

Report from Care Services PDS Committee

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

Care Services PDS Committee

Care Services PDS Committee met seven times in 2016/17.

The year has been dominated by the Ofsted report on Children's Services and the development of the Children's Services Improvement Plan (this is available on the Council's website). This plan shows the Council's commitment to take the opportunity to ensure the improvements are embedded in Bromley's culture, are sustainable and an important part of Building a Better Bromley.

The meeting held on the 6th December (minutes also available on the website) was the first opportunity for the new Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director of Education, Care and Health Services, Mr Ade Adetosoye OBE, to address the Committee on his vision and priorities for the service. He updated the Committee on the improvement plan and the results of the first 'deep dive' audit on casework.

The Committee ensured that this serious issue did not overshadow the need to scrutinise Adult Services and received reports on domiciliary care, assisted living and the provision of advocacy and advice services, both online and through our commissioned providers. We also completed a programme of visits to care homes, supported living accommodation and day care providers.

There has been a strong emphasis on partnership working. This has always been strong in Bromley but has become more important as resources and budgets have shrunk, and by working closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and other key organisations in Bromley we have, through joint commissioning, created joint posts, better communication and a sharing of information.

Homelessness, specialist housing provision and the affordability of private sector housing have been the subject of a number of reports and the Council has this year seen the fruition of a number of new initiatives which have given more families the opportunity to access temporary accommodation in or near Bromley enabling them to access work and keep their children in school. This area continues to see a rise in demand which is part of an overall London/South East housing shortage and therefore continues to be a regular item on our agenda.

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee has met three times in 2016/17 and has continued to monitor the financial, operational and quality issues affecting the Princess Royal University Hospital. Performance against cancer waiting targets has improved, exceeding national target times. The long awaited launch of the new cross-site electronic patient record system is due this Spring and this should improve the appointment process and the availability of patient records.

The CCG have commissioned some step down beds at Orpington Hospital as part of the transition from hospital to home, this together with Bromley's Reablement Team should reduce people needing to return to hospital by offering intensive support and a targeted assessment of their individual needs.

The South East London Boroughs Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has continued to meet. This Committee 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. It has been involved in the drafting of the consultation document on planned surgery, which is the major change in the region. I have attended all the meetings and have continued to serve as the Vice-Chairman.

Conclusions

The Care Services PDS Committee and Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee is made up of Members and voluntary sector representatives and we have all participated in the visits, scrutiny and policy development. The Ofsted judgement on the Children's Service has made us all look more deeply at all the services we scrutinise and reinforced the need to ensure we are putting the service user at the centre of our discussions and that we listen to service users and their families and our service providers.

My thanks go to all the Members for their hard work and commitment and to the officers from Bromley, the CCG, Oxleas and the King's Foundation Hospital Trust for their attendance and contributions, also their willingness to offer additional information and explanation when requested.

Councillor Judi Ellis
Chairman, Care Services PDS Committee