

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

27TH MARCH 2023.

Present- Councillor J. Slater, in the Chair, Councillors Harling, Hardman, Smith and Whittingham.

Also Present- Councillor Desai, Executive Member, Mark Warren, Strategic Director, Paul Conlon, Democratic Services

1. Welcome and Apologies

The chair welcomed those present to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st November 2022.

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st November were submitted.

RESOLVED- that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st November 2022 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

4. Safeguarding Review

The Committee received a report and presentation from the Strategic Director of Adults and Health on the review of the Adult Safeguarding arrangements. The Strategic Director had a strategic responsibility on behalf of the Local Authority to ensure Safeguarding board is in place and able to implement the requirements of the Care Act 2014.

The arrangements in place within the borough had been reviewed to evaluate the effectiveness of the Pan Lancashire approach and the effectiveness of the local board. The Local Government Association in association with the Association of Directors of Social Services had been asked to organise an independent Consultant to undertake the review. The Committee were informed of the methodology of the review and the information that had been provided to the consultant and how the access to the website had been available.

The Strategic Director had received recommendations and comments as a result of the five day review. The recommendations were in light of the fact that the Lancashire Safeguarding Adults Executive Board had been stood down and statutory responsibility passed to the local place based safeguarding adult's boards. The Committee were informed that Blackburn with Darwen had appointed Dr Henri Giller as its independent chair. The new board would offer robust oversight of safeguarding work in the borough and the Local Accountability Board will offer the scrutiny to ensure the work is focused on what matters within the borough. The local SAB will set up the

governance to enable the panels to be created and served. The Committee were informed that the board would meet twice a year, chaired by the Leader of the Council and attended by senior stakeholder's representatives.

The Committee considered the further recommendations from the review which will be implemented. The review concluded that there is a strong commitments to safeguarding and addressing areas for strengthening the accountability and scrutiny which was highlighted as part of the review.

Members noted that the annual report on Safeguarding Adults would be submitted to the Committee who could gain an overview of the issues facing the borough and scrutinise the work that was being undertaken in the borough.

RESOLVED- 1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Committee approve the revised Adult Safeguarding Arrangements for the borough and the appointment of the independent chair of the Accountability Board.

5. Blackburn with Darwen Safeguarding Adult Board.

The Committee received the annual report of the Safeguarding Board for 2021/22. The report highlighted the work that board and the outcomes that had been achieved over the twelve month period within the context of a health and care system prioritising their response to covid, protecting the most vulnerable adults in the community and supporting providers to offer good care in challenging conditions.

The Committee were informed that as a system the board had continued to ensure that people were safeguarded from abuse and that they continue to learn from the analysis of data that were outlined in the report. The report highlighted that were more allegations relating to acts of neglect and omission. The board were looking to build on the work undertaken during the year to strengthen our safeguarding governance at a local level and to continue to ensure that multi-agency partnerships were strong, effective and most importantly accountable to local people. Members looked at the statistical analysis of the safeguarding activity and how these were collected. The work to update the system used to collect data was outlined and that this had been approved by the Executive Board at a recent meeting.

The Committee noted the Boards highlighted priorities for the next year and how these would be delivered.

RESOLVED- that the annual report of the board be noted and progress on the priorities be reported to the Committee during the new municipal year.

6. Assurance Preparation Awareness Challenge.

The Committee received a presentation from the Strategic Director for Adult Social Care on the assurance preparedness challenge day held on 6th March 2023. The day had been delivered virtually. The Challenge Team had recognised and commended the Blackburn with Darwen team for their organisation, positive engagement and openness throughout the process.

The review had 4 main themes which were

- Theme 1: working with People (assessing needs)
- Theme 2: providing Support (care Provision, Integration and continuity)
- Theme 3: Ensuring Safety (safeguarding), and,
- Theme 4 Leadership (Learning, Improving & Innovation).

Members asked a number of questions relating to the Digital Inclusion Strategy and how people access services, the time line for the review of services and reconfigurations necessary to meet the challenges, the level of discharges from hospital and the comparisons with other areas.

RESOLVED- that the Committee welcome the findings and response to the Assurance Challenge and be kept informed of progress on the issues raised.

7. Quality Care Homes in the Borough

The Committee looked at the issue of Quality Care Homes in the Borough. The Strategic Director updated members on the work that was ongoing in the borough to seek to improve and maintain quality care homes. He outlined how an improvement had been achieved in the homes and how this would continue. At present 58% of homes were now quality assured and this figure would rise with the work that is ongoing.

RESOLVED- That the update on care homes and quality be received and the Committee be kept updated on progress in the sector and how we continue to work to ensure delivery of quality homes.

8. Progress of the Task Group looking at Leisure Centre Usage and re:refresh.

The Committee were updated on the work of members on the re:refresh task group. The group had made recommendations and the Executive Member had agreed to attend the next meeting of the Committee to address these recommendations.

RESOLVED- that the progress be noted and the Executive Members undertaking to attend the next meeting be noted.

Chair at the meeting where the minutes were agreed.....

Date.....