



**REPORT OF:** The Scrutiny Officer

**REPORT TO:** The Annual Review of Scrutiny.

**ON:** 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

**RE:** Committee Work programme 2015-16

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### **1. Purpose of the Report**

For Members at the Annual Review to note the work programme of the Health and Adults Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2015-16.

### **2. Background**

At the first meeting of the municipal year, the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care provided the Committee with an overview of the key priorities and risks for his portfolio for the year.

A detailed list of deliberations was circulated to the Committee and using this information as a guide, the Committee identified target areas that they felt were significant and required further scrutiny.

The following headlines were agreed to be scoped for their work programme for 2015-16;

- Carers support
- Effectiveness in homecare
- Maximising independence
- Your Call and community activity
- Integration of Care services with National Health services
- Impact and outcomes of BwD public health over the last two years

### **3. Work programme 2015/16**

The following topics have been completed throughout the course of the municipal year;

July – September 2015 – Integration of Care services with National Health services

At its meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015, senior officers from the Lancashire Care Foundation Trust (LCFT) and the East Lancashire Hospital Trust (ELHT) provided the Committee with an outline of their challenges and priorities.

Detailed discussions took place around how partnership working through the integration of health services could alleviate risk to the Local Authority's and its Partners key priorities. Members were informed that collaborative working was key to the successful delivery of health services moving forwards.

One of the key risks highlighted to Members was mental health services, particularly in respect of in-year and future budget efficiencies. Members felt that it would be beneficial to receive an in-depth briefing on Mental Health provision in the Borough.

On 27<sup>th</sup> August, a Task Group was given a briefing on Mental Health by Public Health and Blackburn with Darwen Clinical Commissioning Group. The briefing provided a broad overview of mental health, mental illness, mental wellbeing and the spectrum each of us may experience both prior to as post receipt of intervention services.

The key outcomes of this task group were;

- For members of the task group to receive Mental Health First Aid training
- For the task group to consider some of the detail of the current work linked to the Crisis Care Concordat.
- For a specific briefing to be arranged for the task group on the work of the Street Triage Service in the next municipal as it the service is in its infancy.

It was agreed that mental health services be picked up by the Committee as a hot topic and that Members received a further briefing on provision later in the year.

At its meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015, the Committee received a brief overview of how the LCFT was working with the Police to implement a new approach to mentally ill offenders, and those with learning difficulties with an aim to prevent vulnerable people being caught in the criminal justice system.

The Committee completed its review on the Integration of Care services with National Health services, and was satisfied that the Council was working hard to build successful relationships with partner organisations to ensure the best outcomes for the residents of the Borough.

The Committee recommended;

1. That the Committee request Lancashire Care Foundation Trust, Clinical Commissioning Group Blackburn with Darwen and Adult Services look to

ensure the correct level of provision is in place before de-institutionalising mental health care. This aspiration is to reduce the risk of people falling under the radar of this though and ensure there are enough avenues of support in place to meet demand.

2. That the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care and Lancashire Care Foundation Trust update the Committee with the risks and challenges they face in ensuring that those who are medically fit for discharge from hospital have a safe place to return too promptly to reduce 'bedblocking' in the A&E department.
3. That all Members, be offered the opportunity to complete 'Mental Health Lite' training in the next 12 months, and that all new Members undertake this training within their first 12 months in office.
4. That the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care look at the possibility, either via the Council or through partner agencies, to offer the 'Mental Health Lite' training to all Council employees that come into contact with Children.
5. That the Committee receive an annual update (at its penultimate or last meeting) from the Mental Health Champion on their work during the municipal year.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015 - Response to the 2014/15 recommendations and an update of key risks 2015/16

At its meeting of the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2015, the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care provided the Committee with a response to the recommendations it made in the municipal year 2014/15. Members noted the updates and were happy with the provisions in place to address them by the Executive Members so far.

The Committee had also requested an update on the Risks which were outlined by the Executive Member at the beginning of the municipal year 2015/16 be brought to its December meeting.

The Executive Members for Health and Adult Social Care advised the Committee that their risks were still the same as anticipated at the start of the municipal year but felt that there was now a higher risk than previously advised due to current budget pressures.

Members noted the pressures outlined by the Executive Member in their bid to mitigate the risks within their Portfolio.

## December 2015- March 2016 – Effectiveness in Homecare

Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen was invited to the 7<sup>th</sup> December meeting of the Committee to provide an update on their latest Homecare service review.

It was reported that Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen had issued series of documents which had been directly posted to a random sample of 500 local residents receiving domiciliary care services to ascertain their viewpoint on the level of care they were receiving.

Detailed discussions took place regarding the results of this consultation. Members noted that the key areas of concern were;

- Residents need to be informed of changes before they take place.
- Residents would like to keep the same staff.
- Residents should know who was coming to support them.
- During half hour visits, being 10 minutes late did not give enough time for care.
- If the carer was late, they should have to make the time up.

Members noted that the full Healthwatch report on Homecare Services would be published in February and felt it would be beneficial to gain a deeper understanding of the report's findings. Members agreed to invite the Chief Executive of Healthwatch back to the final meeting of the Committee on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

Following the update provided to the Committee at its final meeting on the full homecare services report, Members recommended;

1. That the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care explore the possible impact of the increased national minimum/living wage to Home Care services.
2. That the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care promote the conclusions demonstrated in the survey. The vast majority of which are positive and (by way of internal auditing) request the Executive Member for Adult Social Care to identify how they will address the remaining percentages.
3. That the Committee endorse the 8 recommendations made by Healthwatch Blackburn with Darwen in their 'Homecare in Blackburn with Darwen' report (February 2016).

4. That the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care advise the Committee of Blackburn with Darwens' Telecare benchmarking position when compared with other service providers.
5. That the Executive Member for Health and Adult Services advise the Committee what measures are being introduced to promote the use data sharing to support future Healthcare surveys.

#### January 2016 – Public Health and Mental Health

At its meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016, the Director of Public Health provided the Committee with a policy briefing on food, child poverty and health. In noting the potential magnitude of need for food aid in the Borough, Members agreed to invite a representative of the Trussell Trust Foodbank, Blackburn to the final meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to provide an overview of their service.

The Committee also received an update on the revised alcohol consumption guidance and which highlighted an increased correlation between potential cancer risk and high levels of drinking.

At the January meeting, the Committee also received a presentation on the role and work of the Mental Health Champion Cllr Brian Taylor.

Members discussed in depth the services available for people with mental health conditions and raised a number of questions on what was next for mental health provision in the Borough.

The Committee was informed that whilst there was a range of good work ongoing from several agencies, there was still much to be done.

It was agreed that an update on the work of the Mental Health Champion be brought to a meeting of the Committee in the next municipal year.

#### March 2016

To conclude its work programme on Food Poverty, the Committee agreed to invite a representative from Blackburn with Darwen and The Trussell Trust Foodbank Blackburn to its meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016 to provide Members with an update on their services.

The Committee received an overview of the updated usage figures for the Trussell Trust Foodbank in Blackburn. Members heard that since opening its new. Larger, premises, the Foodbank had been able to extend the services it offered to those in need.

It was reported that the Foodbank was in a unique position to be able to offer signposting and advice to residents in need as they formed a bond with people who otherwise may have fallen under the radar. Members supported

the positive work being completed by the Foodbank, including its new education provision and discussed how the Council could further assist and support the Foodbanks in the Borough.

1. That the Committee wish to explore options with the Executive Member for Health and Adult Social Care about how the Council can offer more support to Foodbanks.
2. That the Committee receive annual feedback on the work of the Foodbanks throughout Blackburn with Darwen to identify trends in levels of need, key trigger factors and where the Council or other partner agencies could assist further.

#### Remaining Topics

Given the difficult circumstances, challenging environment the Council is faced with, Members agreed to undertake a number of hot topics that arose throughout the course of the municipal year. This meant unfortunately a number of topics agreed at the beginning of the year could not be undertaken.

#### **4. Risk**

The Committee can demonstrate that in light of the ongoing challenges and cuts the Council faces, Members have considered and revisited the risks identified by the Executive Member at the beginning of the municipal year; to see if they remain the same, had become more or less of a concern, or in an ongoing era of austerity, new risks to portfolios had arisen during the course of the year. This has provided Members with assurance and oversight of the increasing difficulties the Council faces in continuing to deliver services.

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