

Appendix 1: Health Overview & Scrutiny Recommendation Response Pro Forma

Where a joint health overview and scrutiny committee makes a report or recommendation to a responsible person (a relevant NHS body or a relevant health service provider [this can include the County Council]), the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 provide that the committee may require a response from the responsible person to whom it has made the report or recommendation and that person must respond in writing within 28 days of the request.

This template provides a structure which respondents are encouraged to use. However, respondents are welcome to depart from the suggested structure provided the same information is included in a response. The usual way to publish a response is to include it in the agenda of a meeting of the body to which the report or recommendations were addressed.

Issue: Epilepsy Services

Lead Cabinet Member(s) or Responsible Person:

- Cllr Nathan Ley- Cabinet Member for Public Health
- Cllr Tim Bearder- Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Deadline for response: Tuesday 17th December 2024

Response to report:

This response is on behalf of Karen Fuller, Director of Adult Social Services, particularly in relation to her oversight of the joint commissioning service (Health Education and Social Care Commissioning – HESC).

While the commissioning of epilepsy services is outside the scope of the joint commissioning arrangements and is the responsibility of the of the Integrated Care Board, there are opportunities for aspects of this informative report to be taken forward in our work.

We note the impact of epilepsy and its treatment on the lives of children and young people with the condition, particularly those with SEND needs. HESC commissions SEND services through its Start Well joint commissioning team and will therefore have ongoing opportunities to consider the impact of epilepsy and relevant service pressures on the outcomes for children and young people in special education provision. Part of the joint commissioning role is to bring partners together and to identify unmet need and alternative or creative approaches to support the sustainability of services.

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We note the evidence of the impact of epilepsy being greater in deprived areas. HESC has led the development of the Oxfordshire Prevention Strategy (in the context of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and our joint work at system level on Preventing Health Inequalities). This strategy offers an opportunity to ensure epilepsy is highlighted as a disability and included in our partnership action plans on health inequalities.

We note the increased prevalence of epilepsy among people with learning disabilities and autism. It is timely that we are currently developing and consulting on All Age Strategies for Oxfordshire on both Learning Disabilities and Autism. The importance of living healthy lives is a central theme in this work, therefore providing an excellent opportunity to ensure epilepsy and its impact on these communities or populations is well understood. Our action plans will reflect the system commitment to improving outcomes through good practice, accessible information, regular health checks and access to services.

Our commissioning of residential care placements takes account of good practice as well as the standards of care and accommodation required. We will ensure the information on changes to the policy regarding epilepsy is known and reflected in our arrangements. We are not in a position to alter the policy.

Response to recommendation:

Recommendation	Accepted, rejected or partially accepted	Proposed action (including if different to that recommended) and indicative timescale.
<p>1. For Oxfordshire County Council Cabinet members and senior officers responsible for education and residential care for children and adults with Learning Disabilities and/or autism (who are affected by patient safety concerns), and those responsible for public health; to consider the likely impacts of the valproate policy for the local authority</p>	<p>Partially accepted</p>	<p>HESC is not the commissioner of epilepsy services, therefore cannot fully respond to the recommendation.</p> <p>We will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the impact of the valproate policy on the services we commission for special education and residential care for children and adults with learning disabilities and / or autism (who are affected by patient safety concerns).

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<p>commissioning arrangements and the provision of safe residential care and out of county placements. It is also recommended that the Cabinet member for Public Health and Director of Public Health to consider the epilepsy population as part of the Council's programme to tackle public health inequalities.</p>		
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Pippa Corner,
Deputy Director, Joint Commissioning OCC and ICB.