

Report from Care Services PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Judi Ellis
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Pauline Tunnicliffe

Care Services PDS Committee

Care Services PDS Committee met six times in 2015/16, with one joint meeting with the Education and Public Protection PDS Committees to look at the findings of the Youth Offending Service inspection and the proposed service improvement plan.

There have been a number of contractual issues requiring attention, both to review their value and to realign in order to obtain optimum benefit and realise any financial savings. This is due to the budget pressures faced by the whole Council and the need to prioritise and maintain services for the most vulnerable in our community.

The Committee has looked at adoption and fostering with a high regard for safeguarding across the board, as well as issues affecting the elderly, both at home and in residential care, with special emphasis on dementia sufferers and their carers. The Committee has also looked at extra care housing and mutual carers.

Homelessness and the affordability of housing in Bromley has been regularly monitored with investment made to keep families, where possible, in the Borough whilst resident in temporary housing, and work has been ongoing with social and private landlords to provide adequate accommodation .

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee has met three times in 2015/16 and has continued to monitor the outstanding financial, operational and quality issues affecting the Princess Royal University Hospital; many improvements have been achieved but there is still a deficit needing a financial recovery plan.

Quality issues focused on included patient discharge, Accident and Emergency and Urgent Care services, and shared information and patient communication issues.

The South East London Boroughs have joined together to form a joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. This Committee has met twice and has scrutinised proposed changes in maternity, community based care, planned surgery, Accident and Emergency and urgent care, children and young people's services, and the treatment of cancer. There are two representatives from each Borough on the Committee, with one of the Southwark representatives elected Chairman and myself elected as Vice-Chairman.

Conclusions

The Care Services PDS Committee and Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee are made up of Members and voluntary sector representatives and have scrutinised a wide range of services through written reports, visits and presentations. We have received a number of questions for either the scrutiny committee or the Portfolio Holder from members of the public, which have highlighted areas for scrutiny and we would like to

thank them for their involvement. We would also thank the officers from Bromley, the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group and the King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for their speedy delivery of additional information and explanation.

Councillor Judi Ellis
Chairman, Care Services PDS Committee