

COLLIERS WOOD AND NE MITCHAM COMMUNITY FORUM
4 OCTOBER 2018

(Time Not Specified - Time Not Specified)

PRESENT Councillors (in the Chair), Councillor John Dehaney

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS (Agenda Item 1)

The meeting was held at Colliers Wood Library, and chaired by Councillor John Dehaney. Twelve residents attended, as well as three other Merton Councillors. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 MERTON HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (Agenda Item 2)

Abbas Mirza, spoke about the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group's plans and the conversations they have been having with residents. A presentation is available in Appendix 1.

Abbas said the role of the CCG is to improve health and well-being, reduce health inequalities, and ensure equal access to quality services. Every year the CCG produces new plans and speaks to residents about services. Since August they have been speaking with community groups across Merton. They are facing a number of challenges including:

- We know patients have to wait longer than they would expect to, to access some services
- The NHS is facing unprecedented financial challenges
- The quality of some of our services are variable
- Not all of our NHS buildings are in the best condition and need repairs
- Having good access psychological therapies remains a challenge
- There is expected growth in our population which will put pressure on services now and in the future
- There is an increasing demand for new treatments and therapies

The CCG has three priorities areas:

Start Well - Integrated support for children and families; Emotional wellbeing and mental health

Live Well - Wellbeing and long term conditions; Mental health and wellbeing

Age Well - Complex health and care needs

Abbas asked residents for feedback on local services. Residents raised issues about delays accessing test results via their GPs, the Diabetes service at Colliers Wood

practice, sharing data between different services, obesity and funding for mental health training. Abbas said the CCG is working with Hearts and Minds, who provide training and peer led support. Abbas also referred to work with Public Health on improving services to prevent diabetes. More information is available at <https://t.co/D9CV5UkH5X>.

3 LEADER OF THE COUNCIL (Agenda Item 3)

Councillor Stephen Alambritis provided an update and responded to questions. Finances across local government remain stretched and Merton was no exception. The latest Medium Term Financial Strategy shows that there is a budget gap of £19m from 2019/20 to 2022/23. This would be met through a mix of savings and income generation. Much of the cost pressures relate to Adult Social Care where the Council has a statutory duty to provide for some of the most vulnerable people in Merton. The Council has invested an additional £9m in Adult Social Care to help meet these challenges.

Children's services where the Council is a corporate parent to 135 children and young people are also a high priority. The recent Ofsted inspection found that the Council was good with outstanding features and one of the top ten authorities in England.

Working in partnership with other boroughs has also helped reduce costs. Merton leads a legal services partnership on behalf of four other boroughs; shares regulatory services like licensing across three boroughs and has even let out three floors in the Civic Centre to colleagues in the NHS. Renting out parks has also brought in additional revenue but can cause residents concern which the council is sensitive to. The new dementia friendly library in Colliers Wood was recently short-listed for the 2018 Library of the Year award. Wimbledon Arts Space is booked up until 25 November and will have a ministerial visit on 11 October.

The Council has created an additional 4400 extra primary school places since 2010 by extending 23 schools and a new secondary school, Harris Wimbledon, has opened in the former adult education site at Whately Avenue. The school will then move to a new building on High Path in South Wimbledon for the 2020 intake and is already oversubscribed. There are now 15 outstanding schools in Merton, including the most recently Harris Morden, a school which had previously rated as inadequate. The Council's School Improvement Team continues to work across the borough to support schools. In last year's GCSE results Merton had the highest scores for the Progress 8 school which measures progress from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4.

There a number of important regeneration projects underway. Clarion Housing is investing £1billion in improving three estates, that will result in better quality homes and no loss of social housing. The More Morden regeneration is back on track, with a new local plan being developed in 2018, and a development partner being appointed to begin works on improving the public domain in 2021. The new £13m Morden Leisure Centre is due to open later in the autumn with a six-lane pool, diving pool, café and gym. The old leisure centre will then be demolished and returned to park

land. On Plough Lane work is progressing on the new football stadium for AFC Wimbledon. The club will hopefully move in for the 2020/21 season. There will also be 600 new homes, at least 30% of which will be affordable. There is also a new draft Masterplan for Wimbledon Town Centre and residents are encouraged to give their views on it. More information is available at <https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/regeneration-projects/future-wimbledon>

Cllr Alambritis thanked all those who volunteered in Merton. Volunteers are an essential part of life in Merton and he was pleased that the Cabinet had just agreed to continue to support the voluntary sector through a new Strategic Partner Funding Programme.

The use of Landfill needs to stop and the new rubbish and recycling service beginning on 1 October should help increase the amount of household rubbish is recycled to over 45%. The new system should also save £1.6m in the first year, £2million a year thereafter and reduce litter on the street. The street cleaning performance of Veolia has not been good enough, and we are sorry for that. In 2017/18 we deducted 10% of the contract value and will do again this year if necessary. In response to questions about the new scheme Cllr Alambritis said that this was a four borough contract and was similar to many other schemes across the country. Veolia have allocated more resources and if more resources are needed for the contract management this will be looked at. There is no specific time frame for when problems will be resolved but we will be looking for continual improvement. The Council will also be doing more enforcement to reduce litter including naming and shaming those penalised for fly-tipping. The Council is also looking to introduce a licensing scheme for landlords which will require them to make sure adequate refuse collection facilities are provided.

Cllr Alambritis was asked about Colliers Wood Community Centre. He had spoken with officers about the broken boiler and whilst we waited for a new one to be installed temporary heating would be provided. A resident asked about growth in Colliers Wood as Greater London Assembly is predicting no growth in the area and what will the Council be doing to support the area. Cllr Alambritis said that Colliers Wood has been doing well, and across London it is expected for areas close to transport to see some intensification. The Council will work with residents to manage this. A priority for the Council is Bridging the Gap, reducing inequalities in health outcomes across the borough and that drives where services are targeted, not where council tax has come from. Transport for London will shortly be consulting on options for a new transport link to Sutton and one of the choices is a route to Colliers Wood.

A resident asked about air quality and support for schools in areas with high levels of pollution as they were against the building of the new Harris School on High Path because of the negative impact of pollution on students. Cllr Alambritis said air quality is taken very seriously by Merton Council with a new Air Quality Action Plan. This includes introducing a levy on diesel cars as well as increasing the number of electric

charging points. Merton will work with the Mayor of London wherever possible to address these challenges.

4 LONDON ASSEMBLY UPDATE (Agenda Item 5)

Leonie Cooper, Assembly Member for Merton and Wandsworth, provided an update on the work of the London Assembly. On air quality Leonie said that the Mayor of London has helped make this a clear priority and an important issue. The Mayor had been to visit Putney, one of the most polluted areas in London, and that had prompted action including cleaner buses. Other changes have included the new T-Charge and from April 2019 the Ultra-Low Emission Zone and the Mayor of London's Transport Strategy is prioritising opening up streets to communities by removing cars. The Transport, Environment and Housing Strategies will need to work in conjunction with the new London Plan. In London it is impossible to avoid building schools in polluted areas but other things can help including planting, healthy streets around the schools, remodelling transport and cleaner vehicles. Looking at other forms of pollution is also important, for example construction, the Environment Committee, which Leonie chairs had made some recommendations to the Mayor for new approaches to reduce impact. Cllr Cooper-Marbiah said that in the case of the Harris School on High Path there would be planting on Merantun Way, a filter on the new building and access would be on High Path, away from Merantun Way.

The Environment Committee has carried out an investigation into fly-tipping and discovered a serious problem across London. Enfield had the highest number of incidents, more than 75,000 in 2016/17. The full report can be found at <https://www.london.gov.uk/node/44389>

A resident asked about the lifting of the cap on borrowing against assets for local authorities. Leonie said this wouldn't help council's like Merton who no longer have any stock but the Mayor would be looking to work with boroughs to make the most of any opportunities to increase the supply of social housing.

A resident asked about cycling and Leonie said that as more intensification takes place the Mayor will be looking to ensure sufficient cycle storage is provided in new developments and to work with boroughs to approve current provision but understands how much pressure Councils are under.

Anyone with further issues they would like to raise with Leonie they are welcome to email leonie.cooper@london.gov.uk.

5 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda Item 6)

Councillor Dehaney thanked residents for attending and closed the meeting. The next meeting will be in October 2019, date to be confirmed.

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Merton Health and Care Plan & Commissioning Intentions 2019/20



Who are we ?

- Merton CCG are responsible for buying, planning and monitoring local healthcare services for everyone in the borough
- We work with 24 GP practices and with local partners including:
 1. Pharmacies
 2. Hospitals
 3. Dentists
 4. Mental health providers
 5. The Council
 6. Community groups, including Healthwatch

We aim to:

- Improve health and wellbeing
- Reduce health inequalities
- Ensure everyone has equal access to healthcare services



Why we are here today?

- We work to continuously improve the services we plan and buy for people living in Merton
- We can only do this if we speak to patients and local community groups to gather their views on the services they use and what they feel needs improving
- To do this we are holding series of meetings with **community and patient groups** between August and November 2018
- We are using learning from similar work we did last year with patients to improve conversations with local people and community groups this year



Our challenges

- We know patients have to wait longer than they would expect to, to access some services
- The NHS is facing unprecedented financial challenges
- The quality of some of our services are variable
- Not all of our NHS buildings are in the best condition and need repairs
- Having good access psychological therapies remains a challenge
- There is expected growth in our population which will put pressure on services now and in the future
- There is an increasing demand for new treatments and therapies



Early thinking about our priorities

Start Well

- Integrated support for children and families
- Emotional wellbeing and mental health

Live Well

- Wellbeing and long term conditions
- Mental health and wellbeing

Age Well

- Complex health and care needs



What local people and community organisations have told us so far



Continuity of care remains a priority for people in Merton, with a particular reference to ongoing support for managing long term conditions such as diabetes.

Accessibility of services is very important to people in Merton, particularly for services they have to use regularly

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There is significant support for better **integration of health and social care services**. Services do not always feel **person centred** and did not always take into account the background and preferences of the individual.

People in Merton place a lot of value in **therapy support, and other specialist input**. However people did report concerns about the capacity of these teams and their ability to recruit and retain good staff



People are very positive about the move towards services **encouraging wellbeing and independence**. The social prescribing pilot in East Merton has held up as being a particularly good example of this.

Mental Health is a clear priority for people in Merton. Access to mental health services was raised as a concern, particularly for services for common mental health issues.



Tell us what you matters to you?

- What NHS services have you used and liked in Merton?
- What services have you used that you think could be improved?



What we will do with your feedback and comments

- We will use the feedback from this conversation to help shape our plans and deliver improvements in local services
- We will develop a report to show how we have taken on your comments and what services have changed as result of patient and public feedback, and share this with you



Any questions ?



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