

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADULTS & HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON MONDAY 30TH JUNE 2025, 6.30 - 10.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Pippa Connor (Chair), Cathy Brennan, Thayahlan Iyngkaran, Mary Mason, Sean O'Donovan and Felicia Opoku.

1. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sheila Peacock and Helena Kania.

Apologies for lateness were received from Cllr Thayahlan Iyngkaran who joined the meeting at 6.55pm.

3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

Cllr Connor reported to the Panel that there had been a discussion at the recent Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 19th June 2025 about strengthening the remit of the Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel to more accurately reflect the role that the Panel had in the scrutiny of health services. The Panel would be kept updated on any revisions made to the remit. **(ACTION)**

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Pippa Connor declared an interest by virtue of her membership of the Royal College of Nursing.

Cllr Pippa Connor declared an interest by virtue of her sister working as a GP in Tottenham.

5. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/ PRESENTATIONS/ QUESTIONS

None.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.

Dominic O'Brien, Scrutiny Officer, reported that there had been recent updates to the action tracker which had been circulated to the Panel, including a response on aids and adaptations and a summary of the main points discussed at the last meeting of the Adults Improvement Board.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 31st March 2025 be approved as an accurate record.

7. ADULT CARERS STRATEGY

Jo Baty, Director for Adult Social Care, introduced the report for the Haringey Carers Strategy 2025-28 stating that this provided an update on the Council's work with carers, voluntary and community sector partners, specialist services and networks that support carers in Haringey. Following a co-production and engagement process, some key priorities for the Strategy were developed:

- Improving access to timely, clear and accessible information and support.
- Strengthening carers' rights, wellbeing and resilience.
- Creating inclusive, culturally responsive services that reflect the diversity of Haringey's communities.

Providing further details to the Panel, Alexandra Domingue, Programme Manager – Adult Social Care Commissioning, explained that there were also six themes in the Strategy which were further developments of the key priorities. These were:

- Getting the Basics Right
 - Including a focus on continued identification of carers.
 - Acknowledging the importance of timely assessment and review.
- Information and Communication
 - Addressing the varied ways to engage with carers who have a range of different communications preferences.
 - Improving digital platforms and providing digital training for carers.
- Health and Wellbeing
 - Facilitating connections through peer support networks.
- Respite and Breaks
 - Ensuring access to a range of respite options.
 - Developing further innovative ways to meet respite needs.
- Financial Resilience and Employment
 - Empowering carers so that they are aware of the financial support that exists.
 - Supporting carers with future planning.
- Training
 - Including training for safe care practices

Alexandra Domingue emphasised that the key to delivering the overall strategy would be to join up all of these elements to ensure that carers were well informed of what was already available, what would become available and ways to engage with the Council to deliver the strategy.

Cllr Connor welcomed the strategy and acknowledged the work that had gone into its development. She also commented that the key performance indicators outlined in the report were particularly helpful. Jo Baty (Director for Adult Social Care), Alexandra Domingue (Programme Manager – Adult Social Care Commissioning), Sujesh Sundarraj (Commissioning Manager - Adult Social Care), Sara Sutton (Corporate Director of Adults, Housing & Health) and Cllr Lucia das Neves (Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care & Wellbeing) then responded to questions from the Panel:

- Cllr Mason raised the financial needs of unpaid carers including possible changes to Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payment (PIP). Cllr das Neves referred to the Council's recent response to the Government's consultation on welfare reforms, expressing concerns about the potential impact on vulnerable residents in Haringey. She also emphasised the need to listen to residents on this issue and noted her recent engagement with organisations such as Disability Action Haringey. Sara Sutton added that the Council would model the impact of welfare changes and that carers would be considered as a part of that. Part of the feedback from carers had been that they didn't always know what was available to them, including financial inclusion support, so advice and signposting was required as part of the strategy. Jo Baty emphasised that there had been powerful conversations during the workshops about trust and sharing information about personal circumstances. It was therefore recognised that there were multi-layered sensitivities and that peer support from people who had a similar lived experience could be beneficial.
- Asked by Cllr Brennan about the offer for respite care in Haringey, Alexandra Domingue explained that a respite package was offered to those with an assessed eligible need, though it was not always possible to offer as much respite in a timely fashion as would ideally be provided. In addition, some residents did not always use their full allocation of respite services. There was an aim to improve the cycle of reviews with carers and to use Direct Payments to improve the overall offer. Jo Baty emphasised that this linked to another cornerstone of the strategy about information and advice, including in accessible formats, so that carers were clear about the range of options available and the support available from the community and voluntary sector. This was particularly important because the needs of carers could be very varied. Asked by Cllr Brennan about the funding for these options, Jo Baty clarified that this was usually from the Adult Social Care budget but that this could depend on what the funding stream for the individual resident was.
- Cllr Iyngkaran said that there were some circumstances that he was aware of involving residents who really struggled to access respite support. Alexandra Domingue responded that this underlined the importance of the assessment and review stage as this determined eligibility. After that stage, the process

would depend on what the Council was able to provide and the resident being able to reach the Council in a timely manner. Sujesh Sundarraaj added that the recent feedback from the engagement process had shown that it could be difficult to get in touch with the Council, particularly in an emergency situation, so there were recommendations on how this process could be streamlined and responsive in future and these had been included in the action plan.

- Cllr O'Donovan asked for clarification on the type of respite that residents needed, given that some respite could be for a couple of hours while other types of respite could be for several days. Cllr das Neves acknowledged that there were a range of needs and that for some people having regular breaks to avoid burnout was important while others may prioritise an extended break to allow for a holiday. Alexandra Domingue added that the aim was to provide a menu of choices that works for a variety of people from different backgrounds and with different needs.
- Cllr Connor asked how the different types of carers were being recognised in the key performance indicators (KPIs). Alexandra Domingue said that an important aspect of the data gathered was to make sure that responses also included details about background so that a picture could be built of their carers assessment journey. The Commissioning Co-production Board had also engaged with various local groups including those working with young carers. Overall, this was a process that involved both a qualitative and quantitative approach.
- Noting the 'increased/decreased' column in the KPIs section of the report, Cllr Connor asked whether baseline figures would be established from which these indicators could be clearly measured and tracked. Jo Baty explained that there were national KPIs that all local authorities used for carers along with an annual survey to track progress each year. There was also qualitative data from the engagement with people on their lived experience and whether they felt their quality of life had improved. It was therefore necessary to try to triangulate that data and develop meaningful local KPIs with the help of the carers co-production group.
- Referring to the financial resilience and employment section of the KPIs, Cllr Connor suggested that training and employment offers to carers would be included in these measures. Cllr das Neves said that there were good examples of in Haringey of carers supported into employment and there had been discussions on specific needs of different cohorts in adult social care, including people with additional needs who wanted to seek employment opportunities.
- Cllr Connor asked about the frequency of carers assessments and health checks, including whether these were proactively arranged by the Council. Jo Baty explained that there had been a specific project the previous year on working with carers and that all of the carers known to the Council had now had a review. The issue was now to sustain that performance with new carers coming through. Sujesh Sundarraaj added that the proactive approach included targeting young adult carers who did not traditionally interact with the Council and making people aware that they were eligible for a Care Act Assessment. It

- was also important to consider that not all carers necessarily want to receive a full statutory assessment and may be happy just to have peer support so there were various means of reaching out via faith groups and community networks.
- Asked by Cllr Brennan if 'one-stop shops' for carers support were available, Cllr das Neves responded that this was a suggestion that had emerged from the engagement process. This needed to be balanced on the overall needs of carers as some people may find it useful to have a place to go while for others this may not be an option at all. There were a range of good ideas emerging from the engagement process and the Council would be working closely with carers to help shape the right services.
 - Cllr Opoku requested further details about the survey that would be used for the KPI on carers accessing digital support. Alexandra Domingue explained that there would be both digital and paper-based options to participate in the survey. Information about the survey would be cascaded to carers via various community groups.
 - Cllr O'Donovan referred to training and highlighted the importance of funding for voluntary organisations to enable them to provide this. Jo Baty responded that there had been discussions around training with experts by experience and integrated training with carers and health and social care staff together but acknowledged that building on these opportunities was difficult without extra money.
 - Cllr O'Donovan asked about support for carers after the person they were caring for had died, including housing and employment advice. Jo Baty said that the strategy included details about having difficult conversations as soon as possible in order to be able to future-proof arrangements and understand the Council's role in such circumstances. Alexandra Domingue added that there were some examples of carers in Haringey whose formal role as a carer had come to an end, but they had chosen to become involved in the community afterwards to help to support carers in their current situation.
 - Cllr Iyngkaran noted that 274 survey responses had been received and queried whether this was representative of the diverse population of the Borough. Sujesh Sundarraj said that the response rate to the postal survey was 11% which was relatively good but acknowledged that the survey responses were a small percentage of the population overall. There was a national challenge in obtaining data of this type and the Council was aware of the risk of underrepresentation from certain groups and so they had reached out via faith groups and community networks to ensure a more rounded view in the strategy overall.
 - Cllr Iyngkaran asked how housing repairs and adaptations would be tracked through the KPIs as residents were often unhappy about delays, communications and the quality of work. Alexandra Domingue agreed that there was a need to set clear targets, for example on what 'timely' was defined as. She added that, for residents, having a clear understanding of the likely timescales was really important. The team was also trying to increase the amount of qualitative data that was gathered such as feedback from residents after an adaptation had been completed.

- Referring to employment opportunities for carers, Cllr Mason highlighted the importance of flexible employment practices to enable carers to manage their hours around their caring responsibilities. Cllr das Neves said that this was a fair point but also a national issue commenting that culturally the UK was not as good as it could be on flexibility. She added that this was not an easy thing to do but she felt that the Haringey Works team understood the challenges faced by the people they were working with and were committed to obtaining long-term sustainable work for them. Cllr Mason noted that the employment issue didn't appear to have been tracked onto a KPI and suggested that this could be added. Alexandra Domingue agreed to look into this **(ACTION)** and Cllr das Neves commented that there was a national KPI on this.
- Cllr Mason queried whether some of the KPIs could have clearer numbers or percentage-based targets rather than just being measured on 'increased/decreased'. Alexandra Domingue noted that the team was aiming to improve the action plan and to engage further on the action plan with carers so the KPIs would be developed and become smarter and more measurable.
- Noting that the engagement work was continuing and that the action plan and KPIs would be developed further, Cllr Connor asked when the Scrutiny Panel was likely to be able to see the outcomes from this. Sara Sutton said that the current intention was for the final version of the strategy to be formally adopted by the Cabinet in the Autumn and suggested that the Scrutiny Panel could look in more detail at the outcomes being achieved in around 12 months' time. **(ACTION)** She also noted that this would be a three-year strategy and so the Scrutiny Panel may want to look at this on an annual basis during that period. Cllr das Neves suggested that the scrutiny item(s) could directly involve some of the carers involved in leading the process through the co-production group. **(ACTION)**
- Cllr Connor commented that details of the respite offer needed to be much clearer for residents as this was not well understood in the local community.

8. Q3 FINANCE UPDATE

The report for this item provided a finance update for Quarter 3 of 2024/25 and was previously presented to Cabinet in March 2025 and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in April 2025. Jo Baty provided some information about the aspects of this report that related to adult social care. She reported that there had been an adverse movement of £1.1m in adult social care compared to Quarter 2 meaning that the forecast position moved from £14.5m to £15.6m overbudget. Contributing factors to this included an increase in older adult support needs and increased costs relating to complex cases. Conversely, there had been a lower than expected number of young people transitioning to adult social care from children's services. There was work underway to better forecast and to ensure that controls were in place to mitigate against expensive packages of care for transfers over from children's to adult services without any focus on independence, employment and supported living. An Adult Social Care Programme Board, chaired by Jo Baty, had been established which provided a leadership group with ownership and accountability for savings, efficiencies and

improvement across the whole service. She acknowledged the vital role of partner agencies and co-production with residents in the service modernisation and improvement agenda. She also noted that, even with sophisticated forecasting tools, there was a degree of unpredictability with demand-led services and this impacted on all London Boroughs.

Jo Baty, Sara Sutton, Neil Sinclair (Head of Finance – People) and Cllr das Neves then responded to questions from the Panel:

- Cllr Mason expressed concerns about the increased number of adults aged 50-64 requiring support and queried the balance between physical and mental health difficulties in that group, whether the Covid pandemic was a factor in this and what support was being provided from the Government. Neil Sinclair, Head of Finance (People), confirmed that no additional funding had been provided from the Government on this specific area. Jo Baty said that details on the number of physical and mental health conditions could be provided in writing. **(ACTION)** She added that there had been recent discussions with Disability Action Haringey about supporting more residents with physical disabilities and that there were also better and stronger relationships with the Mental Health Trust. In relation to Covid, Sara Sutton said that modelling carried out at the time by the Integrated Care Board (ICB) had predicted that there would be a 20% increase in the acuity and complexity of cases as a consequence of the pandemic. Cllr das Neves commented that there was a relatively high proportion of people in Haringey with two or more long-term health conditions and that issues such as underinvestment in services that help people to maintain good health were a factor in this.
- Cllr Iyngkaran requested further details on the number of additional cases and the associated costs that had contributed towards the £1.1m adverse variation in the past quarter. Jo Baty clarified that there were many different groups of residents that factored in the overall costs and so it was important to understand the reasons for spikes in demand in certain groups which is why it was important to improve the modelling and forecasting for this.
- Asked by Cllr Connor for further clarification on the case numbers, Neil Sinclair explained that at the beginning of the year there had been approximately 500 younger adults with a care package with a physical disability characteristic and by the end of year this had reached almost 600 cases, despite the fact that the figures had been reasonably flat in the preceding two to three years. Much of this rise had been seen from people in the 50-64 cohort who were not previously known to the Council. He added that there had been work to improve the forecasting of data for anticipated transitions to adult social care which would have an input to the budget setting process for 2026/27 onwards. Cllr das Neves added that the Council was working with an external organisation called 31ten which was helping with the forecasting, including comparisons to statistically similar Boroughs. It was also important to consider the regular movement of people between Boroughs because of their housing circumstances and the emergence of particularly high cost cases as these could result in variances from previous forecasts. Cllr Connor commented that

- it would be useful to see a breakdown of these figures in the specific cohorts and details of the forecasting work in future reports to scrutiny. **(ACTION)**
- Cllr O'Donovan queried whether more residents could be coming forward for assessments because they were concerned about the potential future changes in the qualification criteria. Jo Baty responded that there were likely to be a number of factors and could also include the situation with the cost of living and the Council's outreach work in this area.
 - Asked by Cllr Connor about the reprofiling of savings that would not be delivered, Jo Baty explained that there were a number of savings which were pushed forward to 2025/26 or brought together under existing savings areas. This year the Department had tried to create clear standalone savings with a business case for each one. Items set out in the spreadsheet in the agenda papers as 'Contract Review' and 'Supported Living Review' included £900k of savings to be achieved in the next financial year. She added that there had been a lack of capacity in commissioning and so new commissioning staff had been brought in to help achieve these savings and further savings in future years. In transitions there had been delays in bringing staff on board and so the savings had not been achieved early enough but the Council was working with partners in care and health services to look at working better together to make efficiency savings. Neil Sinclair explained that factors including the need for investment in the service to make future savings, the writing-off of some savings and inflation uplifts for providers was used to establish the baseline financial position for 2025/26. This included an investment of around £31m into adult social care placements. Sara Sutton added that this included necessary areas of growth in areas such as staffing but even this was likely to be challenging with current demand pressures.
 - Cllr Brennan raised a query about housing voids and it was noted that, although this was included under the Adults, Housing & Health section, the housing aspects did not fall within the remit of the Adults & Health Scrutiny Panel.
 - Cllr Connor commented that it would be useful to understand further how the savings impact on residents in future reports including, for example, if an Equality Impact Assessment had been carried out. **(ACTION)**

9. CORPORATE DELIVERY PLAN - Q3 PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Cllr Connor informed the Panel that the report for this item provided a performance update on the Corporate Delivery Plan for Quarter 3 of 2024/25 and was previously presented to Cabinet in March 2025 and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee in April 2025. It was clarified that most of the performance indicators relevant to the Panel's remit were under Theme 4 (Adults, Health & Welfare) in addition to a small number under Theme 6 (Safer Haringey) in Appendix 3.

The following points were raised by the Panel on specific performance indicators:

- **Line 77 (Producing a Physical Activity and Sports Strategy) and Line 79 (Establish initial Wellbeing Model offer to inform the operation of the**

borough's leisure centre facilities and encourage use of parks and green spaces) – Cllr O'Donovan expressed concerns that the work on this item continued to be delayed due to the insourcing of Leisure Centres as health and wellbeing was important for the Prevention strategy. Cllr das Neves clarified that the Health and Wellbeing Strategy included policy initiatives from across the Council but that the detailed scrutiny of leisure services would be carried out by the Climate, Community Safety & Environment Scrutiny Panel. Cllr Connor recommended that the responsibilities for scrutiny of the various performance indicators should be made clearer in future reports. **(ACTION)**

- **Line 81 (Development and implementation of anti-racism partnership action plan), Line 82 (Refresh the Welcome Strategy)** – Cllr Mason requested an update on these items, noting that they were both marked as 'decreased'. Cllr das Neves explained that the reason there hadn't been progress on the Welcome Strategy was because an innovative and externally-funded project was being carried out with Haringey Welcome and Migrants Organise to develop a toolkit on how the Council works with refugees and asylum seekers. The audit included recommendations on what the community wanted and this would subsequently inform the development of the Welcome Strategy. She added that there could also be issues arising from national policy decisions that impacted on the amount of strategic time available, such as the recent closure of a hotel that housed asylum seekers in Muswell Hill. Sara Sutton added that the capacity for the strategic work was quite limited with a small team and that this was also a partnership function so the recent stretching of capacity had impacted on both of these performance indicators. However, there had recently been a recent increase in capacity so it was hoped that there would be further progress in these areas this year.
- **Line 101 (Improvements in transitions for younger adults)** - Asked by Cllr Mason for an update in this area, Cllr das Neves said that it had taken some time to get the team to where it needed to be. Savings had been quite low in the first year and higher in the second because it took some time to set up the joint working. Jo Baty reported that an event was planned the following week with SEND Power and a group of parents who were about to support their young people through transition.
- Cllr Opoku queried why some of the milestone dates for the performance indicators were in the past and did not appear to have been updated. Sara Sutton explained that the milestones represented the original benchmark against which the RAG ratings were applied.
- Cllr O'Donovan noted that the report was originally sent to Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committee in March/April and asked if there had been improvements in the red/amber indicators since then. Sara Sutton replied that the overall picture was broadly similar between Q3 and Q4 and that the update on Q4 would be available soon. Dominic O'Brien, Scrutiny Officer, informed the Panel that, for 2025/26, the Overview & Scrutiny meeting dates and work programmes had been sequenced so that finance and performance reports would be scrutinised shortly after they had been to Cabinet meetings. Any

relevant issues arising from this could then be scrutinised by the Panels at their next meetings if required.

- **Line 85 (Developing online resources to ensure information about localities is accessible to all)** - Cllr Brennan noted that, according to the text, stakeholder communications would be shared on a six-weekly basis across the central and east neighbourhoods but did not mention the west neighbourhood. It was clarified that this was a misprint and that the west neighbourhood would be included.
- Asked by Cllr Brennan about disabled sport, Cllr das Neves said that, while leisure services led in this area, it was also relevant to her portfolio and there had been good recent conversations on this with oversight through the Health & Wellbeing Strategy. Jo Baty explained that this had included meeting with Disability Action Haringey about the promotion of basketball for disabled residents, sport was being included in dementia activities and there was also a focus on sports and leisure in the transitions work. Sara Sutton added that details of the 'Get Out Get Active' programme to support disabled people to be more active can be found at: <https://www.haringey.gov.uk/leisure-parks-culture/sport-physical-activity/get-get-active-people-with-without-disabilities>
- Cllr Iyngkaran requested an update on Canning Crescent. Cllr das Neves reported that she was receiving information on a weekly basis from the team that had direct contact with the contractors but she could not yet provide a launch date. The project had previously been beset with challenges with the previous contractors going bust, but it remained an important service. There had been a recent Cabinet Member signing because there had been some work not done properly on fire and airflow and so it had been necessary to correct this. There was a legal process accompanying that. Jo Baty added that the Council had been working with the NHS early intervention service co-located at St Anns on ideas to support residents. There was an art group interested in becoming established at Canning Crescent and also an over-50s peer support group. Cllr Connor said that it would be useful to see the final costs and projected future income for the project when available. **(ACTION)** Cllr das Neves clarified that there was a business case for the project in 2018. Sara Sutton added that there were ongoing conversations about the levels of rent at Canning Crescent which would be required as part of the business case to pay back the borrowing.
- **Lines 136, 137, 138, 139 & 141 (Violence Against Women & Girls)** – Referring to these performance indicators under Theme 6 (Safer Haringey), Cllr Connor noted that, while Violence Against Women & Girls was a policy issue under the remit of the Panel, some of the performance indicators related to housing. Sara Sutton suggested that a column in future reports which highlighted the Scrutiny Panel remit that each performance indicator related to could be useful. This feedback would be passed on to the Head of Performance & Business. **(ACTION)** Cllr Mason asked whether tackling online misogyny was on the Council's agenda in this area. Cllr das Neves said that there were ongoing conversations about addressing perpetrators of VAWG as well as preventative initiatives such as education in schools. A commissioning

process had recently been taking place, details of which would be provided to Cabinet ahead of the renewed Haringey VAWG Strategy being developed as the existing strategy was due to expire in 2026.

- **Line 76 (Reduce Gambling Harms by commencing the community awareness-raising campaign)** – Cllr Connor commented that, while this performance indicator was green, the wider causes of gambling harms were not being addressed mainly due to the limited powers that local authorities had in this area. Cllr das Neves said that Haringey had one of the most ground-breaking gambling harms initiatives in London. This included services that directly supported people experiencing gambling harms, a schools programme to educate young people about gambling harms and a training programme for professionals to identify the signs of gambling harms and make referrals. She added that the other aspect of this issue was campaigning for change. The Council had written to ministers about the prevalence of betting shops as this would require a change in the law to tackle and the Council had also joined the coalition against gambling advertising. The Council had won an award recently on the health inequalities work in this area at the MJ Awards. Cllr das Neves acknowledged the continuing prevalence of gambling harms but felt that Haringey was very active and innovative in this area which was why the performance indicator was green. Cllr Connor commented that this was very helpful additional detail to the limited information provided in the report.

10. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS

Cllr das Neves responded to questions from the Panel on issues within her portfolio:

- Cllr O'Donovan raised the recent government announcement that Healthwatch would be abolished and queried what this would mean for local Healthwatch arrangements, given that these were commissioned by the local authority. Cllr das Neves said that this was currently unclear but clarified that the local Healthwatch was funded from the Council's Public Health budget. She added that the Council relied on the local Healthwatch as an important part of holding health services to account and also noted that Healthwatch was a part of the Health and Wellbeing Board. There would be conversations with the local Healthwatch about their understanding of what the national picture would mean for them.
- Asked by Cllr O'Donovan about the NHS neighbourhood model and how this might fit with Haringey's localities approach, Cllr das Neves said that this could potentially build on positive developments in the community, such as on early intervention and prevention, which could deliver better outcomes for people. However, it was not yet clear how this overall approach would be funded. She added that there were ongoing financial issues to work through, such as the lower levels of NHS spending on Continuing Healthcare in North Central London (NCL) when compared to other regions. Sara Sutton commented that the recent announcement that Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) would be required to reduce their budgets by 50% meant that there were ongoing

discussions about the future landscape of ICBs including potential mergers. In addition, the NHS 10-year plan was expected to be published shortly and to strongly signal a shift towards neighbourhood health. She added that Haringey was well positioned to align to this with strong existing strategic partnerships with health and good foundations through the Borough Partnership and localities work.

- In relation to neighbourhood health, Cllr Mason highlighted the lack of a good space for people to gather in the more deprived areas of Bounds Green. Cllr das Neves agreed that it was important to have the necessary infrastructure in place to enable the voluntary and community sector but acknowledged the current financial pressures that created challenges in this area. Sara Sutton added that the NHS was looking at various ways of shifting care from acute settings to community settings and there was a consensus to include the voluntary and community sector in this. However, there was not yet the long-term stable investment in the way that was needed in the sector to support complex coordination so the Council was making this case to the government.
- Cllr Brennan requested a progress update on Continuing Healthcare (CHC) funding in NCL. Cllr das Neves responded that there was Freedom of Information data available which showed that some sub-regions of London were receiving more than twice as much CHC funding as in NCL so this was a very significant issue. Jo Baty added that the Council had conducted work in this area, reviewing the cases of residents with complex needs. This had resulted in over £1m of achieved savings in one financial year. One of the historic issues had been a lack of expertise in challenging the health professionals that tended to dominate the discussions but capacity in this area had been developed in recent years to enable the Council to be more agile in negotiations. Sara Sutton highlighted that this was an area of increased risk as clarity was needed in three areas in the plans for ICB budget reductions – CHC, safeguarding and SEND. She added that, with the importance of partnership working with health colleagues, it would be better to avoid further ‘cost-shunting’ between the NHS and local authorities. ADASS (Association of Directors of Adult Social Services) was expected to publish a report on CHC in July or August which could be circulated to the Panel. **(ACTION)** There was then a brief discussion on the possibility of the Panel enabling further discussions on CHC at a future meeting. **(ACTION)**
- Cllr lyngkaran asked about the latest understanding of what potential changes to the local ICB could look like. Cllr das Neves replied that there had been discussions at the most recent meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board that there could be a merger of the NCL ICB with another ICB. She was concerned that there did not appear to be much time for community engagement on this. Sara Sutton commented that the scale of the ICB’s budget reductions were very significant and therefore there was recognition that a merger could be the only way to achieve this while continuing to deliver on their very significant responsibilities. She added that an ICB covering a larger area would make the future work on neighbourhoods and localities even more vital.

11. WORK PROGRAMME UPDATE

Cllr Connor proposed that an item on the provision of maternity services in NCL and the impact of Haringey residents be added to the Panel's work programme. **(ACTION)**

Cllr O'Donovan requested further details on the recruitment of co-optees to the vacant positions on the Scrutiny Panels. Dominic O'Brien said that a report including the details of the appointment procedure was discussed at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 19th June 2025 and this could be circulated **(ACTION)**. He would also request further details about recruitment from the Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager. **(ACTION)**

12. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- 22nd Sep 2025 (6.30pm)
- 13th Nov 2025 (6.30pm)
- 16th Dec 2025 (6.30pm)
- 9th Feb 2026 (6.30pm)

CHAIR: Councillor Pippa Connor

Signed by Chair

Date

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