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# Merton Council

## Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel



Date: 3 November 2020

Time: 7.15 pm

Venue: This will be a virtual meeting and therefore will not take place in a physical location, in accordance with s78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020.

### AGENDA

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| 1 | Apologies for absence   |        |
| 2 | Declarations of pecuniary interest  |        |
| 3 | Minutes of the previous meeting   | 1 - 4  |
| 4 | Budget and Business 2020-21 - Verbal Update from the Director of Corporate Services.                                |        |
| 5 | Impact of COVID-19 on mental health services - Verbal Update from South West London Clinical Commissioning Group.   |        |
| 6 | COVID-19 Update - Verbal Update from the Director of Public Health and the Assistant Director of Adult Social Care. |        |
| 7 | Work Programme 2020-21  | 5 - 10 |

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**This is a public meeting – members of the public are very welcome to attend.  
The meeting room will be open to members of the public from 7.00 p.m.**

For more information about the work of this and other overview and scrutiny panels, please telephone 020 8545 3390 or e-mail [scrutiny@merton.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@merton.gov.uk). Alternatively, visit [www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

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## Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel membership

### Councillors:

Peter McCabe (Chair)  
Thomas Barlow (Vice-Chair)  
Nigel Benbow  
Pauline Cowper  
Mary Curtin  
Jenifer Gould  
Rebecca Lanning  
Dave Ward

### Substitute Members:

Andrew Howard  
Joan Henry  
Hina Bokhari  
David Chung  
Oonagh Moulton

### Co-opted Representatives

Diane Griffin (Co-opted member, non-voting)  
Saleem Sheikh (Co-opted member, non-voting)

### Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

### What is Overview and Scrutiny?

Overview and Scrutiny describes the way Merton's scrutiny councillors hold the Council's Executive (the Cabinet) to account to make sure that they take the right decisions for the Borough. Scrutiny panels also carry out reviews of Council services or issues to identify ways the Council can improve or develop new policy to meet the needs of local people. From May 2008, the Overview & Scrutiny Commission and Panels have been restructured and the Panels renamed to reflect the Local Area Agreement strategic themes.

Scrutiny's work falls into four broad areas:

- ⇒ **Call-in:** If three (non-executive) councillors feel that a decision made by the Cabinet is inappropriate they can 'call the decision in' after it has been made to prevent the decision taking immediate effect. They can then interview the Cabinet Member or Council Officers and make recommendations to the decision-maker suggesting improvements.
- ⇒ **Policy Reviews:** The panels carry out detailed, evidence-based assessments of Council services or issues that affect the lives of local people. At the end of the review the panels issue a report setting out their findings and recommendations for improvement and present it to Cabinet and other partner agencies. During the reviews, panels will gather information, evidence and opinions from Council officers, external bodies and organisations and members of the public to help them understand the key issues relating to the review topic.
- ⇒ **One-Off Reviews:** Panels often want to have a quick, one-off review of a topic and will ask Council officers to come and speak to them about a particular service or issue before making recommendations to the Cabinet.
- ⇒ **Scrutiny of Council Documents:** Panels also examine key Council documents, such as the budget, the Business Plan and the Best Value Performance Plan.

Scrutiny panels need the help of local people, partners and community groups to make sure that Merton delivers effective services. If you think there is something that scrutiny should look at, or have views on current reviews being carried out by scrutiny, let us know.

For more information, please contact the Scrutiny Team on 020 8545 3390 or by e-mail on [scrutiny@merton.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@merton.gov.uk). Alternatively, visit [www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

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# Agenda Item 3

All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the committee/panel. To find out the date of the next meeting please check the calendar of events at your local library or online at [www.merton.gov.uk/committee](http://www.merton.gov.uk/committee).

## HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES AND OLDER PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

2 SEPTEMBER 2020

(7.15 pm - 8.50 pm)

PRESENT: Councillors Councillor Peter McCabe (in the Chair),  
Councillor Nigel Benbow, Councillor Pauline Cowper,  
Councillor Mary Curtin, Councillor Jenifer Gould,  
Councillor Dave Ward Councillor Oonagh Moulton, Councillor  
Joan Henry and Di Griffin

### ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Mark Allison, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, James Blythe. Locality Executive Director, Merton and Wandsworth SW London CCG, John Morgan (Assistant Director, Adult Social Care) and Dr Dagmar Zeuner (Director, Public Health) Stella Akintan (Scrutiny Officer)

### 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Thomas Barlow Councillor Rebecca Lanning and Co-opted Member Saleem Sheikh. Councillor Oonagh Moulton and Councillor Joan Henry attended as substitutes.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests

### 3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

### 4 UPDATE ON COVID-19 - NHS SOUTH WEST LONDON CCG - VERBAL UPDATE. (Agenda Item 4)

The Locality Executive Director said during the COVID-19 Pandemic the NHS went into a command and control model working as part of NHS England. This resulted in a central control room in daily communication with health partners. Focus now is on recovery and return to normal levels of healthcare for non-covid patients, and preparing for winter and a possible second wave. COVID-19 has led to innovation in a number of areas and the NHS want to ensure that the learning is embedded across all services

A programme of work on planned care was paused and there has been a backlog of surgery. Hospitals are reviewing waiting lists and aiming to get patients into services as quickly as possible. There are now different standards on infection prevention and control to ensure it is COVID-19 compliant.

Work is taking place to prepare intensive care for a possible second wave. The aim is to maintain capacity for elective patients. The CCG are working with St George's to create elective care capacity.

Cancer referrals dropped by 80% during the height of the Pandemic. Patients are presenting with more advanced symptoms and services are aiming to get diagnosis and treatment as quickly as possible. The CCG worked closely with the mental health Trust in July, as there has been increased mental health challenges due to COVID-19. There has been increased investment in psychological therapy services to support people.

Primary care faced huge challenges as well as great innovations during the pandemic. Workforce challenges are significant and the CCG are working with practices to support communities. During COVID-19 this resulted in Practices working in collaboration.

A Panel member asked about the impact on children's preventative health such as vaccines. The Locality Executive Director said they are working with Practices to ensure there are capture measures in place. There are other impacts on children such as those who are vulnerable and have complex needs. Some of those services have fallen away and the CCG working with schools and partners to ensure they are restored.

A panel member asked about the flu vaccination programme highlighting that the Boots Pharmacy have begun advertising which is key to preparing for the winter. It was asked how community champions are contributing to sharing key messages around Covid-19. The Locality Executive Director said they are in discussion with Practices about flu vaccines, they will be arriving soon and there will be advertising campaigns. The CCG will use community champions as part of the community prescribing network.

A Panel member asked about the progress with the backlog of cancer patients and those with other treatments pending and what preparations are being put in place for a second wave. The Locality Executive Director said they aim to get to 90 percent of historical levels by the end of the year, will share information on trajectories when they are confirmed. There has been learning from the first wave, and a better understanding of how to use sites.

A panel member asked if we need a Centre for the rehabilitation for covid patients The Locality Executive Director said this is unlikely because they will need a range of services as well as home services. There is also lack of clarity about the evidence of re-infection risk. It will be important to see how the models of rehabilitation will evolve.

A panel member asked when the command and control unit would be disbanded and power handed back to local authorities. The Locality Executive Director said this will be a phased process, some has been handed back but there is some high level and regional co-ordination. Local control will be restored over a period of time.

A Panel member asked how much additional expenditure has been incurred and if CCG's have been provided with extra money by central government. The Locality Executive Director said they been have been logging Merton spend and have been fully recompensed. Normal NHS financial Spend has been suspended

A Panel member asked how COVID has affected people from BAME communities and what plans are being put in place to address any issues. The Locality Executive Director said people from BAME communities were disproportionately affected in death and hospital admissions. There are clinical, physiological issues, long term conditions and socio economic factors contributing to this. The CCG are working with general practice to identify risk and there is also a project to support people with diabetes. Statutory services can only go so far, the Health and Wellbeing Board Community sub-group will play an important role . The CCG are also working with mosques and temples to identify those at risk. The NHS has indicted it will ensure services do not marginalise those who face health inequalities.

The Chair asked the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance to provide an update on costs of COVID-19 to the council. The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance said the government has provided funding for health service deficits but not costs incurred by the local authorities. The Assistant Director for Adult Social Care said the council can claim COVID-19 related expenses from the CCG. The Locality Executive Director said the CCG has made all possible funding available as they are aware of the challenges.

#### 5 COMMISSIONING ARRANGEMENTS IN SOUTH WEST LONDON - VERBAL UPDATE (Agenda Item 5)

The Locality Executive Director said the merger took place on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 there is a borough committee for Merton. There are meetings with other boroughs and it is the main forum for agreeing the response to the pandemic

#### 6 UPDATE ON COVID-19 - - MERTON COMMUNITY AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT (Agenda Item 6)

The Assistant Director for Adult Social Care said at the start of the pandemic there has been a focus on hospital discharges to enable flows to continue given the numbers of COVID-19 patients. The department along with the rest of London/UK had to deal the with the challenges of sourcing personal protective equipment (PPE) and had to provide a wraparound service for those who were shielding in Merton. Day centres were closed in line with government guidance around social distancing with only one day centre remaining open for people with complex learning disabilities.

The Director of Public Health said councils have produced outbreak control plans – to monitor rates of new COVID-19 infection rates. A new Health and Wellbeing Board Community Sub group has been established. The aim is to bring the community and voluntary sector together to share important messages on tackling the spread of COVID-19.

Panel members asked about the development of the track and trace process, including when will the new test and trace app be rolled out and if it will work locally.

The Director of Public Health said it is being piloted in the aim of this is to see how the app can complement the rest of the system.

A Panel member noted that fewer people are wearing face masks and asked what can be done to re-educate people. The Director of Public Health said she will pass concerns to the environmental health team and the chamber of commerce. It is important that we all become role models, to help make mask wearing a norm.

A Panel member said the lockdown had a terrible effect on older people in the borough, lots of people are very depressed. We need to get people into groups again. The Assistant Director of Adult Social Care said people's lives have been upended. The council have been contacting people who attended day centres and setting up small socially distanced groups. It was also reported that the council are working with mental health colleagues, planning for people with mental health problems as a result of the pandemic.

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What support to vulnerable communities if they do not use technology. The Assistant Director for Adult Social Care said My Merton was utilised to get the message out around community hubs and what it could offer. The voluntary sector was utilized to reach groups; local communities set up Mutual Aid to provide support to neighbours in communities.

A Panel member asked if the council will urge the government for more testing in care homes and teachers. The Director of Public Health said the national strategy is for more testing capacity, there is more demand than supply. Public health helps to prioritise those who are symptomatic. There are high risk groups, will be working with NHS partners and aim to increase testing in care homes amongst staff and residents.

RESOLVED

The Chair thanked staff and volunteers for all their efforts to protect communities

## 7 WORK PROGRAMME (Agenda Item 7)

The work programme was noted.



# Healthier Communities and Older People Work Programme 2020/21



This table sets out the draft Healthier Communities and Older People Panel Work Programme for 2020/21. This Work Programme will be considered at every meeting of the Panel to enable it to respond to issues of concern and incorporate reviews or to comment upon pre-decision items ahead of their consideration by Cabinet/Council.

The work programme table shows items on a meeting by meeting basis, identifying the issue under review, the nature of the scrutiny (pre decision, policy development, issue specific, performance monitoring, partnership related) and the intended outcomes. The last page provides information on items on the Council's Forward Plan that relate to the portfolio of the Healthier Communities and Older People Panel so that these can be added to the work programme should the Commission wish to.

**The Panel is asked to identify any work programme items that would be suitable for the use of an informal preparatory session (or other format) to develop lines of questioning (as recommended by the 2009 review of the scrutiny function).**

## Scrutiny Support

For further information on the work programme of the Healthier Communities and Older People please contact: -  
Stella Akintan (Scrutiny Officer)  
Tel: 020 8545 3390; Email: [stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk](mailto:stella.akintan@merton.gov.uk)

For more information about overview and scrutiny at LB Merton, please visit [www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.merton.gov.uk/scrutiny)

**Meeting date 21<sup>st</sup> July**

<b>Scrutiny category</b>	<b>Item/Issue</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Lead Member/ Lead Officer</b>	<b>Intended Outcomes</b>
Scrutiny of Health Partners	Discussion on the final decision of the Improving Healthcare Together Programme.	Report to the Panel	Hannah Doody, Director of Community and Mike Robinson, Consultant in Public Health	Panel to discuss the final decision and its implications for Merton residents.

**Meeting Date 2 September 2020**

<b>Scrutiny category</b>	<b>Item/Issue</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Lead Member/Lead Officer</b>	<b>Intended Outcomes</b>
	COVID-19 – How the Council is managing the response over the next 12 months and preparing for wave two. Including lessons learned from the early outbreak and work with partners, impact on specific communities within care homes and support to those who are shielding.	Report summary/ verbal update.	Director of Community and Housing	Panel to get an overview of the impact on the COVID-19 Pandemic in Merton and consider areas they may wish to do further scrutiny.

	NHS South West London - response to COVID-19	Verbal update.	James Blythe Locality Executive Director, Merton and Wandsworth	Panel to consider how the SW London CCG has responded to COVID19 to support Merton residents.
	Commissioning arrangements in South West London – Update on the new merged CCG’s and the implications for Merton as a place.	Verbal update.		

### Meeting date – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020

<b>Scrutiny category</b>	<b>Item/Issue</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Lead Member/ Lead Officer</b>	<b>Intended Outcomes</b>
Scrutiny of Health Partners	Mental Health Services – Update on support provided to the community as a result of COVID-19	Reports/verbal updates to the Panel	South West London Mental Health Trust, Community Mental Health Services	Panel to ensure local residents are receiving the support they need following the Pandemic
Budget Scrutiny	Draft Business Plan	Report to the Panel	Director of Corporate Services	Panel to review draft budget and provide comments to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.
Scrutiny of Adult Social Care	Discussion on Adult Social Care Budget including the Adult Social Care Precept	Report to the Panel	Director of Community and Housing	Panel to gain a better understanding of the budget and the impact on Merton residents.

	and an update on the impact of COVID-19			
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**Meeting Date – 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

<b>Scrutiny category</b>	<b>Item/Issue</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Lead Member/Lead Officer</b>	<b>Intended Outcomes</b>
Budget scrutiny	Draft Business Plan	Report to the Panel	Director of Corporate Services	

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**Meeting date – 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

Scrutiny of Health Partners	Access to GP Surgeries –update report setting out comparative data on access to GP appointments across South West London. The Panel will also	Report to the Panel	<b>South West London Clinical Commissioning Group</b>	
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	consider out of hours GP Services			
Scrutiny of Adult Social Care	Safeguarding Adults Annual Report			
Scrutiny of Adult Social Care	Safeguarding Adults Reviews			

**Meeting date – 26 April 2021**

<b>Scrutiny category</b>	<b>Item/Issue</b>	<b>How</b>	<b>Lead Member/Lead Officer</b>	<b>Intended Outcomes</b>
Budget Scrutiny				
Scrutiny of Health Partners				

