



## **Health Overview and Scrutiny Sub-Committee Annual Report 2019/20**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report is the annual report of the Sub-Committee, summarising the Sub-Committee's activities during its year of operation ended May 2020.

It is planned for this report to stand as a public record of achievement for the year and enable Members and others to have a record of the Sub-Committee's activities and performance.

### **SUB-COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

In the year under review, the Sub-Committee's membership was as follows:

Councillor Nisha Patel (Chairman)  
Councillor Ciaran White (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Nic Dodin  
Councillor Jan Sargent  
Councillor Christine Vickery  
Councillor Darren Wise

During the year under review, the sub-committee met formally on three occasions and dealt with the following issues:

#### **1. Havering Clinical Commissioning Group**

Throughout the year, the Sub-Committee has kept a clear overview of the work of the borough's Clinical Commissioning Group. Discussions have focussed on workforce issues and in particular the challenges of GP recruitment locally. Initiatives such as GPs with special interests and the funding of senior GP nurses have been noted but the Sub-Committee remains concerned at the proportion of Havering GPs approaching retirement age and will continue to monitor how the Clinical Commissioning Group plans to address this.

#### **2. Obesity Prevention**

Public health officers have outlined for the Sub-Committee the Council's obesity prevention strategy. This applies to both children and adults. Work is in progress to encourage breast feeding of babies and the drinking of water rather than fizzy drinks. Related issues scrutinised include work with schools to encourage healthy eating among pupils and plans to work with local takeaway businesses to encourage a Healthy Catering Commitment.

### **3. Performance Information**

Throughout the year under review, the Sub-Committee has sought to keep performance information under review. This has covered issues within the Council's Public Health remit such as obesity levels as well as those supplied by the Acute Trust such as length of treatment waits and length of stay data. Levels of vacancies at the Trust are also monitored. The Sub-Committee will seek to continue its overview of performance information during the coming municipal year.

### **4. Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**

Following the relocation of CAMHS services to a new site in Havering, the Sub-Committee held detailed discussions with North East London NHS Foundation Trust officers on the role of the CAMHS service. These covered the numbers of referrals, how support was offered to service users and the continuity of care with adult services.

### **5. Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals' NHS Trust (BHRUT) Clinical Strategy**

BHRUT officers explained to the Sub-Committee progress with the review of the Trust's clinical strategy which sought to address a number of priorities for change including rising population growth and the need to increase digitisation of health services. It was accepted, with for example, a shortage of GPs locally increasing numbers of A & E attendances, that it was important that partners such as the Council and Primary Care were also involved in the strategy. Scrutiny of the clinical strategy is likely to continue in the new municipal year although this may be impacted by Trust priorities given the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **6. Leisure Centres**

At its October meeting, the Sub-Committee were pleased to scrutinise the role of Council leisure centres in health improvement and promotion. The Council's health and wellbeing manager and a representative of the leisure centres contractor gave details of a number of ways the service assisted with health improvement. This included gym sessions as part of the cardiac rehabilitation scheme and a successful pilot of a weight management programme. It was hoped to recommence pre and post-natal aqua-aerobics if midwife attendance could be agreed with BHRUT.

### **7. Havering Health and Wellbeing Strategy Consultation**

The Sub-Committee also reviewed progress with the development of the Council's new Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This would cover a four year period and consist of a number of priorities including obesity prevention and reduction in smoking

levels. The impact on health of planned regeneration schemes would also be considered by the Strategy, progress reports on which would be taken by the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **8. Site Visit – Sunflowers Court, Goodmayes Hospital**

In November 2019, the Sub-Committee undertook a site visit to the Sunflowers Court in-patient unit at Goodmayes Hospital. The unit, which received patients from across Outer North East London, was toured by Members who were able to gain a clear understanding of how a secure psychiatric unit operated and the services that were commissioned in this area for Havering residents. Members were pleased to be advised that accommodation for patients who were referred by the Police or Ambulance Service was due for expansion and refurbishment and it is hoped to revisit the site once this work is completed.

## **9. Healthwatch Havering**

The Sub-Committee has continued through the year to enjoy a positive working relationship with Healthwatch Havering - the organisation representing users of local health and social care services. A director of the organisation attends most meetings of the Sub-Committee and is permitted to ask questions of NHS representatives attending.

Healthwatch Havering has the legal power to submit agenda items to the Sub-Committee and issues discussed with Healthwatch included survey work on what local residents viewed as future priorities for healthcare as well as the organisation's annual report. Details were also given to the Sub-Committee of 'enter and view' visits carried out by Healthwatch Havering to the A & E and Urgent Treatment Centre at Queen's Hospital.

## **10. Outer North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)**

Throughout the year under review, the Sub-Committee was represented by Councillors Patel, Dodin and White on the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee covering Outer North East London. This Committee allows scrutiny of health service issues covering more than one Council area and, in addition to Havering, includes representation from Barking & Dagenham, Redbridge, Waltham Forest, Essex and Epping Forest Councils.

Among the issues scrutinised by the Joint Committee, which met on five occasions during the year, were the following:

**Cancer Services** – A key driver of the Joint Committee's work this year has been to continue to scrutinise the impact of changes to cancer services, in particular the move of chemotherapy services from King George to Queen's Hospital. Issues scrutinised included the continuing failure to fully recognise the red card system allowing chemotherapy patients priority at A & E, the availability of parking for

chemotherapy patients and usage of the Cedar Centre cancer hub at King George Hospital.

The methodology used to forecast demand for chemotherapy services was also scrutinised by the Joint Committee and updates taken from the Local Healthwatch organisations on their discussions with BHRUT about the changes to cancer services.

**Winter Pressures** – Representatives of both BHRUT and the local Clinical Commissioning Groups brought to the Joint Committee for scrutiny their plans for coping with the winter peak demand on health services. It was accepted that workforce issues were key to achieving this by ensuring sufficient staff were able to be recruited to both health and social care. Other work was focussed on increasing the take-up rate for flu vaccines improving patient flows through Queen's Hospital.

**Primary Care Transformation** – The Sub-Committee was briefed by the local Clinical Commissioning Groups on plans to establish more integration between health providers and between the health and social care sectors. The establishment of several Primary Care Networks would seek to improve areas such as the availability of on-line consultations and the improved recruitment and retention of local GPs.

**Joint scrutiny with North East London JHOSC** – In order to facilitate scrutiny of issues affecting the whole of the North East London sector, the JHOSC has this year begun to meet periodically with the equivalent Joint Scrutiny Committee for Inner North East London. This has enabled effective scrutiny of the proposed move of location of Moorfields Eye Hospital – a facility which receives significant numbers of referrals of Havering residents. A useful site visit to the current Moorfields site was also undertaken by members of the Joint Committees.

The Joint Committees also had the opportunity in February to scrutinise the draft NHS Long Term Plan. This set out the development of a number of NHS work programmes over a 10 year period. Recommendations made by the Joint Committees for inclusion in the final plan included that any responsibilities devolved from the NHS to Local Authorities would carry appropriate financial recompense and an emphasis that affordable accommodation was needed for NHS staff.

## IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

### Financial implications and risks:

None – narrative report only.

**Legal implications and risks:**

None – narrative report only.

**Human Resources implications and risks:**

None – narrative report only.

**Equalities implications and risks:**

While the work of the Sub-Committee can impact on all members of the community, there are no implications arising from this specific report which is a narrative of the Sub-Committee's work over the past year.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.