

AT A MEETING of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee of
HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL held at the Castle, Winchester on Tuesday,
16th January, 2024

Chairman:

* Councillor Bill Withers Lt Col (Retd)

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| * Councillor Ann Briggs | * Councillor Andrew Joy |
| * Councillor Jackie Branson | * Councillor Lesley Meenaghan |
| * Councillor Pamela Bryant | * Councillor Phil North |
| * Councillor Graham Burgess | * Councillor Kim Taylor |
| Councillor Tonia Craig | * Councillor Andy Tree |
| Councillor Debbie Curnow-Ford | * Councillor Michael Ford |
| * Councillor Alan Dowden | * Councillor Dominic Hiscock |
| * Councillor David Harrison | |
| * Councillor Marge Harvey | |
| * Councillor Wayne Irish | |
| * Councillor Adam Jackman | |

* present

158. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Curnow-Ford and Craig with Councillors Ford and Hiscock deputising. Co-opted member Cllr Garton gave her apologies.

159. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All Members who believe they have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting must declare that interest and, having regard to Part 3 Paragraph 1.5 of the County Council's Members' Code of Conduct, leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with Paragraph 1.6 of the Code. Furthermore, all Members with a Personal Interest in a matter being considered at the meeting should consider, having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 4 of the Code, whether such interest should be declared, and having regard to Part 5, Paragraph 5 of the Code, consider whether it is appropriate to leave the meeting while the matter is discussed, save for exercising any right to speak in accordance with the Code.

160. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 November 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

161. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Withers highlighted the following:

Winter illness - In recent weeks winter infections data had shown a mixed picture, though there were very early signs that cases of flu and COVID-19, as well as another winter virus called RSV, might be decreasing in the South-east region. Vigilance was required, however, as an increasing trend in these infections continued to be seen at national level. There were also signals that the recent yellow and amber cold weather alerts had had an impact on healthcare service demand. The cold weather had the potential to impact the whole population, both young and old. There was particular risk to those aged 65+ and some other vulnerable groups, such as those sleeping rough and those with long-term health conditions, including respiratory and cardiovascular conditions.

Changes to Health Scrutiny powers – Local authorities' powers of referral to the Secretary of State had been removed. Instead of the referral power, health overview scrutiny committees and other interested parties could write to request (via a call-in request form) that the Secretary of State consider calling in a proposal. DHSC expects requests only to be used in exceptional situations where local resolution had not been reached. Such a request would then be considered as set out in the statutory guidance.

Portsmouth Medical School – it was pleasing to see the announcement last month that Portsmouth University was going to be training doctors locally.

Autism and dementia training - There were two very informative presentations at the December member briefing session that were discussed at this Committee and at Children's Services Select Committee on autism and dementia.

Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Frimley Park – the Chairman updated the Committee on the proposals for a new hospital. It was agreed that the Council would appoint members to a Joint Committee.

162. DEPUTATIONS

The Chairman set out the context for the deputation and agenda item 6/minute 163 – the proposed changes include, three new builds, three major refurbishments, seven residential home closures, closures of three further standard residential services and the closure of the Solent Mead Day Service.

The Cabinet had approved, in principle, the proposed investment programme that covers the different elements at its meeting of 18 July 2023, subject to the public consultation.

He called on Anita Barry and Amber Channon to make their deputation in relation to item 6 on the agenda – HCC Care Older Adults Portfolio – Proposed Service Changes.

The deputation was received and the Chairman thanked the speakers.

163. HCC CARE OLDER ADULTS PORTFOLIO - PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGES

The Committee received an overarching report (item 6 in the minute book) from the Director of Adults' Health and Care setting out: (i) the report of the HCC Care Proposals Working Group and (ii) the Draft report from the Director of Adults' Health and Care for the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health's Decision Day on 8 February. The Insight and Engagement report initially received and reviewed by the Care Homes Working Group was set out in full.

Having previously summarised the context for this item in minute 162 above, the Chairman invited Cllr A Briggs as Chairman of the cross-party HCC Care Proposals Working Group to present its findings.

Cllr Briggs outlined the composition and purpose of the cross-party working group, which was to oversee the public consultation, analyse its results and make recommendations to the Committee.

Cllr Briggs confirmed that the cross-party Member Working Group had met 8 times and had worked diligently throughout recognising the significance of the closure proposals that the public consultation was based on.

Cllr Briggs outlined how the final 4 meetings from the beginning of December 2023, had been dedicated to reviewing the consultation outcomes and working with officers, including making requests of them, in response to the main issues raised.

Cllr Briggs described how the Members of the Working Group had visited 4 HCC Care homes as part of their time together. This enabled Members to see how different homes operate and allowed Members to speak openly and informally with residents, with staff and with the Registered Managers of the homes.

Cllr Briggs also confirmed that all Members of HASC had been given the opportunity to visit the Care Homes and that some had taken up the offer.

Cllr Briggs described how the Care Home visits to Bishops Waltham House and to Emsworth House had highlighted several limitations at the 2 homes, including struggles for staff in going about their everyday business and the difficulties in terms of being able to treat residents in a dignified manner.

Cllr Briggs outlined some of the limitations witnessed including the cramped conditions, personal space that is inadequate, that doesn't meet Care Quality Commission floorspace standards, narrow/tight corridors, the lack of storage space and the difficulties involved in using and storing equipment.

The lack of personal dignity was of real concern to all Members of the Working Group, with the lack of toilets in residents' rooms, and the need for commodes.

All Members of the Working Group were concerned by what they witnessed, especially the lack of personal dignity at the 2 homes and were all agreed that continuing to operate with current provision where buildings and layouts are increasingly not fit for purpose, should not be endorsed.

The Chairman introduced a “virtual visit” video that portrayed the above factors in two of the homes. It also showed more modern HCC Care Nursing home environments, albeit at homes with different layouts, where personal space and the home layouts are more modern and in line with Care Quality Commission standards.

Cllr Briggs then summarised the findings of the consultation in relation to the care homes and services that are proposed to close. Cllr Briggs confirmed that the Working Group report covered in detail the points she would make but wanted all HASC Members and those present at the meeting to understand the main points that came from the consultation process.

Cllr Briggs confirmed that 724 official consultation responses were received and that in addition a number of unofficial responses through direct letter or from informal sessions held by HCC Care senior managers with residents, their families and with staff, had also complemented the main consultation response findings.

Cllr Briggs reminded everyone that the papers for the meeting included the full consultation outcomes report produced by the Corporate Insight and Engagement team.

Cllr Briggs outlined how the responses received had largely come from 4 main groupings:

- Residents/their families/their representatives
- Staff and/or volunteers
- Those living near to the homes/services being consulted on
- Other interested parties including organisations and democratically elected representatives

Cllr Briggs confirmed that there was higher level of support than there was disagreement for 3 of the 4 proposal categories: namely the immediate closure of Copper Beeches and Cranleigh Paddock, the proposed modifications and expansions of Emsworth House, Oakridge House and Ticehurst, and the proposed closure and replacement of Malmesbury Lawn and Westholme.

Cllr Briggs highlighted that the remaining closure proposal category – the proposed closures of Bishops Waltham House, Green Meadows, and Solent Mead within 6-12 months of the Executive Lead Member decision, was strongly publicly opposed. Cllr Briggs also confirmed that petitions had also been received opposing the closure of Bishops Waltham House and Green Meadows and that a petition in respect of Solent Mead was expected to be submitted to the Council ahead of the Executive Lead Member decision day.

Cllr Briggs confirmed that the main issues raised from the consultation, especially from residents and their families, related to the uncertainty that they

were feeling because of the closure proposals. This covered the availability of alternative provision, worries about whether residents would be visited if they moved, how a change to a different care home would impact financially and what support would be received from HCC staff, including professional Social Workers.

Cllr Briggs carefully covered each of the above points and demonstrated that plentiful alternative care provision does exist within 10 miles of each of the homes, and that a good number of the available homes are currently being accessed by the Adults, Health, and Care Directorate in support of the clients that they are responsible for, but for whom are cared for by the independent sector.

Cllr Briggs outlined visitor information that confirmed that nearly all existing residents at the 3 homes are visited by family and/or representatives that access the homes by car.

Cllr Briggs also highlighted just how dynamic the residential and nursing service area is and explained that HCC Care and Social Workers are highly experienced when it comes to meeting constantly changing care needs and supporting residents to move to alternative care settings wherever required. It was explained that this is very part of daily working and that it is testament to how well residents are looked after and supported in a very person-centred way, that a lot of the work performed daily is not better understood.

Cllr Briggs referenced other aspects of the consultation findings before the Chairman concluded the report presentation and invited Members of the Working Group and then wider HASC Members to make any observations and/or to raise questions for the officers who were present to answer.

Following contributions and/or questions from most HASC Members who were present, the recommendations to the HASC Committee from the Working Group as set out in the report (and listed below) were passed unanimously.

That the Committee:

- a) Acknowledge that a robust cross-party Working Group process, Chaired by Councillor Briggs, and consisting of 9 HASC Members, has been in operation since it was established at the end of July 2023.
- b) Note that Member Working Group participation was strong, regular, and consistent throughout the 5-6 month period and that eight Working Group meetings took place in total, including four meetings from early December following receipt of the findings from the public consultation.
- c) Note that, in addition to the Working Group meetings, Members of the Working Group visited four HCC Care homes to better understand the operating conditions and variability of the current service offer, and to help 'bring to life' the drivers for the Cabinet approved investment plans and specifically the closure proposals that the public were being consulted on.

d) Note that the Working Group witnessed the limitations of existing HCC Care settings and approved a Care Homes video to be produced and to be shared with the wider HASC and public at today's meeting.

e) Note that the Working Group, having carefully considered and debated a wealth of information including from the public consultation findings, support the proposals being taken forward to the Executive Lead Member's February meeting, acknowledging that the final report will also include the main points that result from today's HASC meeting.

f) Note, that in supporting the proposals on which the public consultation was based the Member Working Group back the HCC Care investment plans agreed to in principle by Cabinet, recognising that additional beds in more fit for the future homes will help the County Council to better meet the future requirements of Older Adults, especially those with complex needs.

g) Note, that the nine strong Member Working Group individually support:

1. the permanent closure of Copper Beeches and Cranleigh Paddock Residential Care Homes,
2. the closure of Bishops Waltham House, Green Meadows, and Solent Mead (including the Day Service) Residential Care Homes,
3. the cessation of residential care provision at Oakridge House, Ticehurst and Emsworth House as part of the plans to modernise and expand these Homes,
4. the closure of Malmesbury Lawn and Westholme on the completion of the proposed new builds at Oak Park and Cornerways.

h) Specifically recommend to the Executive Lead Member that if she does approve the HCC Care home closure proposals at her 8 February Decision Day, and to minimise future impact for the homes that will cease providing standard residential services, that the 6 homes in question (2 and 3) above, stop admitting new clients with immediate effect.

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Working Group be accepted in full.

Following a short break, the Committee then reviewed the Draft officer report for the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health's Decision Day on 8 February. It was noted that this was due to be published on 31 January.

Following a brief introduction from the Deputy Director of Adults' Health, and Care, the Committee agreed that there were no comments on the Draft report of the Officer that it wished to bring to the attention of the Executive Lead Member and after securing clarity and requesting a minor wording amendment to the final

recommendation in the report, Members of HASC confirmed their individual support for each of the recommendations contained within the Draft Executive Lead Member Report.

164. **ISSUES RELATING TO THE PLANNING, PROVISION AND/OR OPERATION OF HEALTH SERVICES**

The Committee received a report (item 7 in the minute book) setting out updates from NHS partners on the following matters:

- Maternity – CQC presentation
- Winter plan update (including presentation slides from South Central Ambulance)
- Primary Care Access
- Strategic Update on primary care networks
- Whitehill and Bordon Health Hub

Maternity

The Chairman welcomed Julie Dawes and Liz McLeod from Hampshire Hospitals and Margaret Beattie from Hampshire & IoW ICB to address the circulated slides. The slides summarised progress against a number of areas addressed by Care Quality Commission actions, safe staffing and listening to patients and staff.

It was noted that the Trust's exit from the national programme of support was due to be considered by the National Quality Board. In relation to questions about supporting staff with incidents and claims, the National Patient Safety Response Framework was being implemented which promoted a just learning culture. The issue did not feature strongly in exit interviews.

Communication was the most frequently occurring complaint theme. The process for handling hospital complaints and concerns was discussed.

Winter pressures

The Chairman welcomed Sara Tiller from the Hampshire & IoW ICB, Paul Jefferies from South Central Ambulance, Paula Anderson from Southern Health and Julie Dawes remained for this item.

The principal components of the winter plan were described, including keeping people safe at home and effecting the discharge of patients who were deemed no longer to meet the criteria to reside in hospital. There had been some increased in discharge capacity which had helped to improve length of stay but it remained a challenge to discharge patients in a timely manner. Provider trusts monitored re-admissions. Discharge of patients with complex needs remained complex to manage effectively across multiple agencies; all agencies had a stake in the discharge process.

In relation to ambulance activity, the following principal points were noted:

- Category 2 calls made up c55% of calls; category 1 was 6-9%
- Ambulance delays at hospitals were a factor in a busy winter season
- The ambulance trusts deployed Hospital Ambulance Liaison Officers to help manage flow
- Patients were cared for in ambulances while awaiting transfer to hospital
- Retention of staff was improving and the Trust had a range of support and incentives

More detailed, comparative data on handover delays was requested for the March meeting of the Committee.

Primary Care and Primary Care Networks

The Chairman welcomed Martyn Rogers to support this item, which was led by Sara Tiller. The Primary care Recovery Plan, described in the report, was highlighted.

Challenges around primary care access in the Basingstoke area were highlighted by Cllr Taylor. She described a range of long-standing issues about improving GP access and problems with the effectiveness of the patient participation groups in the locality and whether registered patients were allowed to join.

It was noted that GPs submitted an annual report to the ICB about the complaints they had handled.

It was agreed to return to the topic of GP access with more information at a future meeting.

Whitehill & Bordon Health Hub

The Chairman welcomed Lisa Medway from the Hampshire & IoW ICB who supported Sara Tiller in the delivery of this update. It was noted that that the public consultation on this proposal was completed and detailed designs were being progressed and a planning application submitted. Two key provider prospective tenants had agreed to take occupancy.

It was confirmed that the opening of the new hub did not itself entail the closure of The Chase Community Hospital. Although only 25% utilised, services based at The Chase would need to be relocated before closure of the site was contemplated. The plan was to move services from The Chase to the new Health Hub when completed.

It was suggested that the ICB could produce some literature setting out the plans in this regard to inform local people of the plans.

RESOLVED

The updates were noted by the Select Committee

165. CAPITAL PROGRAMME FOR 2024/25 TO 2026/27

The Committee received a report (agenda item 8 in the minute book) to pre-scrutinise the proposals for the Capital programme for 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 ahead of the Decision Day of Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health.

The slides showed a proposed capital programme for 2024/25 of £187,733k.

RESOLVED

The recommendations proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health in of the attached report were supported by the Select Committee.

166. 2024/25 REVENUE BUDGET REPORT FOR ADULTS' HEALTH AND CARE

The Committee received a report (agenda item 9 in the minute book) the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee to pre-scrutinise the proposals for the 2024/25 budget for Adults Health and Care ahead of the Decision Day of Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health.

The slides highlighted the local government finance settlement for 2024/25 which would leave the Council with a with a predicted gap of at least £86m. The budget for adults' social care was expected to be £584,760k and £56,187k for public health.

There was a savings requirement of £5m for achieve in 2024/25. The local government pay award had not been factored in and the National Living Wage had been increased. Other pressures arose from inflation, and the support needs for people over 65 years being discharged from hospital. However, it was confirmed that no new savings were being presented today.

As some members felt unable to support the revenue budget, the Chairman called a vote.

RESOLVED

The recommendations proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health in of the attached report were supported by the Select Committee.

167. SAVINGS PROGRAMME 2025 (SP25) UPDATE

Following approval at the 21st November 2023 meeting, a Task and Finish Working Group was established in order to assist the Adults' Health and Care Directorate with the decision-making process in respect of its SP25 proposals and the associated Stage 2 Consultations. The agreed purpose of the Working Group was to oversee and scrutinise the approach and outcomes of the Stage 2 Consultation relating to the adult social care grants programme for voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, the withdrawal of all funding for

non-statutory Homelessness Support Services and proposals relating to changes to the way in which contributions towards non-residential social care costs are calculated.

The Working Group met for the first time on 14 December and were provided an overview of the approach being taken for the consultation, including the engagement being undertaken corporately, as well as the additional tailored engagement with potentially impacted stakeholders for each AHC proposal. The Working Group were also provided with the proposed mitigations if the decision were to be made to approve these proposals.

The Future Services public formal Consultation was launched on 8 January and runs for 12 weeks, concluding on 31 March 2024. The Working Group will meet again on 7th February with a further two meetings currently planned.

168. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Committee received the updated Work Programme (agenda item 11 in the minute book) for information.

The Chairman requested an update on Continuing Health Care for the next meeting.

RESOLVED

The Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee discussed and agreed potential items for the work programme to be prioritised and allocated by the Chairman of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee in consultation with the Director of Adult's Health and Care.

Chairman,