



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMISSION

Held: TUESDAY, 21 JUNE 2022 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Pantling (Chair)
Councillor O'Donnell (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Aldred
Councillor Pandya
Councillor Westley

In Attendance:

Councillor Dempster, Assistant City Mayor - Health

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1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Commission held on 22
March 2022 be confirmed as a correct record.

4. TERMS OF REFERENCE

AGREED:

To note the Terms of Reference for Scrutiny Commissions as set out
in the Council's Constitution.

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION 2022-23

AGREED:

To note the membership of the Commission for 2022/23 as follows:

Councillor Pantling (Chair)
Councillor O'Donnell (Vice Chair)
Councillor Aldred
Councillor Khan
Councillor Pandya
Councillor Sangster
Councillor Westley
(1 unallocated non-group place)

6. MEETING DATES 2022-23

AGREED:

To note meeting dates of the Commission for 202/23 as follows:

21 June 2022
11 August 2022
6 October 2022
1 December 2022
17 January 2023
16 March 2023

7. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair referred to the issues concerning the Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant, and a report was circulated.

The report was submitted under urgent business which outlined a new programme to support individuals who were rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping to engage into drug and alcohol treatment.

It was noted that the programme was delivered collaboratively across Leicester and was supported through a new central government grant the Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG).

Councillor Westley commented on his experience as the Chair of the Housing Scrutiny Commission and clarified that the requirement to assist the homeless and people seeking assistance and the need to ensure that funding continued was essential.

The Director of Public Health advised of the complexity of the 'entrenched' behaviours and commented that it was difficult to manage for a long-term solution, given the uncertainty of continued funding which did not allow for strategies being set.

The Assistant City Mayor (Health) updated the Commission on the joint work with Adult Social Care and Housing and referred to the support offered by partner organisations. A close collaboration and debate between Scrutiny Chairs and the sharing of information was encouraged. The current cost of living crisis was also mentioned as a key aspect where there was an expected need to assist the vulnerable.

AGREED:

To support the development of the RSDATG and provide an update to a future meeting in due course.

8. PETITIONS

The Monitoring Officer reported that no petitions had been submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

9. QUESTIONS, REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS OF CASE

The Monitoring Officer reported that no questions, representations, and statements of case had been submitted in accordance with the Council's procedures.

10. COVID 19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME AND VACCINATION CHAMPIONS UPDATE

The Director of Public Health gave a presentation to update members on the current position in respect of Covid and the vaccination programme.

In terms of the current Covid data, it was reported that although significant work and progress had been made, it was confirmed that the weekly updates being submitted to Commission Members would be continued.

In relation to the vaccination programmes, the issues concerning the take-up of vaccinations and particularly boosters were reiterated, as highlighted in previous discussions.

In conclusion the Director of Public Health expressed his concerns relating to the current situation, which still caused anxiety.

AGREED:

That the update be noted.

11. EMERGING TRENDS AND HEALTH RELATED ISSUES

The Director of Public Health gave a presentation to advise the Commission of the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) which had recently replaced Public Health England (PHE).

It was reported that the Agency now led on work concerning infectious disease outbreaks & other chemical/radiation incidents and regional health protection teams (HPT), which now provided specialist support to local authorities, the NHS, and other agencies.

Members expressed concern with the ongoing problems that were reported to them with the difficulties in gaining GP appointments. It was suggested that a special meeting be convened to address that issue as a single item, and that members of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission be invited.

AGREED:

That the update be noted, and consideration be given to a Special Meeting of the Commission to consider the issues concerning access to GP services.

12. WORK PROGRAMME

The Commission's Work Programme was submitted and noted.

13. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm.