



Public Document Pack Health in Dacorum Agenda

Wednesday 9 December 2020 at 6.30 pm

MS Teams

Scrutiny making a positive difference: Member led and independent, Overview & Scrutiny Committee promote service improvements, influence policy development & hold Executive to account for the benefit of the Community of Dacorum.

The Councillors listed below are requested to attend the above meeting, on the day and at the time and place stated, to consider the business set out in this agenda.

Membership

Councillor Allen
Councillor Beauchamp
Councillor Bhinder (Vice-Chairman)
Councillor Durrant
Councillor Guest (Chairman)

Councillor Hollinghurst
Councillor Johnson
Councillor Maddern
Councillor Sinha
Councillor Symington

Substitute Members:
Councillors

Outside Representatives:

Contributors:

For further information, please contact Corporate and Democratic Support

AGENDA

- (a) HCC Health Report (Page 2)
- (a) Adult Care Services Report (Pages 3 - 4)

Agenda Item 7a

Hertfordshire Health Scrutiny Committee Report for the Health in Dacorum Committee Meeting of Wednesday 9th December 2020

At its meeting on 30.09.20, the Health Scrutiny Committee (HSC) received an update from the Herts and West Essex Integrated Care System (ICS) on the ICS response to Covid-19, and other key issues. The ICS is a voluntary partnership across the health system in Herts and west Essex. A key aim of it is to improve the health of the population using data to support approaches.

It was noted that all patients were tested for Covid-19 before being sent to a care home.

Members were informed that although an increase in demand for mental health services was expected, it had not materialised.

There was disappointment by some members that a greenfield site for West Herts Hospitals Trust (WHHT) redevelopment would not be included in the costings, and a member asked for a scrutiny on it. It was agreed that a briefing note would be sent to the Committee once the outcome of the WHHT board meeting on 01.10.20 was known. It was asked that a comparison with Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH), Harlow, be made as WHHT has maintained that a new build on a greenfield site is not financially viable or achievable in the required timescale but PAH is confident that it can achieve a new build on a greenfield site by the deadline.

Jim McManus, the Hertfordshire Director of Public Health provided an update on Covid-19.

At its meeting on 18th December 2020, the Committee will consider the East of England Ambulance Trust (EEAST) Report following the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection, the Mount Vernon Cancer Centre strategic review update, the Herts and Essex vascular network, the Integrated Care System update and the black and minority ethnic (BAME) action update.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest

Adult Care Services Report for Health in Dacorum Meeting of 9th December 2020

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) officers have been in continuous contact with care providers to ensure that they have received guidance, support and appropriate monitoring to reduce risk to service delivery.

Work has been done on the development of a Direct Payments Strategy and a Direct Payments Manager recruited. The Covid-19 pandemic has increased understanding of the market for personal assistants, especially for people with learning disabilities. It was acknowledged that there is an issue with recruiting personal assistants. HCC officers are aware of the importance of striking a balance between promoting independence and ensuring that people feel supported. Work will be ongoing to improve this. There has been an increase in younger people receiving direct payments.

It was reported in September that there had been a drop in carers' assessments, partly due to issues around access due to Covid-19. However officers had phoned all carers and work was ongoing to build skills and resilience.

There is a new NHS initiative providing financial support for the care of a person for up to 6 weeks from discharge, and Adult Care Services (ACS) is involved in sourcing the support. The approach is being managed and co-ordinated across partners.

Progress has been noted on Connected Lives, the model of practice assumed by ACS since April 2018. Covid-19 has presented challenges in continuing the work, but the team, through changes in practice created systems that could be reintroduced in the event of continued or increased Covid restrictions.

Hertfordshire has been at the national average in terms of care home Covid-19 mortality. HCC officers have been liaising closely with NHS colleagues to ensure that hospital discharge guidance is interpreted appropriately.

Financial support has been given to commissioned care providers during the pandemic, and HCC is giving further financial support to all commissioned care providers to meet the ongoing additional costs of (Covid-19 (PPE, staffing etc but not under-occupancy) until the end of December 2020. HCC has reviewed current care market risks and set principles for supporting care providers at risk of failure through under-occupancy. This support is being funded from the ACS Care purchasing budget.

Visitor Guidance for care homes has been produced.

Weekly Covid-19 testing in care homes is important and effective in preventing further Covid-19 outbreaks.

The Hertfordshire Safeguarding Adults Board conducted a care home review in preparation for the second wave of Covid-19. ACS has worked to address the learning and recommendations from it.

ACS has a Winter Plan outlining the key actions that it will take, alongside care providers, the NHS and partner agencies to ensure that people needing care and support receive the best possible services during the winter period. It also highlights activity to support the adult care service and the wider care market. The Plan is a working document that can be fluid and reactive to changes that may occur over the next few months.

ACS officers have been communicating with frontline staff and monitoring care homes regularly to ensure that staff and residence are aware of the importance of the flu vaccine, and are receiving it.

On Friday 4th December 2020, Herts. County Councillors were informed that Lateral Flow Testing for Covid-19 is being rolled out to all care homes and is due to be completed by 16th December 2020. It may be used to facilitate indoor visits and allow closer contact with residents within the home. It enables the display of Covid-19 test results within 20-30 minutes and doesn't require a laboratory to process. As it is still being evaluated, ACS has issued guidance to care homes to take a precautionary approach and to continue to follow strict infection control measures including the use of PPE, even when a test has been taken. Mandatory training is provided. Herts. Public Health and ACS have produced a checklist and framework for care providers. ACS is also updating its local visitor guidance for care homes.

C/Cllr Fiona Guest