)

Simon Nightingale, Assistant Director for Health & Care Partnerships introduced the report and in response to questions from the panel, clarified the following points:

There is a Discharge to Assess Unit in Gosport.

A significant amount of work has been carried out to improve discharges to assessment beds. Some patients decline the move because they mistakenly believe the unit is a care home.

A letter on discharge to assessment options is given to patients on entry and when leaving hospital. Their initial care plan is discussed with them at hospital. The majority of full care plans are carried on outside of hospital to speed up discharge times.

The discharge teams work closely with patients and their families about long-term arrangements.

The panel noted the report.

38. South Central Ambulance Service (AI 5)

Tracy Redman, Head of Operations sent her apologies. No-one from the service could attend as all their resources are focused on patient care patient safety.

The Chair explained that any questions on the attached report could be sent to the Local Democracy Officer and these would be forwarded to Ms Redman.

39. Solent NHS Trust update (AI 6)

Suzannah Rosenberg, Chief Operating Officer presented her report and in response to questions, explained that:

Individual fitness videos have been created by members of Portsmouth Football Club to support people's rehabilitation. These are not public videos but are for patients accessing Solent Pulmonary Rehabilitation services. Feedback from patients will be brought to a future HOSP meeting.

International recruitment has gone very well. Solent has stopped using agency registered mental health nurses for inpatient units. The calibre of the nurses is very high. They have a range of experience alongside their mental health work and are usually dual trained. The recruitment will continue.

The mental health service provided at Harbour is virtual only.

The report was noted.

40. Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group and Health & Care Portsmouth update (AI 7)

Jo York, Managing Director of Health and Care Portsmouth presented her report and in response to questions explained that:

The NHS has received a significant increase in demand nationally and locally particularly during Summer and had capacity issues. This increase is due to the pandemic which has led to an increase in seasonal infections as people have lower immune systems.

The 111 system has received some investment and as a result has strengthened its call handling capacity service.

Workforce capacity has been stretched and all organisations are looking to do everything they can to improve.

The possibility of working with the fire and police services to improve access to 111 by phone or online is being investigated. Clinical validation from nurses or GPs would be ensured.

Councillor Mason noted that he had received many complaints from patients about access to the Portsdown practice.

Councillor Rob Wood joined the meeting at 2pm and said he had no interests to declare.

In response to further questions, Ms York explained that:

GPs and the wider health teams are continuing to work very hard during this pandemic.

GPs have an older workforce. More training places have been put in place and work has been carried out to make the model more attractive to newly graduated GPs who may not want to become partners including opportunities to be salaried or have a portfolio career. The Royal College is responsible for training and we try to influence the curriculum to ensure that the training resembles the job. One local GP is now in charge of some GP training for Health Education England.

GPs are part of a wider primary care team including pharmacies, PTs, therapists and nurses.

The shortage of GPs is recognised nationally.

The high levels of deprivation in Portsmouth presents challenges.

Patients can now be referred directly to physiotherapists rather than having to see a GP in the first instance.

It is important to have local people trained and mentored.

Newly qualified GPs leaving to work in other countries is a local and national issue.

The lack of workforce is definite being felt.

They recognise the challenges and stress people in the NHS have endured over the last 18 months.

A significant amount of work has been done about how patients can access the right service.

They recognise that patients may have to wait a long time for the pharmacy at QA Hospital and the impact that this has on discharge times. This is due to staffing challenges.

The Portsmouth Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Hants & Isle of Wight CCG cease on 1 April 2022. The functions will be transferred to the Integrated Care Board.

Portsmouth City Council and the CCG have a shared communications team.

They recognise that there are significant challenges in accessing primary care services across the board and are working hard locally with all partners to improve processes.

Some systems were improved and had unintended consequences.

QA Hospital has been under a lot of stress which has impacted some of the processes.

The panel was invited to visit the Portsdown Practice to talk with the management team.

Actions

Ms York will let the panel know how it might assist.

Councillor Mason will send details of the complaint where a green prescription was issued at the hospital pharmacy. This issue will be taken up with the Medicines Optimisation Team

The meeting ended at 2:40pm

.....

Chair