



## **HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL**

**1<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at 4.30pm**

### **Present:**

Councillor Lindley (in the Chair)

Councillors Augusta (sub for Wilson), Crofts, Freeston, Henderson, Kaczmarek and K. Swinburn.

### **Officers in attendance:**

- Geoff Barnes (Deputy Director of Public Health)
- Paul Bassett (Assistant Director Adult Social Services)
- Katie Brown (Director of Adult Services)
- Liz Brummer (Strategic Lead – Finance)
- Zoe Campbell (Senior Scrutiny and Committee Advisor)
- Diane Lee (Director of Public Health)
- Guy Lonsdale (Interim Section 151 Officer)
- Eve Richardson-Smith (Service Manager – Consultancy, Law and Governance)
- Joanne Robinson (Assistant Director Policy Strategy and Resources)

### **Also in attendance:**

- Gemma Mazingham (Head of Regulatory Functions – Integrated Care Board)

There were no members of the press or public present at the meeting.

### **SPH.14 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received for this meeting from Councillors Clough and Wilson.

### **SPH.15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received in respect of any item on the agenda for this meeting.

## **SPH.16 MINUTES**

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025 be agreed as an accurate record.

## **SPH.17 QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from members of the public for this panel meeting.

## **SPH.18 FORWARD PLAN**

The panel considered the current Forward Plan, and members were asked to identify any items for examination by this Panel via the pre-decision call-in procedure.

RESOLVED – That the forward plan be noted.

## **SPH.19 TRACKING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY**

The panel received a report from the Statutory Scrutiny Officer tracking the recommendations previously made by this scrutiny panel, which was updated for reference at this meeting.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **SPH.20 QUARTER 1 2025/26 COUNCIL PLAN PERFORMANCE AND FINANCE REPORT**

The panel considered a report from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Resources and Assets providing key information and analysis of the council's performance and financial position at the end of quarter 1 2025-26.

Members were concerned about the percentage of residents taking up direct payments being lower than the previous quarter. Ms Brown explained that the number of providers to support the sustained programme was lower than national average. She highlighted that it was individual choice if they were in receipt of direct payments for their care because it was more flexible in terms of their social care outcomes. Ms Brown suggested that a representative from Focus attend a future meeting to talk about the performance statistics, which the panel welcomed.

Members were disappointed in the level of detail in the report/dashboard. They were concerned about their ability to scrutinise performance and about the feedback from the public if they directed them to this public-facing view of performance. Ms Robinson confirmed that the performance team were working with all services and fed back

all comments raised by members in the scrutiny panel meetings. She highlighted that there were challenges around the level of narrative and the live data, however, she felt this had improved with the launch of the new dashboard. Ms Robinson explained that there was no corporate performance system and it needed organisation wide ownership to improve the issues raised by the panel.

It was agreed that a report would be submitted to the next meeting addressing these issues. In the meantime, an all-member briefing session was being arranged to go through the new dashboard, which would give members the opportunity to come back to the next meeting with their feedback.

Ms Robinson agreed to come back to a future panel meeting with a report on how the challenges of the performance data feeding into the dash board could be overcome.

#### RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a representative from Focus attends a future meeting of this panel to answer any queries about adult social care performance.
3. That a report on overcoming the challenges of the performance data feeding into the dash board be submitted to a future meeting of this panel.

## **SPH.21 ADULT SERVICES ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT**

The panel received the Adults Social Care Statutory Complaints and Compliments Annual Report including those to the Ombudsman.

The panel welcomed the report and felt reassured that lessons were being learnt and actions taken as a result. Members queried if complex cases where multi agencies were involved could fall through the net. Ms Mazingham reassured members that there was a coordinated approach adopted for those types of cases.

A member queried what happened if there were persistent complaints about a specific provider. Ms Brown confirmed that there were clear contractual arrangements in place with providers, and officers monitored the contract which included looking at how many complaints had been made, if there were any trends and how the provider responded. Ms Brown reassured members that the contractor and commissioner, i.e. the council, could issue improvement notices and stop the provider contracting.

A member noted that 52% of the complaints related to Focus, specifically around the 'assessment and care planning', and were

curious to understand what work was being done with Focus to improve this area of the care process. Ms Brown explained that Focus covered a larger percentage of the care across the borough which explained why the figures were higher overall but, despite this, officers were working with Focus around developing care plans and documenting people needs. As a result, she was expecting to see an improvement in this area.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

## **SPH.22 HEALTH INEQUALITIES**

The panel received a report that brought together four key areas of public health that were central to improving health and reducing health inequalities in North East Lincolnshire: screening and Immunisation, teenage conception, smoking in pregnancy, and healthy life expectancy.

Health inequalities featured in the panel's work programme and at this meeting the focus was around screening and immunisation rates, teenage conception, smoking/vaping in pregnancy, and healthy life expectancy. There were good discussions around each of these areas and as a result the panel agreed to focus during the next municipal year on reducing the teenage pregnancy rates and look at where the panel could make a difference.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That an item be added to this panel's work programme for the next municipal year to focus on how the panel could make a difference to reducing the teenage pregnancy rates across the borough.

## **SPH.23 QUESTIONS TO PORTFOLIO HOLDER**

There were no questions for the Portfolio Holder for Health and Adult Social Care.

## **SPH.24 CALLING IN OF DECISIONS**

There were no formal requests from Members of this panel to call in decisions taken at recent meetings of Cabinet.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.10 p.m.