

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Health and Adult Social Care and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
held on Thursday, 3rd December, 2020 at Virtual Meeting

PRESENT

Councillor L Wardlaw (Chairman)
Councillor A Moran (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors J Barber, S Brookfield, J Clowes, A Critchley, D Edwardes, B Evans, L Smetham, D Murphy, P Redstone, J Weatherill and N Wylie

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor L Jeuda, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health; Deputy Leader of the Labour Group
Councillor J Rhodes, Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Corporate Services

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

Win Lawlor, Strategic Policy and Partnerships Manager (Irish Community Care)**
Madeleine Lowry, Associate Director of Operations (Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust)*
Sandra Murphy, Head of Safeguarding**
Mark Palethorpe, Executive Director of People
Dawn Taylor, Manager Cheshire and Warrington Traveller Team (Cheshire West and Chester Council)**
Nichola Thompson, Director of Commissioning
Dr Matt Tyrer, Director of Public Health

* Attended for Minute No. 59 only

** Attended for Minute No. 60 only

54 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor S Gardiner, who was substituted for by Councillor L Smetham.

55 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED –

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 November 2020, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

56 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

57 DECLARATION OF PARTY WHIP

There were no declarations of a party whip.

58 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

59 COVID-19 UPDATE

The committee received an update on the Covid-19 pandemic, and the work undertaken by the council to manage the borough's response to the public health situation. The update provided information on the national vaccination development progress and of the forthcoming mass vaccination programme.

Members asked questions and put comments in relation to;

- how the NHS and partners were working to ensure that there was a high uptake of the Covid-19 vaccination;
- surprise that staff and residents at care homes had not yet accessed flu vaccinations, and what the reasons were for the low uptake;
- concern about the unpaid carers in Cheshire East – a cohort of people who may not be immediately eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine – but have a very important caring role for residents; and
- how long it takes for people to achieve a state of immunity after taking the Covid-19 vaccination.

RESOLVED –

That the update be received and noted.

60 GYPSY, ROMA AND TRAVELLER COMMUNITY WELFARE - WE'RE STILL HERE

Pursuant to the previous updates and informal briefing sessions it had held on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community welfare, the committee received and considered the recently-published 'We're Still Here' report – a research study into the needs and preferences of Gypsy/Traveller communities in the Cheshire, Halton and Warrington region.

Members put questions and comments in relation to;

- how the Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on the mental wellbeing of communities that had not been able to travel and visit relatives;

- the rights of the Police in relation to authorised and unauthorised encampments;
- the Inequalities Commission that had been established by Cheshire East Council's Health and Wellbeing Board;
- why there were reportedly higher rates of suicide amongst the Gypsy/Traveller communities, and what could be done to address this; and
- how authorities could ensure that positive messaging is provided to these communities regarding the Covid-19 mass vaccination programme, which would help to ensure a high uptake.

RESOLVED –

- 1 That the relevant studies and further reading in relation to mental health and wellbeing struggles, and higher prevalence of suicide, amongst Gypsy/Traveller communities be circulated to the committee electronically.
- 2 That hard copies of the We're Still Here report be sent to members of the committee and be made available to other members of the council.

61 FORWARD PLAN

Pursuant to the previous updates and informal briefing sessions it had held on Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community welfare, the committee received and considered the recently-published 'We're Still Here' report – a research study into the needs and preferences of Gypsy/Traveller communities in the Cheshire, Halton and Warrington region.

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62 **WORK PROGRAMME**

The committee reviewed and discussed its work programme.

RESOLVED –

That the Scrutiny Officer liaise with officers and partners to obtain more information on when the following updates could appropriately be presented to the committee:

- Specialist Orthodontic and Oral Surgery Services in Cheshire East (in response to a recent communication to health scrutiny committees that outlined the proposed next steps for this piece of work)
- Review of Autism Screening at Cheshire's Custody Suites
- Re-design of Adults and Older People's Mental Health Services in Cheshire East.

The meeting commenced at 10.00 am and concluded at 11.56 am

Councillor L Wardlaw (Chairman)