

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 21ST FEBRUARY, 2023

Present – Councillors Haworth (Chairman), Bullock, N. Ayub, Fletcher, Meehan, Sanders (as deputy for Councillor T. Wilkinson), Sherrington (as deputy for Councillor Challenger), Mrs. Thomas and Wright.

Lay Member

Ms. A. Schenk - Health Watch Bolton

Also in attendance

Councillor Morgan	- Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor Baines	- Executive Cabinet Member Wellbeing
Ms. R. Tanner	- DASS, Director of Adults
Ms. F. Noden	- Chief Executive, Bolton NHS FT
Ms. N. Ledwith	- Delivery Director Bolton Locality GMIC
Ms. S. White	- Director of Strategy, Transformation & Digital, Bolton NHSFT
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	- Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Challenger, Hartigan, Radcliffe, McGeown and T. Wilkinson and Bernie Gallagher (Bolton and District Pensioners Association)

Councillor Haworth in the Chair.

35. FARNWORTH HEALTH CENTRE PETITION

The Committee was informed that a petition of over 3,000 names had been submitted from the residents of Farnworth and Kearsley regarding *“the need for a super health centre to serve the local community”*. Also highlighted was *“the need for good health provision in the area and that the people of Farnworth desperately needed what the rest of the Borough had”*. On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked them for this submission.

Ms. Fiona Noden, Chief Executive, Bolton NHS FT, Ms. Naomi Ledwith, Delivery Director Bolton Locality Board GMIC and Ms. Sharon Martin, Director of Strategy, Transformation & Digital Bolton NHSFT gave a joint presentation in response to the proposal for Farnworth.

It was explained that part of the Farnworth Regeneration project included plans to develop a community hub and the Council was looking for expressions of interest in order to determine priorities for occupying the space. Outline plans had been developed in a similar vein to the Little Lever build. Also, the developer was wanting a better understanding, to mitigate their risks, of interested services so the detailed design could progress. However, it was felt that key to the proposals was the proximity of health and community care with the leisure centre to maximise social prescribing opportunities.

The Committee was also informed of key aspects of the development proposals including that the space available was 10,000 sq. ft and would be leased to the Council.

There was also additional space available for commercial use, however indications were that there might be the possibility of utilising some of this space if there was interest from health and community services beyond the 10,000 sq. ft offer.

The date from completion was August, 2024.

Members were also reminded that there were four GP practices within the Farnworth and Kearsley Primary Care Network area

serving a population of just over 36,000. Also provided were details of the services provided from the Farnworth Health Centre which was a similar size to the planned new facility. Both practices based there needed more space and one option for consideration was around relocating community services to the new development, however there are consequences to this option.

Members were also apprised of matters around the Primary Care Network estates review in terms of the development of clinical strategies. Farnworth and Kearsley PCN was in the first phase and this would be completed in mid 2023.

In terms of next steps, it was highlighted that a sub-group of the locality estates group would be established to pull together the outcomes of the estates review, look at an options appraisal regarding the benefits of moving community service from its current space and the cost implications.

Members in their discussions referred to –

- Demand for a health centre – consultations with the public;
- Where was the core information coming from – clinically led;
- How the Well-Being Centre fitted in;
- A dialogue regarding the services people needed;
- Matters around the testimony of some people using a number of buses to get to provision;
- Mapping of other health centres;
- The building construction then looking at the make up;
- Access to GP's
- Public health featured in every part of the Council;
- The locality boards;
- Any other building options;
- The process going forward;
- Public engagement on the community hub;
- The answer looking for a question;
- What GP services might offer in the future;
- The shape and size of the building;
- The feeling of some inequality and whether Farnworth

had lost out;

- The underpinning JSNA;
- Health inequalities in the Borough;
- Money previously spent in the west of the Borough as opposed to the south;
- Covers all Directorships of the Council; and
- Wrap around of services.

It was moved by Councillor Haworth and Seconded by Councillor Mrs. Thomas, viz-

- (i) Where health or social care commitments are made at Council ward level by statutory services, that local ward councillors are recommended to regularly follow these matters up with the statutory service managers and also with Executive Cabinet Members.
- (ii) The Bolton Locality Board be recommended to commit to a body like Healthwatch or Bolton CVS undertaking a project to get more testimony from residents of difficulties they encounter getting to health services.
- (iii) That the concept of Community Hub, being used for Farnworth and also for Little Lever, that this concept be better described and explained in narrative by the Department of Place at the Council. In addition, that in future public engagement and communication about health and care in Kearsley and Farnworth and other areas where a community hub is a concept, that good and timely public engagement and communication takes place.
- (iv) Where health and care matters are part of development and regeneration plans, that ward councillors are encouraged to regularly raise questions at meetings of the Council, in order to ensure that all items of interest and enquiry get raised and in a timely manner.

- (v) That the Health Overview and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee for the Municipal Year, 2023 - 2024 considers including on its work programme matters of community health services provision in Kearsley and in Farnworth.
- (vi) In addition, that the Health Overview and Adult Services Scrutiny Committee, 2023- 2024 revisit the above recommendations and receive an update on the matters pertaining to the petition for a health centre for Farnworth.

For the Motion, Viz –

Councillors, N. Ayub, Bullock, Fletcher, Haworth, Meehan, Mrs. Thomas, Wright, Sanders and Sherrington.

Against the Motion, Viz –

Nil

Abstain, Viz –

Nil.

Whereupon the motion was declared carried.