

## **PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 5TH JULY 2021**

**Present-** Councillor Liddle, in the Chair, Councillors Mahfooz Hussain, Fielding, Smith and Whittle.

**Also Present-** Sayyed Osman, Strategic Director, Adults, Health and Strategic Commissioning.

Paul Conlon, Democratic Services.

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. Attention was drawn to the fact that at the Annual Meeting of the Council the main opposition group had decided not to appoint members to the Committee and that this would detract from the important and collaborative work undertaken by the Committee.

### **2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

### **3. Declaration of interests**

Councillor Mahfooz Hussain declared an interest in item 6, Update on the Impact of Covid19 on Residential and Domiciliary Care Market, as he runs a Domiciliary Care Agency in the Borough.

### **4. Youth Forum Update**

The Committee received an update on the work of the youth forum. The Forum were very busy looking at a range of issues that affected young people in the borough. The current issues being examined included:-

- Vaccination and supporting the drive to get people vaccinated
- Young people and crime
- Mental health in young people
- The website and accessibility together with links to poverty.

The chair drew attention to the previous meeting which had looked at the review of safeguarding and the intention for the youth forum to get involved to give the perspectives of young people. The views of young people would also assist in the vaccination programme achieved maximum take up by dispelling myths and fears and promoting immunisation.

**RESOLVED-** That the work of the youth Forum be noted and their involvement in the safeguarding review and the vaccination take up campaigns be welcomed.

## **5. Update on Covid19 and Public Health**

The Committee received an update from the Strategic Director on the current position with regard to COVID 19 in the borough.

He outlined the rates of infection and the methods being used to reduce this and ensure that there was a maximum uptake of the vaccine in all sections of the community to break the cycle of infection. The Committee looked at the use of surge testing and close work that was being undertaken with the NHS and other partners. The Committee were informed of the current vaccination rates in the borough and the uptake by age groups. The Committee looked at the rates of current hospitalisation and the lobbying that was being carried out to recognise the links between rates of infection and deprivation in areas. The Committee were keen to support the work being done to try and get younger people of school age vaccinated to break the cycles of infection and that ideally this should be done before the end of the summer term.

Members discussed efforts that were being made to ensure maximum vaccination and the myth busting and members of the youth forum would get involved with this work from a young person's perspective.

**RESOLVED-** 1. That the current work to tackle Covid19 infection in the borough be noted.

2 That the officers be complemented on the work that is being carried out to seek to reduce infection in the borough.

3. That the work of the youth forum in dispelling the myths relating to young people and vaccinations be welcomed.

## **6. Update on the impact of Covid19 on Residential and Domiciliary Care Market.**

The Committee received an update from the Strategic Director Adults, Health and Strategic Commissioning on the impact of the pandemic on the residential and domiciliary care market.

The Committee were informed that the Covid-19 Pandemic had presented an unprecedented peace time challenge. In particular the health impact on vulnerable adults had been the greatest, resulting in emergency policies being put in place by Government and subsequently NHS and Local authorities. Covid-19 had a major and sustained impact on social care in England and impacting on an already under resourced and neglected Policy area. There had been 27,179 excess deaths among care home residents in England since March 2020, 20% increase overall. 9,571 excess deaths reported among people receiving domiciliary care, 62% increase. Social care staff have been at higher risk of dying from Covid-19 than others of the same age and sex. Wider health impacts were harder to measure but significant. Workforce have been exceptional and continue to work long hours, had not been able to take annual leave and risk of fatigue and burnout. The policy response to Covid-19 was complex and evolving with multiple demands from different sources.

The Help Hub had been supported by the Council and had been supplying essentials and food and volunteer support to keep people safe and resilient. Food packs, daily calls, volunteers to get prescriptions and help had been supported for those on the national shielding programme. Apart from the elderly and frail, adult social care also provided services and support for all

vulnerable adults, homeless people and other vulnerable groups. All have been impacted by Covid.

The Committee looked at the unprecedented demands on the Council and Adult Social Care who had been working under significant pressure and demands since March 2020. The service had been working 7 days and 12 hours daily to meet demand from the NHS but also supporting registered care settings and our most vulnerable. Since March 2020 Home First service was required to develop further to meet the requests from central government and adhere to 'Hospital Discharge Service : Policy and Operating Model (2020)'. New pathways such as discharge to assess and designated settings had been introduced and the Council had done everything to help the regulated care sector and had been fair and proportionate. Some authorities had chosen to do other things based on their resources. Funding support for the Care Sector for Infection Prevention Control, testing and workforce support had been fully pass ported through to recipients as quickly as possible.

The Committee looked at the key issues going forward. Many of which impacted on regulated care and on the core issues such as PPE, Infection Prevention Control, testing, vaccination, quarantine, isolation etc. The Council had done everything it could to support the regulated and domiciliary care sector and would continue to do so as long as possible.

**RESOLVED-**

That the Committee recognised the work that had been undertaken in the domiciliary care sector to ensure that the residents were safe and secure and that their needs were met and the continued dedication and care shown by staff and partners in meeting the needs of those unable to meet their own needs.

Chair.....

Date at which the minutes were signed.....