

Meeting:	Council
Meeting date:	15 July 2016
Title of report:	Annual report of the health and social care overview and scrutiny committee 2015/16
Report by:	Chairman: health and social care overview and scrutiny committee

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

To inform full Council of the work undertaken by the health and social care overview and scrutiny committee during the municipal year 2015/16.

Recommendation

THAT: the report be noted

Alternative options

- 1 There are no alternative options as the report is for information only.

Reasons for recommendations

- 2 To comply with the requirement in the council's constitution that full Council will receive annual reports from committees.
- 3 The scrutiny function is a legal requirement by virtue of Schedule 2 of the Localism Act 2011.

Key considerations

- 4 Since the annual meeting of full Council, the health and social care overview and scrutiny committee has met in public on eight occasions with a further meeting held jointly with the general overview and scrutiny committee for pre-scrutiny of the budget and corporate plan.
- 5 There have been many subjects brought before the committee throughout the year.

These included the children and young peoples' plan for 2015-18 which set out the priority areas for partners to focus on and make improvements, with oversight from the health and wellbeing board via the children and young people's partnership. Also considered by the committee was the proposal for a new information and signposting hub, now known as WISH, which was launched in early 2016. The committee also learned about the new provider of alcohol and substance misuse services, Addaction, which began its contract to provide services from December 2015.

- 6 Accountability sessions, which were created in light of the Francis Enquiry and Mid Staffordshire NHS Trust have continued. These sessions are for members and members of the public to question the major health bodies on their performance over the past year and their future plans. During this year, the committee held two accountability sessions, one with West Midlands Ambulance Service, and one with public health services.
- 7 The committee also continued to receive reports from Wye Valley NHS Trust after the Trust was put into special measures by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), in order to continue the monitoring of how the situation was being addressed. The committee was attended by both the trust's chief executive and the chairman.
- 8 Periodic updates are received from partners, either to review performance or to provide progress reports on service delivery. In 2015-16, the committee heard updates regarding the stroke pathway project, the urgent care pathway, and on performance in children's safeguarding activity and adults and wellbeing services. The committee also considered regular updates from Healthwatch Herefordshire with the aim of highlighting areas of concern in health care provision in order to identify possible topics for further scrutiny. This year, issues around mental health services, in particular for children and young people were a theme, and Healthwatch reports prompted future work that included scrutiny of 2gether NHS Foundation Trust following their CQC inspection.
- 9 The committee commissions task and finish groups in order to undertake more detailed scrutiny work of services. In 2015-16, scrutiny members took part in two such groups. One group undertook an urgent review of the short breaks and respite care services for children with disabilities in response to concerns raised by members and members of the public regarding decisions made that affected the ongoing provision at 1 Ledbury Road. The task and finish group made a number of recommendations for consideration by the executive and continues to receive updates on this service. Another task and finish group has been looking at the provision of early years services and children's centres and is due to report back to the committee this month.
- 10 Towards the end of the municipal year, committee members exercised their right to call-in for scrutiny an executive decision in relation to changes to the contract and funding for supported housing for young people project (SHYPP). Call-in members believed that key information regarding counter proposals had not been taken into account when cabinet agreed proposed changes. The matter was referred back to the executive to reconsider the decision, requesting that the information be taken into account.
- 11 The chairman of the health and social care overview and scrutiny committee would like to thank members of the public and partners for their continued participation in the work of the committee over the year.

Appendices

- None identified.

Background papers

- None identified.