At a meeting of the Social Care, Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee held in Council Chamber, Priory House, Monks Walk, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ on Monday 3 Jun 2019, 10:00 AM — 1:35 PM BST

Present: Cllr Mark Versallion Chairman
Cllr David Bowater Vice-Chairman
Cllr Philip Crawley
Cllr Susan Goodchild
Cllr Mark Smith
Cllr Ewan Wallace
Cllr Hayley Whitaker
Cllr Paul Duckett
Cllr Gordon Perham Substitute for Cllr Sanders

Officers in attendance Paula Everitt Scrutiny Policy Adviser
Tony Keaveney AD Housing Service
Nick Murley Assistant Director Resources
Nick Costin Head of Service, Housing Initiatives
Jonathan Arnold Interim Team Leader Private Sector Housing
Celia Shohet Assistant Director, Public Health
Rachael Holland Public Health Principal Officer

Others in attendance Cllr Tracey Stock Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Communities
Cllr Eugene Ghent Executive Member for Assets and Housing Delivery
Dave Simpson Chairman, Healthwatch Central Bedfordshire
Mike Thompson Chief Operating Officer, Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Jane Meggitt Director of Communications, BLMK
Cllr Rebecca Hares
Members of the Public 3

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Sanders and Hegley.

2 Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 18 March 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
3 **Members' Interests**

The following Members declared an interest:

**Item 12, Housing Enforcement Policy**
Cllr Paul Duckett – a Housing tenant in Central Bedfordshire
Cllr Mark Versallion – an employee of a private landlord company that provided homes in the Central Bedfordshire area and
Cllr Ewan Wallace, an employee of a Housing Association that owns and manages stock within Central Bedfordshire.

**Item 11 – Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group update**
Cllr Hayley Whitaker – an employee of the NHS and
Cllr Mark Versallion – a Non-Executive Board Member at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital.

4 **Chairman's Announcements**

The Chairman welcomed all new and returning Members to the first meeting of Social Care Health and Housing OSC in the new calendar year. Thanks were extended to the previous Committee. Induction events had been planned and all Members were urged to attend.

5 **Public Participation**

None.

6 **Petitions**

None.

7 **Questions, Statements or Deputations**

None.

8 **Call-in**

None.

9 **Requested Items**

None.
10 Executive Members' Update

The Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Communities gave an overview of her portfolio and reminded Members that training for Public Health and Housing would take place on Monday 10 June 2019. A question was raised as to why the Sustainable and Transformation Partnership (STP) had subsequently changed to become an Integrated Care System (ICS). The Chief Operating Officer, BCCG advised that from the initial 44 STPs, the BLMK STP had been chosen with eleven other STPs to pilot new ways of integrated working and was subsequently renamed to become an ICS.

The Executive Member for Assets and Housing Delivery provided an overview of the Assets and Housing delivery portfolio that included Estates and Facilities Management and the Capital Construction service. Twenty large scale projects were being developed that included:

- All Saints View, Houghton Regis Extra Care Scheme
- Steppingley Road Flitwick Extra Care Scheme
- Extensions to schools in Houghton Regis and Biggleswade
- Crematorium in Flitwick

The Committee wished to commend the Assets Team for its excellent work and looked forward to future updates regarding the Council owned sites proposed for development through the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

11 Introduction to Representatives from the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG)

The Chief Operating Officer, BCCG and Director of Partnerships, Communications, and Engagement BLMK delivered a presentation that gave an overview of the work of the CCG. Improving health outcomes for residents and improving their experience was paramount as well as service transformation. NHS England had passed contractual arrangements for GP services to the BCCG in April 2019 and the CCG was working closely with GPs to support and encourage the development of primary care networks.

In light of the presentation, Members of the Committee discussed the following in summary:

- With the impact of Delayed Transfer of Care (DToC) and the provision of personalised care for residents, Members were advised of the integrated approach delivered within the health and social care system. A presentation received by the previous Committee in March on (DToC) would be circulated to Members and in response to a question regarding the Council’s performance, The Assistant Director advised the current approach had been positive and that the Council was in a good position nationally regarding the performance.
recognised nationally as an area of good practice.

Whist concern was raised about the lack of delivery of various planned services, a question was raised about commissioned GP services in Cranfield and Marston where access to services was not available every day. In response, the Chief Operating Officer advised plans to improve access for patients were in progress but could not be delivered quickly.

Whether any assistance was provided to GP practices to improve service delivery. The Chief Operating Officer advised the Primary Care Networks programme of work would assistant and provide quality checks. Standards were set nationally and would be shared with Members.

That the BCCG be congratulated on its responses to planning proposals which had led to a share of S106 monies.

RECOMMENDED
1. That the BCCG would provide a Member Briefing on Cranfield/Marston GP service proposals.
2. That the Delayed Transfer of Care presentation and performance be circulated to the Committee.
3. That the BCCG provide Quality Standards guidance for Primary Care and for this information to be circulated to the Committee.
4. That the Primary Care Networks be included on the work programme.

12 Housing Enforcement Policy

As declared at item 3, Members Interests, Cllrs Versallion, Duckett and Wallace left the Chamber and Cllr Bowater took the Chair.

The Head of Housing Initiatives introduced the Housing Enforcement Policy Report and presentation, the purpose of which is effective regulation of the Private Rented Sector, thereby to improve standards of housing management as well as to improve quality standards in the PRS, as a result of recent changes in the Legislation. It was reported that the Housing Service had seen a rise in the number of prosecutions against landlords following complaints from tenants. The Housing Services Team wished to help and support landlords in order to ensure properties are of good quality and available on the market, with enforcement only being undertaken where landlords were not responsive to interventions that are of a more supportive nature.

In response to questions raised, the Committee was advised:-

- A landlord could not directly pass a fine onto a tenant but the Council could not prevent the landlord increasing the rent in what is an open market. However, advice would be provided to any tenant who found themselves in this position.
- The recruitment of officers with housing experience had been a challenge, however, trainee positions had been created that would help meet the demands of the service in time.
- Housing officers would work with private landlords to ensure their properties did not leave tenants in ‘fuel poverty’ but could take enforcement action in the worst cases of cold damp homes.
• Actions against landlords who received repeated fines would be considered on a case by case and proportionate basis and may lead to their inclusion on the national Rogue Landlord register.

In summary the Committee welcomed the proposals outlined in the Executive report.

RECOMMENDED that the Housing Enforcement report be fully endorsed by the Committee for presentation to Executive.

13 Stop Smoking Service Remodel

The Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Communities introduced a report that outlined the Stop Smoking remodelled service that was implemented in April 2019. The new service had sought to improve service access to residents and deliver services to hard to reach groups and the vulnerable. The Public Health Principal Officer advised the new service model included an app, telephone support for the majority of smokers and face to face support for those in specialist groups. Following some customer insights it was clear that a mix of interventions was required as part of the service offer. Specialist staff were also able to provide place based support in hospitals, mental health facilities and workplaces. As part of the new service marketing materials have been rebranded and will be promoted on social media.

In light of the report, Members discussed the following in summary:-
• That residents with learning disabilities are helped to quit smoking with the use of visual aids and other techniques developed.
• The Stop Smoking service would continue to prescribe drugs like Varenicline (Champix) to help smokers quit along with options like gum and patches.
• The national guidance on vaping advised it was 95% less harmful than cigarettes.
• The service was funded by Public Health England and community lead initiatives across Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes had been successful. The services would continue to investigate new technologies including ‘fitbits’ to improve access to the services.

In summary, the Team would continue to improve access for all.

RECOMMENDED
1. That a 12 month evaluation of the service be undertaken and submitted to a future meeting.
2. That the Committee be circulated the details of the new App for information.

14 Nominations for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Nominations were sought for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC). It was proposed that Cllrs Versallion, Bowater and Whitaker be nominated
along with Cllrs Smith and Duckett as substitutes.

The next meeting of the JHOSC would take place on Monday 17 June at 4pm at Bedford Borough Council Offices.

Noted the nominations for the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as outlined in the minutes above.

15 SCHH OSC 2019/20 Work Programme and Executive Forward Plan

The Committee considered the current Work Programme and Executive Forward Plan. It was proposed that the following items be included:

- Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy (July)
- Winter Pressures – BCCG (September)
- Primary Care Networks – BCCG (tbc)

Members were advised that Member induction sessions would include the Housing Service and the Committee would be circulated Delayed Transfer of Care (DToC) performance data. The presentation on DToC received in March would also be circulated for information.

The Committee would refer to the principal areas of Housing interest set out in the Minutes of 18 March 2019 should a Task Force be established.

Chairman ....................................................

Date ..........................................................