

Overview & Scrutiny committee 39th Jan 2024. Report from GCC HOSC meeting of 11th January 2024. by CDC rep Dilys Neill

The first two hours of the meeting were held jointly with the adult social care committee. Unfortunately, I missed the second half of the meeting as there was a meeting the CDC cost of living working group of which I am a member. I also missed a visit to the new Quayside Diagnostic service housed at Gloucester Docks where some diagnostic clinics & services will be housed e.g. lung cancer screening.

The report from the Gloucestershire Health & Wellbeing Board presented seven priority areas where there is overlap between services provided by the county council, district & borough councils & education services. These are:

- Physical activity
- Adverse childhood experiences
- Mental wellbeing
- Social isolation & loneliness
- Healthy lifestyle focussing on healthy weight
- Early years & the best start in life
- Housing & health

Progress has been made in all areas but the effects of the Covid lockdown are still obvious. For example the huge increase in the number of people requiring mental health support. Work is being done with GARAS to support the mental health needs of refugees & asylum seekers within the county.

Adverse childhood experiences. A campaign was launched in Gloucestershire to better understand the effect of ACEs on vulnerable children & young people. Trauma Informed Relational Practice training involves liaison between schools & children's mental health services to support vulnerable young people. An example was given of how this approach has allowed a group of children who would otherwise have been excluded to remain in school & to complete their GCSEs.

Healthy Lifestyles and particularly healthy weight. In Gloucestershire, 26% of adults & 20.4% of year six children are reported to be obese & there are huge medical problems associated with this. Obesity is linked to social deprivation & there are areas in the county where the problem is worse. Interventions are offered, but take up has not been great. An organisation called BeeZee bodies offers online & face to face support to help people & especially family groups with weight loss.

Physical activity This is another area where Covid had a negative effect. Work is being done to improve the strength & balance of older adults with the aim of improving function & reducing falls.

Build Back Better / Levelling Up Together grant scheme This is led by County Councillors who have a budget to allocate to schemes in their divisions. Priorities identified are:

- Digital inclusion
- Cost of living
- Online harm & vulnerable young people
- Community transport & access to services

Integrated Care System, performance report

As usual, urgent & emergency care was under significant pressure during the winter months but this seems to be improving now.

The NHS 111 service is working better with a 50% reduction in the number of calls being abandoned.

Cancer performance targets remain a concern, this will be reviewed further at the March meeting,

Integrated Care Board report

Lung cancer services are to be transferred from the two hospitals to the new Quayside diagnostic centre.