

Minutes of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board

8 August 2024 at 6.01pm
Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House

Present: Councillor E M Giles (Chair);
Councillors Williams (Vice- Chair), M Allcock, E A Giles,
Kalebe-Nyamongo, Muflihi, Owen, Shaeen and Uppal.

Also Present: Councillors J Singh and Taylor (Cabinet Member for Adult
Services, Health and Wellbeing).

In attendance: Richard Beeken (Chief Executive – Sandwell and West
Birmingham NHS Trust), Jayne Salter- Scott (Head of Public
and Community Engagement - Sandwell and West
Birmingham NHS Trust), Michelle Carolan (Managing
Director for Sandwell – Black Country Integrated Care
Board) and Alexia Farmer (Manager – Healthwatch
Sandwell).

Officers: Liann Brookes-Smith (Interim Director of Public Health),
Chris Anne Guest (Assistant Director – Commissioning,
Integration and Adult Safeguarding Board) and John Swann
(Democratic Services Officer).

19/24 **Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Millard.

20/24 **Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

There were no declarations of interest.

21/24 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2024 are approved as a correct record.

22/24 **Urgent Additional Items of Business**

There were no urgent additional items of business.

23/24 **Midland Metropolitan University Hospital Assurance**

The Board received an overview of the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital (MMUH) development. The development included 13 modern operating theatres and 736 beds, with 50% being single ensuite rooms. It was anticipated that the increased capacity created by the new operating theatres would assist in reducing the waiting times for patients requiring planned surgery.

The Board of Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust were due to meet on 21 August 2024 to make a formal decision on whether to begin the opening of the hospital. If the Board agreed to open the site, final checks including equipment inspections and induction processes would take place ahead of a proposed opening date of 6 October 2024.

Urgent Care in Sandwell

Proposals were for Sandwell General Hospital to undergo a phased transition once the MMUH development was open to become the Sandwell Health Campus. The Urgent Treatment Centre would be retained at this site, the hours of which would be increased to 6am-midnight.

Patients would continue to be seen on walk-in basis, with appointments also available via NHS 111.

Discharging patients when medically optimised

National discharge to assess guidance outlined that patients should be discharged on the day of being medically optimised. It was proposed that 70% of patients at the MMUH would be discharged within 48 hours of being medically optimised (ie. no criteria to reside in hospital).

Patients were to be discharged via the Home First model, whereby they would receive care at home, rather than to a community bed where possible.

There were many reasons why a patients might not be released when medically optimised and in-hospital reasons included:-

- Delay in completion of Mental Capacity Act assessments;
- Delays in providing discharge letters and medication to the patient;
- Care homes not admitting seven days a week.

Efforts would be in place to ensure patients would not receive a delayed discharge from MMUH. Both daily partnership discharge meetings and efforts to discharge earlier in the day would be in place.

Patients would also have access to a 'fix-it fund' to purchase small items to ensure adjustments could be made to people's homes to ensure they were accessible for patients whose physical needs had increased.

It was paramount to ensure patients were not in hospital for an extended period of time unless necessary to prevent muscle wastage and cognitive decline.

Bed modelling

MMUH targets aimed to have an 80% bed occupancy within direct admission and 90% within the deeper bed base. A higher bed occupancy resulted in a reduced quality of patient care.

The clinical model for the hospital had been designed by clinical groups, pathways had been changed to deliver a reduction in unnecessary admissions.

Modelling exercises had been undertaken to deliver the correct number of beds and as of July 2024 the bed occupancy was at 87% which was on target.

From the comments and questions by members of the Board, the following responses were made and issues highlighted:-

- A major advertising campaign was underway via television, radio, community events and other media to ensure the borough's population were aware how to access healthcare after the MMUH had opened to the public.
- The advertising campaign had been developed following consultation with community groups and libraries to ensure the messaging was accessible – key messages included:
 - The opening date for the MMUH was the 6 October 2024;
 - Where to go in an emergency;
 - Services would remain at the Sandwell General Hospital Site;
 - Education around other services, including NHS 111 and pharmacies.
- Signage on the highways network directing people to the Accident and Emergency department would be out of date. This was being addressed via a forum for critical providers which included highways. Google Maps had also been contacted in relation to changing routes.
- It was acknowledged that Sandwell had low levels of car ownership compared to the national average. It was predicted that half of patients would travel to site using public transport and meetings had taken place with bus providers to ensure routes would support the travel plans of residents.
- It was acknowledged that parking in the locality would increase, which could negatively impact some residents.
- The hospital re-admission rate within 30 days would demonstrate if patients were being discharged at the right time.
- The hospital admission rate was lower in Sandwell than its neighbouring local authorities, however this meant that when patients are presenting, their needs may be more complex.
- There was a range of step-down services to support patients after they had been discharged in Sandwell.
- Patients who present to emergency departments out of Borough – for example in Walsall, would be re-patriated to Sandwell Adult Social Care services via a robust handover process.

- Harvest View nursing home has fully integrated care (commissioned via Better Care Fund (BCF)) and would support the MMUH by accommodating patients who required care after discharge.
- If required (for example due to winter pressures or a pandemic) beds could be expanded at Rowley Regis Community Hospital.
- It was agreed that changes to healthcare in Sandwell would be communicated via the Sandwell Herald to all residents.
- Services would be transitioned to the new site gradually to ensure service levels were being maintained.
- A single-site hospital was better than specialists being split over two sites, as care would be easier to access, and patients would not have to wait for emergency transport.
- The Interim Director of Public Health undertook to incorporate changes to healthcare in Sandwell into the Winter Booklet which was due to be sent to all households in the Borough.

24/24

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2024/ 25

The relevant directors were invited to attend a training and work programming session on 8 July 2024 for overview and scrutiny members. This included an overview of the services, key issues and priorities relevant to the Board's terms of reference.

A list of items had been identified during the year for scrutiny, pre-decision items and suggestions received from the public were considered at this event.

Additionally, the Board were to undertake a Scrutiny Review into Poor Birthing Experiences and Inequalities in Sandwell (Maternal Outcomes) over the course of the 2024/ 25 municipal year.

Resolved: -

- (1) that the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2024/ 25 is approved;

- (2) that the following members of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board establish a working group to undertake a scrutiny review into Poor Birthing Experiences and Inequalities in Sandwell (Maternal Outcomes) – Councillors E M Giles, Williams, M Allcock, E A Giles, Kalebe-Nyamongo, Owen, Shaeen and Uppal.

25/24

Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements

The re-establishment of joint working arrangements with Birmingham City Council enabled both councils to scrutinise health matters that were relevant to both areas. The Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 mandated local authorities to appoint joint committees where a relevant NHS body or health service provider consulted more than one local authority's health scrutiny function about substantial reconfiguration proposals.

Resolved: -

- (1) that the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee arrangements for scrutiny of matters affecting the Sandwell and West Birmingham area are re-established with Birmingham City Council;
- (2) that the following members of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board be appointed to the Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee with Birmingham City Council - Councillors E M Giles, Williams, M Allcock, E A Giles and Kordala.

26/24

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board Action Tracker

The Board noted the status of actions and recommendations it had made. Further updates would be presented to future meetings of the Board.

Meeting ended at 7.28pm

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk