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Brent

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE **Tuesday 22 February 2022 at 6.00 pm** **Held as a hybrid meeting**

PRESENT: Councillor Ketan Sheth (Chair), Councillor Kansagra (substituting for Councillor Colwill), and Councillors Aden, Afzal and Daly, and co-opted members Mr Simon Goulden and Rev. Helen Askwith .

In attendance: Councillor McLennan, Councillor Stephens, Councillor Nerva (in remote attendance) and Councillor Southwood (in remote attendance)

1. Apologies for absence and clarification of alternate members

Apologies were received as follows:

- Councillor Colwill, substituted by Councillor Kansagra
- Councillor Shahzad
- Councillor Hector
- Councillor Ethapemi
- Councillor Sangani
- Councillor Thakkar
- Phil Porter (Strategic Director Community and Wellbeing, Brent Council)
- Robyn Doran (Director for Brent Integrated Care Partnership)
- Observer Jenny Cooper (NEU Representative)

2. Declarations of interests

Personal interests were declared as follows:

- Councillor Sheth – Lead Governor of Central and NWL NHS Foundation Trust and a number of education settings outlined in the register of interest which can be accessed [here](#).

3. Deputations (if any)

There were no deputations received.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED:-

The minutes of the meeting on 24 January 2022 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

The decisions made at the previous meeting were ratified.

5. Matters arising (if any)

There were no matters arising.

6. **Education and Wellbeing Recovery**

Councillor Stephens (Lead Member for Education, Employment and Skills) introduced the report. He highlighted the considerable pressures schools colleagues had faced over the pandemic, as well the disruption faced by pupils which he felt was one of the greatest any set of pupil had faced over the last ten years. In many areas, Brent was a national exemplar, such as having the fifth highest attendance of anywhere in England during the pandemic, and the work carried out to improve educational outcomes for boys of Black Caribbean heritage. There was also good work with the Local Cultural Education Project. Councillor Stephens felt encouraged by the collaboration with school clusters. There was work between clusters on education recovery and bringing in matched funding. He also praised the holiday activity programme where 3,000 places had been offered to children and 50 providers had worked to deliver that. He felt it would only further improve over the years with collaboration between the Council and Family Wellbeing Centres. He concluded his introduction by highlighting the £900k Covid-19 recovery funding that had been provided by the Council as part of its £17m for Covid-19 recovery, which had gone towards mental health support, amongst other projects.

Councillor McLennan added that the report detailed the work being done around mental health and young people. There had been a large increase of requirements for mental health services in children, identified by children themselves, and the report detailed what was being done to alleviate those pressures which were getting more complex.

The Chair thanked councillors for their introduction and invited the Committee to raise comments and questions, with the following issues raised:

The Committee asked about the impact and outcomes of education and wellbeing recovery initiatives. Councillor Stephens was encouraged by the way Brent schools had worked regarding education. He felt there was an opportunity to engage and interact with young people around their mental health, as for many pupils the pandemic had been quite a large proportion of their lives. He attributed face to face engagement, such as the Holiday Activity and Food programme (HAF), as a key part of what the Council had done to stop children losing out on developmental activities. HAF had helped pupils to feel entitled, confident and assertive. He felt it was important to help pupils focus on activities outside of their academic life that would enable them to be assertive and confident. He also highlighted the work on the Black Community Action Plan to help young people become more assertive in explaining what they want from services.

Brian Grady (Operational Director for Safeguarding Performance and Strategy, Brent Council) drew the Committee's attention to the data from CAMHS in the report, which showed a 35-45% increase in referrals to CAMHS for the 2021 year. There were regular discussions across the Brent Children's Trust (BCT) in relation to that, and it was a key consideration for the BCT. The paper set out the preventative and early help work being done to ensure young people got better access to mental health support in schools, better access to peer support and

better access digitally. An increased level of capacity had been introduced to the system to try to meet the emotional wellbeing needs of young people outside of CAMHS. It was anticipated that the BCT would measure a reduction in referrals to CAMHS, with more young people having their needs met without having to use CAMHS, and so the BCT were measuring the impact over the next year via reduction in referrals to CAMHS and improved emotional health and wellbeing.

In terms of where emotional needs would be met going forward, if not CAMHS, Brian Grady advised that they were ensuring support to schools to be able to provide mental health support, such as through Mental Health First Aid Training, training of Senior Leaders, and Mental Health Support Teams in schools. There were a series of interventions to build capacity in schools, and the BCT had been working to ensure Kooth, an online digital resource, was better accessed by Brent young people. Early help services were providing counselling and emotional support. He highlighted that there was a small cohort of young people where a CAMHS referral was the only appropriate response, but there was more that could be done to meet more emotional health and wellbeing needs earlier. Gail Tolley (Strategic Director Children and Young People, Brent Council) added that CAMHS referrals were for the higher level of need and there was a risk that emotional health and wellbeing needs were medicalised if they were only thought about in the context of CAMHS, and that was where the preventative services approach came in to play.

In relation to the Mental Health First Aid Training referred to, the Committee queried how success would be measured. They heard that Mental Health First Aid was a well-established, evidence based programme measured through the competencies of the individual, through self-reporting mechanisms, e.g. whether they felt more confident. There were also metrics in place to understand how many young people felt well supported. The training was offered by the Department for Education (DfE) and as it was not a direct offer, the local authority could not capture the number of Senior Leaders who had taken up the training. However, Brian Grady had attended a recent Designated Safeguarding Lead (DLS) networking meeting where he heard that 22 senior leaders had taken it up, out of a possible 88 schools, so felt that was a good start, and the Council would continue to promote that.

A representative from Brent Youth Parliament was invited to address the Committee. He highlighted that the Children's Commissioner's Briefing of mental health provision in 2020-21 had identified Brent CCG as 1 of 10 least well performing CCGs in relation to mental health provision. He asked officers whether they were confident that the plans and steps outlined in the report would address the current problems. Brian Grady advised that the metrics of the briefing, published in February, were around funding, waiting times, and proportion of young people being supported. The CAMHS response within the Brent Children's Trust partnership was for those young people with the most intense need and was critical, and he reassured the Committee that the BCT, chaired by the Strategic Director Children and Young People, was overseeing a granular focus on ensuring the improvement of CAMHS with health colleagues, including the CCG. CAMHS was a health led provision but the local authority were working with health on those improvements on the level of resources for Brent young people and the number of young people accessing CAMHS.

The Committee asked what the experience of parents and children was in relation to childcare and daycare, and what work was done to understand the quality of childcare children were receiving. Brian Grady advised that the report detailed that the take-up of places had varied, and there had been lower uptake of entitlements. That was expected to change as working arrangements shifted and that was being tracked. He offered the Committee assurance that, through the Early Years Team, the local authority was in regular contact, connection and network support with providers to ensure they remained stable. They had not seen the significant amount of exit from the marketplace they had been anticipating as a result of the pandemic, detailed in the June 2020 Committee report, but were closely monitoring the market. The Early Years Team had been providing support, advice and guidance on quality of care as well as business management and development, which was highly valued by the sector particularly throughout the pandemic. At the moment there were no quality concerns identified following the pandemic, as providers had been rigorously and robustly supported, but the market was being monitored. The introduction of Family Wellbeing Centres in Brent, ahead of the national picture where they were now seen as crucial in the new generation of early help, would be a key part of assurance for the Committee, as they would increasingly provide that hub of early help. Through the Family Wellbeing Centres it was hoped that they could give the right support for current pressures, such as the impact of poverty on families and presenting the higher level of demand for referrals to the Brent Family Front Door (BFFD).

The Committee noted that with shocks to the system like the pandemic, it could validate what the system was doing well and expose what the system was not doing well, demonstrating how effective services were. They queried what had been learned from this in terms of processes, Brent young people, and resilience. Councillor Stephens felt the pandemic had shown there was a role for local authorities as brokers to engage with schools, communities and organisations on projects of support. This had been particularly prevalent in the HAF programme, where because a funding stream had been developed, the Council had been able to work in ways it could not before to look very clearly at a summer, winter and Easter holiday programme. There was also key learning around the need to address the mental health needs of young people. Brian Grady agreed that there was a need to be mindful of emotional wellbeing services and ensure there was a good offer, through having strong collaboration with schools. Councillor McLennan also agreed that the pandemic had exposed the level of unmet need for children's mental health, where children were now discussing that loud and clear. She felt they had learnt more preventative services were needed, but as these were not statutory services they became difficult to fund.

The Chair drew the item to a close and invited the Committee to make recommendations, with the following RESOLVED:

- i) To note the content of the report.

An information request had also been made during the course of the discussion, recorded as follows:

- i) That the Committee receive a briefing note on Brent Children's Trust, including its governance arrangements, membership, key priorities and work programme.

7. **London Borough of Culture Legacy**

Zerritha Brown (Brent 2020 Legacy Manager, Brent Council) introduced the report. She highlighted the Metroland Cultures Trust that had been established as part of the programme and the Education Partnership. The report set out how the approach to culture across the organisation and across Brent had changed and included proposals for activity for the year. Dr Melanie Smith (Director of Public Health, Brent Council) added that through the legacy work they had been able to engage all parts of the Council, which was critical for the new approach to culture.

The Chair thanked officers for the introduction and invited comments and questions from those present, with the following issues raised:

Regarding how many events were held at a ward level during Borough of Culture 2020, Zerritha Brown advised that as a result of the pandemic all events had moved online. The only event that had been delivered in person was Rise, the launch of Borough of Culture 2020. The work leading up to 2020 did engage across the whole Borough, and there was a physical presence throughout the Borough, notably artistic commissions in all Brent libraries, including 4 community libraries. Dr Melanie Smith advised that one of the most effective pieces of work had been the culture fund, which aimed to support grassroots cultural organisations and individuals throughout the borough and achieved good geographical spread across the Borough. Officers were keen for the legacy to involve all of Brent, both geographically and demographically.

In relation to what was being done to support local authors and archives, the Committee were advised that one of the notable events that preceded Borough of Culture 2020 was the Queen's Park Book Festival, which had a strong presence from the Heritage Service and Libraries. The Council were working with an author's family currently in the hopes of securing an archive. Officers were keen to do more and asked Committee members who were aware of Brent authors to let them know.

The Committee queried how performance was being assessed and how resident and stakeholder feedback was being used to tweak the programme based on positive and negative reactions to projects. The Committee were advised that the Borough of Culture programme had been comprehensively evaluated, and it had been successful despite the fact plans had to change quite considerably as a result of the pandemic. The evaluation report highlighted that there was not as many opportunities during the borough of culture year for wider audiences to engage, such as the older population or those living with long term health conditions. This was an area the legacy work was trying to address in terms of arts and health and wellbeing. Some of that work was already underway, for example partnering with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. There had also been learning for how the Community Advisor role could have been approached better in terms of authentically co-producing a largescale arts programme with the community. That learning was now being incorporated for the Council's approach to co-production.

The Committee wanted to be assured that residents, particularly young people, continued to remain part of the legacy process and were the voice of legacy. They were advised that a Local Cultural Education Partnership had been established,

which sat within the Children and Young People Department. A manager had been appointed to that work, working closely with schools and young people in and outside of education settings, with a remit of ensuring young people had access to cultural opportunities and used creativity to unlock critical thinking within the curriculum. Young people were very much at the centre of that work. In addition, applications were being sought from Brent young people for paid placements with Metroland Culture, along with an artist development programme open to new and established Brent artists.

The Chair thanked those present for their contributions and brought the discussion to an end. The Committee RESOLVED:

To recommend the following areas for improvement:

- a) To ensure that community engagement, in particular with children and young people, is central to the delivery of the legacy programme
- b) To map cultural activity in each borough ward, including arts and culture networks, organisations and infrastructure, and share this information with local councillors and their communities
- c) To ensure that publications by Brent authors and on the Brent area are prominently displayed at all libraries within the borough

The following request for information was made:

- i) That the Committee receives the Brent Borough of Culture 2020 evaluation report.

8. Northwick Park NHS Trust Maternity Improvement Plan Progress Update

Lisa Knight (Chief Nurse, London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust (LNWUHT)) introduced the item, advising that the Maternity Ward at Northwick Park Hospital had been upgraded by the CQC from 'inadequate' to 'requires improvement'. The report included some caveats, and as an organisation it was recognised that work was needed to embed the improvements undertaken and ensure they became business as usual. She highlighted that cultural changes took time, and small improvements were being made daily in relation to cultural behaviours, but that remained the more fragile element of the work being done. The ward continued to be supported by the Local Maternity and Neo-Natal System (LMNS) and the Director of Midwifery from Chelsea and Westminster. There was also a National Maternity Improvement Programme looking at all maternity units in the country to support improvement, with the Trust being visited twice so far as part of their diagnostics. The Trust were also working with Healthwatch around how the diversity and representation on the Maternity Voices Partnership could be improved.

In relation to recruitment of midwives, the Committee were advised that this particular risk still existed and was a big challenge. The number of vacancies had reduced since the Trust last reported at the Committee, from 46 to 40 midwifery vacancies, which was not a significant improvement. The Committee heard that the Trust had expected this and other units struggled in the same way. There was a comprehensive recruitment plan in place to address this issue and the rate of

leavers had slowed which was positive. Nine international midwives were starting in May 2022 as part of the Capital Midwife Programme.

In relation to leadership and structure, Lisa Knight advised that they had appointed into the substantive posts of Director of Midwifery, and Director of Operations for Women's and Children, meaning that the divisional leadership team was now substantive and the Trust were pleased with that.

The Chair thanked Lisa Knight for her introduction and invited comments and questions from those present, with the following issues raised:

The Committee queried the meaning of Table 2, under paragraph 3.1, in terms of what the actions referred to. They were advised that the CQC had 3 layers of action which were; enforcement actions, 'must dos', and 'should dos'. At the time of the report there were 16 'should do' actions, 4 of which had been completed. The Trust had set themselves a timeline for when they expected to achieve the 'should do' actions, and were discussing those timescales with the Board. For example, the recommendation 'the Trust should ensure there are enough midwifery staff with the right qualifications, skills, training and experience' was not in a position to be completed immediately and there was a long lead time associated with that particular action. Many of the 'should do' actions were longer term. The shorter term actions had been completed and the Trust were now moving into the medium and longer term actions, some of which had a lead time of 6 months or longer. Pippa Nightingale (Chief Executive, LNWUHT) added that the team had a good grip on the detail, and it was a long journey. The Trust were mindful that the maternity service had been in a similar position previously and were not interested in quick fixes but sustainable cultural change.

It was confirmed that Health Education England had removed the ruling that the site was unsuitable for placing students, and students would be coming back on site from next month.

In relation to the preceptorship programme and the pathway for midwifery qualification, the Committee noted that this had been raised as an issue in the previous report to the Committee. They queried what improvements had been made for new graduates who hoped to become midwives. Lisa Knight advised that the Trust had spent a lot of time with the preceptorship midwives and had collaborated with an External Preceptorship Speciality Team from Nursing to review the programme with the Midwifery Team. There was now a more balanced preceptorship programme where, as well as competency based work, there was the opportunity to undertake reflective practice and restorative supervision, which had made a difference. Health Education England had evaluated the experience of the preceptorship midwives at the end of 2021 and were happy with their experience and therefore would not be reviewing it again. There was no backlog of staff waiting to move from a Band 5 to Band 6, and as soon as competencies were met staff automatically transferred into Band 6, with the majority of midwives occupying a Band 6 role.

In relation to the monitoring of staff, the Committee were advised that demographics of the preceptorship programme and cultural behaviours were monitored as a whole organisation looking at Band 5 to 6 but also the lower

bandings. Work plans were in place to monitor the progress improvements in that area.

The Committee noted that the improvement plan was long term, however wanted to reassure residents that the service was safe now. Pippa Nightingale endorsed the messages and confirmed that the service was now safe and the Trust had done all it could to make sure the clinical pathways were safe. Previously the Trust had seen women getting lost along the maternity pathway, for example due to language barriers, which had in some cases resulted in stillbirth, but those processes had been tightened up and improved to ensure a safe service. As services were now safe, the Trust had an opportunity to breath and re-establish where it would go next in terms of the very important strategic work needed for maternity services. That was needed to be done in collaboration with stakeholders and service users, looking at what an outstanding maternity service might look like for the Brent population. That engagement piece was now ready to start. In addition, internal improvements were being worked on with the multi-disciplinary team.

Noting that maternity services had previously moved up and down with CQC ratings, the Committee queried what would be different now to previous improvement plans. Lisa Knight advised that there was now an infrastructure built in to the maternity unit to deliver the improvement plan, with a very senior Audit Midwife in place to audit compliance against standards and safety on a day by day basis. That midwife looked at safety daily and reported back so that everybody had visibility on that. Lisa Knight had bi-weekly Maternity Steering Group meetings, and the Maternity Improvement Group, chaired by the Chief Executive, was embedded into the governance structure. Work on the ground had been done to build a team that would keep the service safe moving forward and keep a close eye on metrics. Pippa Nightingale was confident that the Trust would be able to move the maternity service from 'requires improvement' to 'good' within a year, and then to 'outstanding' within a year of a 'good' rating. She highlighted that the Trust had no control over when it was inspected and visits were unannounced.

The Committee asked how infant mortality rates were improving. They were advised that the perinatal mortality rate was within the acceptable range for the year. The Trust was compliant with its Duty of Candour, which was a monitored process, and were not an outlier when compared across London for serious incidents in the past 12 months. With the cultural work done, staff were reporting clinical incidents which were not resulting in serious incidents any higher than any other unit. Quarterly meetings with the Health Services Investigation Branch were held where they reviewed perinatal mortality and they had been happy with where the Trust were and felt it was where they would expect it to be for the reporting year. Cases were reviewed on a quarterly basis and individual investigations into maternity cases were undertaken by the Investigation Branch, who then provided the Trust with a slide pack to share their learning from investigations. Feedback from those learnings had showcased that one of the biggest challenges was communication with women with English as a second language. As a result, the Trust had worked hard to improve that aspect of the pathway, including commissioning a new interpretation company and new telephones. At the most recent Maternity Safety Champions meeting they had spent the majority of the meeting discussing how that area could be improved further as it was a complex area. Other methods of disseminating learning from maternity cases included slide

packs, monthly governance meetings, monthly learning newsletters and bi-weekly engagement events.

The Chair thanked health colleagues for their responses, and drew the item to a close. He invited members of the Committee to make recommendations, with the following RESOLVED:

The following information requests were made:

- i) That the Committee received a progress report in a years' time on the progress made in delivering the Maternity Improvement Plan
- ii) That the Committee receives information on the progress made in addressing the recommendations made to London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust by the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee on 23 August 2021

9. **Brent Housing Management Fire Safety Progress Update**

Councillor Southwood (Lead Member for Housing and Welfare Reform) introduced the report. She highlighted that it was Brent Housing Management's (BHM) core responsibility as a landlord to keep residents safe, and the work outlined in the report was amongst the most important that BHM undertook. Following the Grenfell Tragedy, the Council had committed to do whatever was needed to ensure tenants in high rise blocks were kept safe and pledged not only to do a proper assessment of the safety measures in place and how adequate they were, but also to find the funding where necessary to fix things. It was positive that the assessments found evidence that fire safety had been a priority over the years and changes had been made in properties over time to keep tenants safe.

The paper also outlined the regular regime for safety assessments and the work done in low and medium rise blocks over the past few years, including the approximate spend on works completed, which was around £5m, affecting over 6,000 households. The paper outlined the fire safety programme in high rise blocks which was about to start. Councillor Southwood highlighted the significance and complexity of those works, and the need to invest significantly in those blocks as part of the major works programme to embed fire safety works within that programme. It was likely that tenants and leaseholders would be significantly impacted by the works and BHM had begun that consultation with leaseholders, with a commitment to do that work well. She added that the paper concluded with looking forward, for example ensuring the Council was ready to meet the requirements of the Fire Safety Bill when it became law.

The Chair thanked Councillor Southwood for her introduction to the report and invited comments and questions from those present, with the following issues raised:

The Committee wanted to know how BHM communicated with residents to let them know what changes were being made to keep them safe. Councillor Southwood felt it was important to strike a balance with tenants and leaseholders which provided reassurance on one hand, but did not look complacent. Hakeem Osinaike (Operational Director Housing, Brent Council) advised that there were different

ways BHM communicated with residents. When it came to works, that engagement took place nearer the time BHM would be looking to do the works. For example, at Kilburn Square there had been many meetings to discuss what the works would entail, what it would look like for them, and where they had options. There was then statutory consultation specifically with leaseholders regarding the works and how much their share of the costs was likely to be.

In relation to how much money had been paid from leaseholders on fire safety works over the last few years, the Committee could be provided with those figures. Fire safety works were usually done in conjunction with major works, but where only fire works were carried out those figures could be provided.

Regarding fire safety reports, the Committee queried to what extent BHM relied on these to decide whether to conduct fire safety works. They were advised that BHM employed professional agencies to do fire inspections in blocks, with annual inspections on high rise blocks and inspections every three years in low rise as a statutory requirement. Type 4 fire inspections were not statutory but BHM had opted to conduct those to ensure they had detailed information on fire safety in all blocks. They also had stock condition surveys and the combination of those assessments and reports was used to inform the works needed in the blocks. Those reports were professionally commissioned and reliable. Where there were urgent works needed, a Section 20 would not necessarily be issued as there would not be time to undertake the consultation, which was permitted in law. Hakeem Osinaike advised that very few works were identified as urgent and therefore were commissioned as part of planned works, enabling time to consult with leaseholders. Under no circumstances would Brent Council ignore safety works that needed doing, and the landlord had the responsibility to determine what safety works were to be done whether leaseholders agreed or not, as they were the responsible owner and agency for fire safety works.

In relation to supporting leaseholders with the cost of fire safety works they were required to pay, Hakeem Osinaike advised that leaseholders had the opportunity to pay by instalments and spread payments. Where bills were significantly high the Council could put a charge on the property so that the leaseholder would not have to pay until they wanted to sell the property, and the Council offered to buy property back from the leaseholder also.

The Committee highlighted section 3.10 of the report, noting that the London Fire Brigade (LFB) had issued an enforcement notice that had since been signed off in relation to Granville New Homes properties. They queried how the LFB signed off the enforcement notice if the fire alarm system and monitoring had not yet been commissioned. Hakeem Osinaike advised that the enforcement notice did not require fire alarms, but the landlord, First Wave Housing Ltd, had opted to put in fire alarms as a temporary measure until other works were completed to enable residents to stay in their flat in the case of a fire. In this case, First Wave Housing had met all requirements from the LFB enforcement notice, LFB had attended the property and were satisfied, and had therefore signed the notice. There was a clear plan for completing the fire safety works in Granville properties and the consultation process had been completed for properties coming into the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

The Committee drew the item to a close with a final question on how well residents were protected. Councillor Southwood advised that the report made clear the regime BHM was undertaking by way of prevention, including investigating buildings and making sure that the right measures were in place to ensure residents were safe should a fire break out whether they lived in a block with stay put arrangements or an evacuation policy. Other preventative measures included reminding residents to keep corridors clear for fire prevention, and a regime to test the robustness of fire safety in all BHM buildings. There was a commitment to stay prepared and ensure BHM were using the HRA to maximise the level of fire safety.

The Chair drew the item to a close and invited the Committee to make recommendations, with the following RESOLVED:

To recommend the following area of improvement:

- i) To review the Section 20 process for fire safety works, ensuring the distinction between fire safety works and refurbishment works is communicated to residents

The following information requests were made:

- i) That the Committee receives a breakdown of the financial contribution from leaseholders for fire safety related works across the Brent Housing Management estate within the previous three years
- ii) That the Committee receives a progress report in a years' time on the Brent Housing Management's programme of works to improve fire safety standards in the Council's housing stock

10. **GP Access Task Group Final Report**

The Chair thanked Councillor Daly and members of the Task Group for the work they had completed over the past few months. He invited Councillor Daly, as Chair of the GP Access Task Group, to introduce the final report.

Councillor Daly advised that the overwhelming majority of residents were happy with their consultation with their GP. The greatest determinant for whether someone received a good service from their GP was the practice they chose to register with. The Committee heard that the sector of the Brent community who were the least satisfied with GP access was parents of infants, and young people, which the task group had heard from Brent Youth Parliament. The task group had also heard anecdotal evidence of discrimination towards Eastern European residents. Almost all stakeholders the task group had engaged reported being registered with a GP, ranging from ex-prisoners to homeless individuals. The task group had spent a lot of time working on a basic standard of service people could expect from their GP, focused around the customer experience, and this formed the basis of the task group recommendations. She concluded by advising the Committee that a lot of GPs were already doing a lot of the recommendations, but not all GPs were doing everything. She offered thanks to the Scrutiny Officers and Partnerships Team who had assisted the Task Group.

The Chair thanked Councillor Daly for her introduction and invited comments and questions from those present, with the following issues raised:

Councillor Nerva (Lead Member for Public Health, Leisure and Culture) thanked the task group. He assured the Committee that although the Cabinet were not directly responsible for GP services, the Cabinet would want to take up these recommendations and champion the work outlined. The idea of a Brent GP standard was welcomed and he looked forward to working with the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) on this.

Judith Davey (CEO, Brent HealthWatch) was pleased to have contributed to the report. She advised that Healthwatch Brent were also doing a substantial piece of work on GP access, and had participated in the HealthWatch England Survey about access to GPs. Of all HealthWatch providers in North West London (NWL), Brent HealthWatch had received the highest response to the survey by a substantial degree, which she felt was positive and had led to lots of insights from the survey. HealthWatch were also doing a deep dive of the number of Primary Care Networks (PCNs), including using their voluntary network to do 'enter and views'. HealthWatch had been gathering testimonials from stakeholders through video, and the emerging findings were consistent with the Task Group recommendations.

Fana Hussain (Borough Lead Director - Brent, NWL CCG) agreed that the recommendations of the task group were fair and reasonable from a healthcare point of view, and health colleagues appreciated the work that had been done. She highlighted that GP access was not a straightforward area of work and was something healthcare continued to work on and strengthen on a regular basis. There was a number of innovations being taken forward, including GP surgeries opening on Saturdays throughout the month of March to address the access issues experienced over the past 2 years. The CCG were looking at how it developed primary care services going forward, including the digital offer, face to face appointments, and outreach work to understand the needs of the population to deliver services locally.

The Chair invited a representative of Brent Youth Parliament to address the Committee. He advised that Brent Youth Parliament welcomed the final recommendation about further work being done to look into young people's access to GPs. He queried how many young people were involved in patient participation groups, and if they were not involved whether this meant that the minimum standard agreed might miss the needs of young people. Councillor Daly felt that patient participation groups were not a strength of any consumer participation in Brent, and doubted young people were involved. The task group had discussed creating PCN patient participation groups and she felt it was vital young people were involved. Fana Hussain advised that some patient participation groups were online and that was where the younger population got involved. She acknowledged that patient participation groups may not be a true representation of the patient population at times and young people did not always have the time to attend but did get involved through Zoom meetings.

The Committee queried how the recommendations would be incorporated into services. Fana Hussain advised that some recommendations were currently being worked on, such as the implementation of new telephone systems to improve telephone access services, but some would take longer to embed. Some practices

were in premises struggling with infrastructure. She advised the Committee residents would see a change in the way services were provided from the coming financial year, looking at investment in General Practice and expanding the access offer. National PCN development would come into place from October 2022, with PCNs working as 1 practice, 7 days a week, from 8am to 8pm.

The Committee thanked all those who had contributed and RESOLVED to agree the recommendations of the task group.

11. Transitional Safeguarding Task Group Final Report

The Chair of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee introduced the report, which he advised had been educational for members of the task group and helped them develop an understanding of what transitional safeguarding was. The task group had been equipped with background information quickly through briefing sessions with a leading national expert, Des Holmes. He highlighted it had been interesting to have not just the statutory partners coming to the table but also partners from the voluntary sector to explain how they supported this area of work. The learning had showcased good and outstanding areas of work. The recommendations were themed around the task group appreciating the good work already happening and building on that to improve transitional safeguarding further.

Councillor McLennan (Lead Member for Resources and Lead Member for Children's Safeguarding, Early Help and Social Care) was glad the Committee recognised the vital importance of ensuring a safe transition from children's to adult services. The wraparound services children had were not the same services they may get as an adult, and each service in adult social care had different thresholds and age ranges. It was challenging to link all of those services together but it was something the local authority was determined to achieve. A lot of the services supporting this cohort were non-statutory, so building upon those services was where the challenge lay.

Gail Tolley (Strategic Director Children and Young People, Brent Council) highlighted that this was not a solely Children's Services remit and was grateful for the recommendations, which focused on the transition in safeguarding from child to adult. She had found the experience of the task group very helpful and the recommendations would be useful in terms of taking forward work in this area.

Claudia Brown (Operational Director Adult Social Care, Brent Council) echoed the previous contributions. She thanked the task group for the recommendations, and advised there would be a review of the SMART team who it was felt could play a role in supporting the work going forward.

A representative from Brent Youth Parliament advised that Brent Youth Parliament welcomed the report outlining that young people were the experts by experience, and hoped that was echoed and emphasised throughout the report.

The Chair thanked colleagues for their input, and drew the item to a close. The Committee RESOLVED to agree the recommendations of the task group.

12. Any other urgent business

Co-opted member Reverend Helen Askwith advised that this would be her final meeting of the Community and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee. The Committee extended thanks for her contributions over the years.

The Chair advised the Committee that this was also the final meeting for Angela D'Urso (Interim Strategic Partnerships Manager, Brent Council), who had assisted with the two task groups discussed during the meeting. He thanked Angela for her input and help.

The meeting closed at 8:12pm

COUNCILLOR KETAN SHETH, Chair