

Report from Care Services PDS Committee

Chairman: Cllr. Mary Cooke

Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Pauline Tunnicliffe

The Care Services PDS Committee held five scheduled meetings and two special meetings during 2017/18.

It has been a taxing year for the Committee with the need to balance the requirements of a growing ageing population, many with complex conditions, with the need to work within a decreasing budget. We have been fortunate in that two previous Chairmen of Care Services PDS Committee, a previous Portfolio Holder for Care Services (including Public Health) and the Chairs of the Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board, Healthwatch Bromley and Bromley and Lewisham Mind all sit on the Committee. I would like to thank these Councillors and Co-opted Members for sharing their expertise so generously. I would also like to thank Kerry Nicholls, the Clerk to the committee for her good humour, efficiency and guidance on process. The strong emphasis on partnership working outlined in last year's report continues.

Hospital Discharge

The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to ensure that it is not contributing to an unnecessary delay in patients being discharged from hospital. The Committee has therefore recommended that additional beds be commissioned from an existing provider for a period of nine months in time to support winter pressure demands as well as additional nursing home beds. The Committee recognises the benefits of improving joined-up working between Health and Social Care services so that discharge from hospital is facilitated and readmission rates are minimised, and has striven to work closely with both the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group and the Princess Royal University Hospital to achieve this aim.

Budget

The Committee has worked diligently to scrutinise the budget position of the Care Services Portfolio at each meeting, resulting in a significant reduction in the budget overspend predicted at the start of 2017/18. The budget for 2018/19 is balanced.

Homelessness

Bromley has an excellent track record in preventing homelessness and in increasing the supply of temporary accommodation. The Committee recognises that homelessness in the Borough is increasing, due in part to the actions of private landlords. In order to increase the available housing stock, the Committee made recommendations concerning the Empty Homes Property Grant and agreed principles to proactively engage with the housing market. It recommended the use of a site in Orpington for the provision of modular homes, subject to the granting of planning permission. The Committee also reviewed progress towards the adoption of a new homelessness strategy in 2018 that places a greater emphasis on early intervention to prevent homelessness, and recommended it be published for public consultation. The Committee received a presentation from the Mears Group on the progress of the 'More Homes in Bromley' scheme to acquire 400 properties to be used as temporary accommodation within the Borough and sub-region.

Public Health

The Committee noted the Commissioning Intentions of the Public Health service and recommended the continuation of Bromley's participation in pan-London commissioning arrangements for Sexual Health Services. It has also reviewed and supported the activity and performance of the Public Health's provision of support for schools which is funded by the Better Care Fund.

Briefings received and commented on included

- Delayed Transfer of Care
- Healthwatch
- Bromley Safeguarding Adults Board
- Discharge to Access Pilot
- Occupational Therapy Services
- Domiciliary Care Services Monitoring
- Learning Disabilities

There has been a full programme of visits to Care Homes, Day Care providers and Supported Living Accommodation to give Members an insight into service provision.

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

The Committee met three times during the year and provided a forum for reporting by and scrutiny of King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (including Princess Royal University Hospital), the Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group and other health providers by invitation. During the year there was a high level of satisfaction for inpatient care at the PRUH but issues were identified in outpatient services in respect of appointment booking and clinic waiting times. An electronic record system was rolled out in November 2017 which it was hoped would streamline discharge processes. Demand for urgent and emergency services continued to rise with particular influences due to winter pressures.

Cllrs Judi Ellis and Ian Dunn represented the London Borough of Bromley at the South East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The Chief Officer, Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group provided the following:

- An Evaluation of Winter Schemes
- Report on Reablement Services
- Update on Cancer Care
- Primary Ophthalmology and Pharmacy Services

Conclusion

The scrutiny of both services and contracts has been intense this year and again I thank all Members of the Committees and of partner organisations for their active participation. I also thank Officers of the Local Authority for the detailed work they have presented to me personally and to the Committees. The CQC inspection of the PRUH has sharply focussed our minds on our responsibility to all Bromley residents, and with this in mind I have asked that an additional Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting be added to the 2018/19 programme. Furthermore, Paul Feven, Director: Programmes (LBB) and Graham Mackenzie, Director: Transformation and Integration (CCG) have joined the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee as Strategic Lead Officers.

Cllr Mary Cooke
Chairman, Care Services PDS Committee