

additional papers 1



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Thu 30 July
2020
6.30 pm

Virtual Meeting



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Overview and Scrutiny

Thursday, 30th July, 2020

6.30 pm

Virtual Meeting - Skype - Virtual

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Joe Baker (Chair)	Andrew Fry
	Salman Akbar	Ann Isherwood
	Michael Chalk	Mark Shurmer
	Peter Fleming	Jennifer Wheeler
	Pattie Hill	

- 8.** External Scrutiny Bodies - Update Reports (Pages 1 - 4)
- a) West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Council representative, Councillor Chalk; and
 - b) Worcestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) – Council representative, Councillor Chalk.

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Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**18th June 2020**

As is the position at present, this was a virtual meeting held by Zoom from County Hall.

The majority of the meeting consisted of various speakers explaining what they have been, and are doing, to reduce the impact of Covid-19.

Mr Simon Trickett gave a comprehensive report based on a number of slides that suggested that we were nearly back to normal with other illnesses being given increasing importance and the number of surgical operations increasing.

Unfortunately at this point I dropped out of the meeting and got back in time for questions.

There were questions on the use of IT and the answer was that it is anticipated that much of its use will continue after the pandemic is over. This led to some concern that IT and other short term actions would become the norm without the necessary consultation and scrutiny. The use of PPE and the access to hospitals has changed in the acceptance that we still need to control the spread of the Covid 19 virus.

There was an acknowledgment that there could be a second spike or even a third.

Questions were asked about the information available that related to deaths in the BAME community that suggested there was some inequality. Comments were made that Local Councils probably had more information on their minority group.

The Chair then asked about the financial situation and was told that the £29M was cleared and that the rest was in the pipe line or on hold because of the pandemic.

Cllr Mike Chalk

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Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**20th July 2020**

This was an extremely long virtual meeting held on Zoom from County Hall.

The first real business was agenda 5: the access to GP services. It was explained that, although all surgeries were closed, it was still possible to contact your practice and have either a phone consultation or maybe even an on line conversation. If the doctor felt it necessary you could be referred to another location or your own surgery where a face to face examination would be available.

There are a set of slides available that show what is happening with the surgery staff and how the system is working. Of particular concern was the back log of chronic diseases for which there is a 12 month plan. The question was asked about the weekend at care homes. The answer was that this was being led by retired GPs on a one GP to an individual care home.

An update was given on the temporary service changes that have been put in place. The priorities for these were remaining with the long term plan, flexibility required to any emergency situations, the safety of every one involved, proactively reviewing at risk patients, monitoring the impact of these changes and finally no decisions will be made without full consultation. It was suggested that more use was being made of the private sector to try and reduce the overall impact on the NHS. Once more there were a number of slides used to list and explain the detail.

This was also the case used to illustrate the Public Health Performance on which it was shown that Worcestershire was either at or better than the national level.

It was explained how the ring fenced grant of £28.36M has been spent with details on a couple of slides. When asked about a sum of £208K being put into reserves, making some £5M it was shown that there was a need for these to fund the quality plan.

All slides can be made available to those members who wish to see them.

Cllr Mike Chalk

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