

Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Newsletter: November 2012

Introducing the Committee

Hello, my name is Councillor Susan Barnett and I am the Chair of Birmingham Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee. With the nine other City Councillors on the Committee, I have the very important task of examining the support for vulnerable adults and the provision of health services in Birmingham.



My Committee is separate to the Council Executive so we do not make decisions, but we can make recommendations and influence policy development. Together we aim to build positive relationships with all and provide a space for open and honest conversation. The Committee's most important task is to act as a critical friend, representing the views of local people, championing good practice and challenging policy when it is necessary to do so.

Back in July 2012, we invited you to our Stakeholder day, presented by Sheila Marsh from the Centre for Public Scrutiny. We have put together this Newsletter to share with you our current work and how we have taken forward the **key priorities** from the day – **Prevention, Whole System Approach, Working Together** and **Innovation**. We are very grateful for your attendance and contributions to our Scrutiny process and look forward to working with you in the future.

Prevention is better than cure – working in partnership



Since July we have met on a number of occasions to look at:

- What help and support there is for adults with Autism;
- How health advice and services are provided in urgent situations;
- The development of Birmingham's Clinical Commissioning Groups.

We have looked in detail at how adults with autism can be prevented from entering the criminal justice system by inviting lots of organisations and some adults with autism and their parents to contribute evidence to our inquiry. We wanted to examine the importance of **prevention work** in achieving better outcomes for the individual whilst reducing costs to services. A report on our findings will be available in December when it will be presented to all 120 City Councillors at the City Council meeting. When the report's recommendations are agreed, we will monitor how they are put into practice.

You may have noticed a new approach to scrutiny this year. Instead of individual short monthly reports we now look at one or two issues at each Committee meeting, giving us the time and space to invite all along to examine together the **'Whole System' approach**. This approach worked well in August when we looked at Urgent Care. We were grateful for the contributions of Birmingham Cross City Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Birmingham and Solihull and West Midlands Ambulance Service. Together we explored the need for NHS 111, the 'Walk In' centres, hospital A&E services, the GP out of hours service and the Ambulance Service to work seamlessly together to best meet the health needs of people in Birmingham. Our visit to West Midlands Ambulance Service HQ earlier in the year was also a good opportunity to see first hand how systems need to **work together** to predict and respond to demand. We are looking forward to the opportunity to examine the draft Urgent Care Strategy in the New Year, possibly with our colleagues from Solihull Healthier Communities Scrutiny Board who have been looking carefully at the future of Solihull Walk in Centre, which is also used by Birmingham residents.



Birmingham CCGs



We were keen to invite representatives from the three Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to our October meeting. Clear about the financial challenges facing them, the presenters also highlighted the benefits of the new CCG model with the opportunities it creates for Clinicians to **work together**. The CCGs were keen to emphasise their desire to **share best practice** across hospital providers in Birmingham, moving away from the old model when each Primary Care Trust had a tendency to work with individual hospital providers. We welcomed the queries from members of the public at the meeting about **procedures of limited clinical value** and we hope to provide clarity on this shortly. We will continue to explore the different approaches of the CCGs as they move towards authorisation in April 2013 and will invite them back to Scrutiny in the New Year.

New work streams

Stakeholders and Committee Members were keen to emphasise that with all the changes in health, **Adult Social Care** should not be forgotten from our scrutiny work. Although we have focussed our monthly meetings on Urgent Care and Clinical Commissioning Groups, in October we received an update on the Committee's 2010 Scrutiny review called 'BOLD - Better outcomes for learning disabilities', and on Delayed Transfers of Care. We will be carrying out further work scrutinising these issues in the coming months.



The inquiry into the support for adults with autism and the update on the BOLD review has encouraged us to question the **opportunities for people with learning disabilities** in the City. In the last two weeks I have personally visited two of the City Council's Day Centres for people with Learning Disabilities and have been made to feel most welcome by both service users and staff and I am looking forward to finding out more. In December, the Committee will be exploring the Council's provision and commissioned services for people with Learning Disabilities. Midland Mencap have also approached us to share their work with us. In addition, the Committee will examine the annual report from **Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board**.



In January, we are meeting to discuss the **transition of public health** to the local authority. We want to explore the key priorities going forward - nutrition, smoking, shisha, sexual health etc, progress around issues with planning regulations (in the past there has been discussion about fast food outlets near schools), new **innovative working** and **partnership working** in the new health arena. We will also be receiving an update on Tuberculosis in Birmingham and receive the first report contributing to our Falls Prevention inquiry.

In the spring we are hoping to launch an inquiry into **Falls Prevention** as we have heard on a number of occasions about the unnecessary and devastating impact that falls are having on older people in Birmingham, and the cost of this to health and social care services. If you are interested in contributing to this inquiry, we are very keen to hear from you.

Staying in touch & getting involved



You are very welcome to come along to our Committee meetings and inquiry sessions which are usually held in the Council House in Victoria Square, Birmingham, B1 1BB.

Dates for the diary (Please note, meeting dates and times are sometimes subject to change, please check the Democracy in Birmingham website in advance of the meeting.)

Time	Date	Health and Social Care Committee Meeting Agenda items
2pm	Wednesday 12 th December	- Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Annual Report - Day opportunities for people with Learning Disabilities
11am	Wednesday 23 rd January	- Shared Lives - Midland Mencap
10:30am	Wednesday 13 th February	- Public Health - Falls Prevention work - Tuberculosis Update - Falls Prevention Inquiry

All agendas, meeting papers and the latest Committee Work Programme are available to download, five working days before the meeting, from the Democracy in Birmingham website www.birmingham.gov.uk/democracy/Pages/Index.aspx. To access papers, select 'Scrutiny (Current)' from the 'Meeting Body Type' drop down list, 'Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee' from the 'Meeting Body' drop down list and then click on GO. Meeting minutes are also available from the Democracy in Birmingham website when their accuracy has been agreed.

For more information about Scrutiny work, meeting dates and reports written by the Committee, please go to our Scrutiny webpage at www.birmingham.gov.uk/scrutiny. Alternatively you may wish to check out our Twitter feed [@bhamscrutiny](https://twitter.com/bhamscrutiny), or contact us using the details below.

Rose Kiely – Group Overview and Scrutiny Manager Rose.Kiely@birmingham.gov.uk / 0121 303 1730
Louise Barnett – Research and Policy Officer Louise.E.Barnett@birmingham.gov.uk / 0121 464 7457

We aim to stay in touch with you, but if you wish to be taken off the newsletter distribution list please email us. If you would like to contribute to a future newsletter we would like to hear off you. We are hoping to undertake a further stakeholder day in April 2013, more details to follow.