

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of People Scrutiny Committee

Date: Tuesday, 24th November, 2020

Place: Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Present: Councillor L Salter (Chair)
Councillors N Folkard (Vice-Chair), M Borton, H Boyd, A Chalk, D Cowan, M Dent, F Evans, M Flewitt, D Garne, B Hooper, M Kelly, K Mitchell, C Nevin, I Shead, M Stafford and A Thompson
O Richards (Healthwatch Southend), K Jackson (Southend Association of Voluntary Services), T Watts (Southend Carers Forum) (co-opted members)
M Faulkner-Hatt, N Biju (Southend Youth Council (observers))

In Attendance: Councillors T Harp, A Jones and M Terry (Cabinet Members), Councillor K Evans, R Baker, E Cook, T Forster, N Laver, B Leigh, M Marks, L Scott, D Simon, S Tautz and J Williams

Start/End Time: 6.30 pm - 7.20 pm

577 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence from the meeting.

578 Declarations of Interest

The following councillors declared interests as indicated:

- (a) Councillors T Harp, A Jones and M Terry (Cabinet Members) - Interest in the referred/called-in item; attended pursuant to the dispensation agreed at Council on 19 July 2012, under S.33 of the Localism Act 2011;
- (b) Councillor L Salter – Minute 582 (In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2019/20) - Husband is a consultant surgeon at Southend Hospital - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (c) Councillor M Flewitt – Minute 581 (Annual Comments, Compliments and Complaints Report) - Has assisted in the procurement of a presentation on care homes - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (d) Councillor C Nevin – Minute 582 (In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2019/20) – Has previously been employed at Southend Hospital and previous association with local care homes as an employee - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (e) Councillor H Boyd - Minute 582 (In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2019/20) – Family member works in care home setting - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (f) Councillor T Harp - Minute 582 (In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2019/20) – Volunteer with Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS) and wife is an employee of SAVS – Non-pecuniary interest;
- (g) Councillor N Folkard - Minute 582 (In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2019/20) - Is ambassador for Fund Raising Team at Southend Hospital; relative works at Broomfield Hospital; is on the Reading Panel at Southend Hospital - Non-pecuniary interests;

- (h) K Jackson (Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS)) - Minute 582 (In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2019/20) – SAVS manage Pathway '0' discharge project - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (i) Councillor B Hooper - Minute 582 (In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2019/20) - Director of Blade Education (a not-for-profit company) and parent of child attending secondary school in Borough - Non-pecuniary interest;
- (j) Councillor K Mitchell - Minute 581 (Annual Comments, Compliments and Complaints Report) - Links to local health services through employment as a family worker - Non-pecuniary interest; and
- (k) Councillor K Mitchell - Minute 582 (In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2019/20) – family member lives in supported living accommodation – Non-pecuniary interest.

579 Questions from Members of the Public

There were no questions from members of the public relating to the responsibilities of the Committee.

580 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 October 2020

Resolved:

That, subject to the amendment of Minute 436(h) (Declarations of Interest) to reflect that the non-pecuniary interest declared by Councillor C Nevin related to employment in a care home setting rather than as an employee of the NHS, the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 13 October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

581 Annual Comments, Compliments and Complaints Report

The Committee considered Minute 515 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 3 November 2020, which had been referred directly to each of the three scrutiny committees and called-in, together with a report of the Chief Executive that provided performance information about comments, complaints and compliments received across the Council for 2019/20.

In response to a question concerning the number of COVID-19 positive individuals currently resident at care homes within the Borough, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care agreed to liaise with the Director of Public Health to ascertain whether it would be possible for such information to be provided to members of the Committee.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care advised the Committee that a presentation on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the local care home and residential learning disability sectors, was to be made to the Health and Adult Social Care Working Party in January 2021, which would subsequently be made available to all members of the Council.

Resolved:

That the following decisions of the Cabinet be noted:

"1. That the Council's performance in respect of comments, complaints, and compliments for 2019/20, be noted.

2. That the matter be referred to all three Scrutiny Committees (Appendix B and C to the submitted report referred to the People Scrutiny Committee only).

3. That authority be given to make the changes to the corporate Comments, Complaints and Compliments policy as set out in Section 4.3 and appendix A to the report.”

Note: This is an Executive Function

Cabinet Member: Councillor M Terry (overarching), Councillor T Harp (Appendix B) and Councillor A Jones (Appendix C)

582 In-Depth Scrutiny Project 2019/20

The Committee considered the draft final report arising from its in-depth scrutiny project for 2019/20.

The Chair of the Project Team that led the review, Councillor F Evans, expressed thanks to all councillors, co-opted members, officers and external organisations that contributed to the project.

Resolved:

1. That the report and conclusions from the in-depth scrutiny project, detailed at Section 9 of the report, be agreed.
2. That the Council’s monthly performance against the national performance indicator (ASCOF2B2) that measures the proportion of older people (65 and over) offered reablement services following discharge from hospital, be reported to the Committee on an ongoing basis.
3. That the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care be requested to seek the continuation of the funding previously provided by the Clinical Commissioning Group on a pilot basis, for the package of follow-up support provided by Southend Association of Voluntary Services as part of the discharge to assess arrangements, in order to maintain contact with patients discharged into Pathway 0 and the provision of relevant assistance and guidance.
4. That, in accordance with Scrutiny Procedure Rule 10 (Part 4 (e) of the Constitution), the Chair of the Committee present the report to a future Cabinet meeting.

Note: This is a Scrutiny Function.

Chair: _____