

REPORT OF THE
Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee
PART II

1. SUMMARY AND LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

- 1.1. This report provides an update on the work of Hampshire County Council's Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee from April 2022 to March 2023.
- 1.2. For 2022-23, the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee held the Local Government statutory responsibility for health scrutiny powers. These powers are intended to ensure that decisions about health services are taken with due regard to the people affected. The legislative framework within which the Committee functioned in this year allowed Members to consider any aspect of health that affects the population of Hampshire. It also placed very specific duties on the NHS with regard to consultation, information and responses to any recommendations made by the Committee.
- 1.3. The Committee was a statutory consultee on any potential substantial change being considered by the NHS, and had the power to refer contested decisions about health services to the Secretary of State for Health or to Monitor for Foundation Trusts.
- 1.4. In accordance with the Constitution of Hampshire County Council, the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee also focuses on how the County Council is contributing to delivering the Wellbeing agenda for adults' social care; promoting independence and quality of life for older people; healthy and safe families; Public Health; the integration of Health and Care services and relevant financial management.

2. WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The annual report of the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee is appended to this report.

COUNCILLOR BILL WITHERS
Chairman, Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee

Scrutiny Annual Report: April 2022 to March 2023

Select Committee: Health and Adult Social Care (HASC)

Report of Chairman: Councillor Bill Withers

1. Statutory Duties Undertaken: Scrutiny of Proposals to Develop or Vary Health Services in Hampshire:

a) Development of Integrated Care Systems

Throughout the period the Select Committee monitored the development of Integrated Care Systems which came into being in July 2022 following the disbandment of Clinical Commissioning Groups. As of 1 July 2022, the ICSs were formally launched with Hampshire and the Isle of Wight ICS and Frimley ICS covering the Hampshire population and taking responsibility for health care commissioning in their respective areas. The Committee continues to work closely with both Hampshire ICS's and receive progress updates on their implementation.

b) Building Better Emergency Care Programme - Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust

The Committee has continued to monitor this item throughout 2022/23 since initial plans to develop the Emergency Department at the Queen Alexandra Hospital were received in 2021. At the November 2022 HASC meeting, Members heard that the full business case for the proposals had been approved by NHS England and that the funding had been released for the works to begin. Patients were expected to begin to use the new facilities, once built, by 12 November 2024. The topic remains on the Committee's work programme for monitoring throughout 2023.

c) Whitehill and Bordon Health and Wellbeing Hub (W&B Hub) – Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board

At its May 2022 meeting, the Committee received one of a series of regular updates on the development of the W&B Hub noting that the revenue funding envelope for the Hub had been agreed and that progress had moved forward to the development of leases with partners. The Committee received a further update in January 2023 at which point preparations were underway to submit planning application for the site and more detailed discussions were being held with potential tenants. The topic remains on the Committee's work programme for monitoring throughout 2023.

d) Access to Primary Care – Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (ICB)

The Committee has requested regular updates from the ICB regarding challenges in accessing primary care and GP services. The ICB have attended both the July 2022 and the January 2023 HASC meetings to provide updates on a new approach to providing 'out of hours' appointments during evenings and weekends as part of an initiative designed to improve access, promote patient choice and support primary care resilience. Members were pleased that more provision, not only for GP appointments but also other healthcare professionals, was being offered and were keen to continue to monitor the progress of the initiative. The topic remains on the Committee's work programme for monitoring throughout 2023.

e) Project Fusion - Recommendation to create a new community and mental health trust (Southern Health Foundation Trust and Solent NHS Trust)

In November 2022, the Committee were notified of proposals (entitled Project Fusion) to develop a new NHS community and mental health organisation for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Members were acutely aware of the rising demand for mental health services and commented on the significance of these proposals and the intention to change the health infrastructure responsible for delivering these services. Four organisations were to be affected by the proposals, namely Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, Solent NHS Trust, Isle of Wight NHS Trust and Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. At the January 2023 HASC meeting, the Committee heard that all four organisations had signed off the outline business case and that NHS England would also be required to scrutinise the strategic case. At the time of the January meeting, the final business case was being worked upon with the aim of this being approved by September 2023. Project Fusion remains on the Committee's work programme for monitoring throughout 2023.

2. Scrutiny of Issues relating to the Planning, Provision or Operation of Health Services:

a) Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust: Stage 2 Independent Investigation Report by Mr Nigel Pascoe QC

The Committee have requested and received regular updates on this matter since the Stage 2 Independent Investigation Report into the Trust conducted by Mr Nigel Pascoe QC was published in September 2021. The report considered the circumstances of the deaths of five people in the care of the Trust between 2011 and 2015, the internal and external investigations of those deaths and the steps recommended or taken to prevent their re-occurrence. Stage 2 focused on where the Trust had got to and where it should be, with a view to future reform and improvement. The Trust presented to HASC

throughout the 2022/23 period at both the November 2022 and March 2023 meetings outlining their actions to date and improvements implemented.

b) Dental Services in Hampshire – Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board

The Committee has monitored this topic since 2021 and acknowledges that access to dental services remains a challenge for many Hampshire residents. The Committee requested updates from the ICB at the May 2022 and the November 2022 meetings. The issue has been identified as a national challenge affecting many other areas, not solely Hampshire, and the ICB confirmed that they are linking with Hampshire MP's to raise the issue of the national dentistry contract restrictions and also to look at proposals for developing dentist training in the South region. Workforce pressures and increase in private dentistry practice were noted as key factors in the challenges faced in accessing NHS dentist services. The topic remains on the Committee's work programme for monitoring throughout 2023.

d) Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection – Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (HHFT) Maternity Services

Following a CQC inspection, the HHFT Maternity Services received a 'requires improvement' rating. The Trust attended Committee meetings in May and November 2022 to present their action and improvement plans to the Committee.

e) Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspection – South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS) Safeguarding Governance

Following a CQC inspection, SCAS received a 'requires improvement' rating regarding their safeguarding arrangements. HASC heard that SCAS had developed a comprehensive action plan which aimed to improve the service. The Committee requested updates from SCAS on three occasions throughout the 2022/23 period and were mindful of their duty to monitor the progress of the action plan. The topic remains on the Committee's work programme for monitoring throughout 2023.

3. Pre-scrutiny of Significant Executive Decisions:

At the May 2022 meeting the Select Committee pre-scrutinised the Savings Programme to 2023 proposals relating to certain Adult Social Care Grant Schemes and funding for Social Inclusion services and pre-scrutinised the proposals going forward to the Executive Member for Adult Services and Public Health. The Committee supported the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Member.

4. Call-In of Significant Executive Decisions:

There were no Call-Ins of any executive decisions in this period.

5. Referrals:

No topics were referred to the HASC for consideration in this period.

6. Scrutiny of Budgets and Performance:

- a) Revenue Budget for Adults' Health and Care for 2023/24 and Capital Programme for Adults' Health and Care for 2023/24 to 2025/26:

The Committee reviewed the revenue and capital budgets for the Adults' Health and Care Department in January 2023 and resolved to support the recommendations being proposed to the Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health.

7. Policy Review:

No policy reviews were undertaken during this period.

8. Questioning and exploring areas of interest and concern:

NHS 111 Service

The Committee has maintained an overview over the past year of the performance of the NHS 111 Service and intends to continue to monitor this throughout 2023. The Committee received regular updates from NHS 111 covering: significant pressures regarding call volumes, response times and workforce retention; workforce pilots and flexible working; benchmarking performance against other 111 services in the South East; pathway scripts for call handlers.

The following topics were also considered:

- Development of Integrated Care Systems Update (July 2022)
- Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report (July 2022)
- Adult Safeguarding Annual Report (November 2022)
- Service resilience, recruitment and resourcing (November 2022)
- CQC Local Authority Assurance – Hampshire 'Test and Learn' exercise and ongoing preparations (January 2023)

9. Upcoming topics:

The following topics feature on the Select Committee's Work Programme

- Adult Safeguarding annual report
- Health and Wellbeing Board annual report
- Budget Scrutiny
- Care Quality Commission inspections of NHS Trusts serving the population of Hampshire
- Whitehill and Bordon Health Hub development
- Access to Primary Care Services
- Project Fusion
- Andover Community Diagnostic Centre
- Development of an Elective Hub and management of backlog following the Covid pandemic
- Dental Services and Community Pharmacies updates
- Temporary Service Closures and Planned Changes to NHS Services
- Updates on planned changes to health services previously considered