

## **Report of the Community and External Scrutiny Committee**

This report summarises the business considered at the meeting of the Community and External Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 27 November 2023.

### **Health Question Time**

We welcomed a panel of senior health partners to the meeting, invited them to introduce themselves and provide an overview of their role.

The Panel comprised of:

- Gary Doherty – Director of Strategy at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.
- Sarah James – Integration Place Leader (Central and West Lancashire) at Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board
- Dr Sakthi Karunanithi – Director of Public Health at Lancashire County Council
- Chris Oliver – Chief Executive of Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust
- Laura Walsh – Director of Operations at Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust

We asked a range of questions including:

- How health organisations work together to provide the best care for patients;
- How a local focus and needs of individual areas are accommodated;
- How district councils are engaged with and collaborate on projects like the emerging Central Lancashire Local Plan;
- On what is being done to tackle health inequalities and reduce the need for hospital admissions;
- How service users and carers shape and support service delivery;
- The lasting impact of Covid;
- How delays in Accident and Emergency Departments can be addressed;
- Availability of dentistry services;
- An update on the New Hospital Programme;
- Use of AI ‘bots’ in assessing patients;
- Assurances on how patient data is used and properly protected;
- How Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is addressing areas of improvements highlighted by the Care Quality Committee; and

- How the role of scrutiny can be a benefit to NHS organisations.

We subsequently;

1. Thanked the senior representatives of the health partners for attending and answering our detailed questions;
2. Welcomed the suggestion that the role of councillors providing valuable insight and feedback on health prevention, health services and determinants of health and wellbeing be explored further;
3. Placed on record our appreciation to all health, social care and frontline workers for their brilliant and dedicated work during the Covid pandemic;
4. Look forward for further information being provided on the availability of dentistry services in South Ribble; and
5. Look forward to working more closely with health partners in the future.

### **Recommendation(s)**

That Council note the report.

Councillor Angela Turner  
Chair of the Community and External Scrutiny Committee  
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