

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
PEOPLE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY SUB COMMITTEE  
Appointment Centre Room 10 & 11, Town Hall, Romford  
13 February 2024 (7.00 - 9.10 pm)**

**Present:**

**COUNCILLORS**

<b>Conservative Group</b>	Jason Frost (Chairman), Judith Holt and Christine Smith
<b>Havering Residents' Group</b>	Laurance Garrard, Jacqueline McArdle and Julie Wilkes
<b>Labour Group</b>	Frankie Walker (Vice-Chair) and Patricia Brown

**81 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reminded Members of the action to be taken in an emergency.

**82 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS**

Apologies were received for the absence of Co-optee Julie Lamb.

**83 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures of interests.

**84 MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

**85 HEALTHWATCH HAVERING RECENT REPORTS**

The Sub-Committee received various reports presented by Healthwatch Havering (HH).

The first related to Autism and contained responses to consultation held by HH. Members noted many respondents were of a negative view regarding GPs and GP receptionists and the quality of clubs in the Borough. On a positive, the majority of professionals within the industry felt positive with their jobs and enjoyed their roles. HH reported there was a lack of support for adults over 25 with HH trying to act as a catalyst to start new provisions.

The second related to Deafness. Members were shown a video showing people signing the lyrics to a song using British Sign Language (BSL) which was received well by the Sub-Committee. HH explained that BSL was defined as a legal and statutory language and some residents can only read BSL so documents and websites should be made available in BSL to accommodate those residents.

The final related to long-covid. Members noted the report was a second survey following the first survey in 2023. One third of respondents who engaged in the previous survey reported an improvement in their condition, 28% reported no change and 38% reported their condition had worsened. It was noted that there were differing opinions between GPs on dealing with the symptoms of long-covid. HH explained a follow-up survey would be conducted in the following 6-18 months.

The Sub-Committee noted the report.

## 86 **HAVERING COMMUNITY PHLEBOTOMY SERVICE**

The Sub-Committee were presented with a report on the Community Phlebotomy Service.

The target for non-urgent bleeds were 10 days or less which had not been met, which was partially due to the recent strikes. It was noted there was a recovery plan in place which was having some effect with wait times reducing. It was noted that with staff numbers increasing, the service was prepared to introduce 1 extra appointment per chair per hour, increasing the overall capacity by roughly 15%. Alongside that, the service was considering opening evening centres and were in the process of purchasing fridges to store the blood in overnight. It was noted that blood centres had started to open at GP practises with Havering having the lowest number in BHRUT with it explained that the process of moving staff from Primary Care to community was difficult.

The Sub-Committee noted the report.

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**Chairman**