

HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 25 August 2021

PRESENT – Councillors Bell (Chair), Heslop, McEwan, Newall and Wright

APOLOGIES – Councillors Bartch, Layton, Lee and Tostevin

ABSENT – Councillor Dr. Chou

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Jill Foggin (Communications Officer, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust), Brent Kilmurray (Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust), Jennifer Illingworth (Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust), Paula Swindale (NHS Darlington Clinical Commissioning Group) and Michelle Thompson (Healthwatch Darlington)

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Penny Spring (Director of Public Health), Anthony Sandys (Head of Housing and Revenues) and Lisa Soderman (Head of Leisure)

HH12 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

HH13 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON 23 JUNE 2021

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 23 June 2021.

RESOLVED – That, with the addition of ‘Heslop’ in the list of apologies for the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 23 June 2021, the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

HH14 UPDATE ON COMMUNITY REHABILITATION STROKE PATHWAY FOR DARLINGTON

The Head of Commissioning and Strategy, NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group gave a PowerPoint presentation, updating Members on the Stroke Rehabilitation Service.

Details were provided of the background to the proposed changes to the stroke rehabilitation service; and figures for stroke admissions for patients registered with a Darlington GP Practice were outlined.

Reference was made to the visions for the service from March 2020 and an update of future provision was outlined. Members were advised that there would be no change to delivery of inpatient rehabilitation at Bishop Auckland Hospital and University Hospital North Durham; that proactive work had been undertaken across GP Practices to identify people with Atrial Fibrillation to ensure people were clinically optimized; and that work continued to support early discharge, with the adoption of a National Discharge to Assess Policy (2019/20) during COVID 19.

Details were provided of the additional investment into the RIACT community model; figures for Darlington in relation to the Sentinel Stroke National Audit Programme (SSNAP) were

outlined; the stroke association continued to work in tandem with the stroke service, with 178 referrals received in 2019-2020; and the current pathway and next steps were outlined.

Members queried the input from psychology and mental health services in stroke rehabilitation; the Head of Commissioning and Strategy confirmed that psychologists were involved in the service as part of the assessment process and that the County Durham and Darlington Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) was available for those individuals presenting to primary care.

Discussion ensued in respect of the future of stroke services, with the requirement to strengthen the community offer highlighted. Members were informed of a number of initiatives via the aging well fund including care home and anticipatory care investment.

RESOLVED – That the thanks of this Scrutiny Committee be extended to the Head of Commissioning and Strategy, NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group for her informative and interesting presentation.

HH15 COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME - UPDATE

The Head of Commissioning and Strategy, NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group gave a presentation updating Members on the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

It was reported that the NHSE vaccination target was 90 per cent for first doses; that the data up to and including 22 August showed that Darlington had achieved 85.19 per cent for first doses, which was above the North East and North Cumbria rate; and had achieved 74.28 per cent for second doses, with numbers still increasing.

Details were provided of the vaccination uptake for the JCVI cohorts and ethnic groups, with further work required to encourage the younger population and white British population to receive the vaccine.

The vaccination sites in Darlington were outlined; a clinic had been scheduled for 3 September for high risk 12 – 15 year olds; and Phase 3 rollout was due to commence on 6 September, with flu and covid vaccinations being given at the same time, where appropriate.

Discussion ensued in respect of booster vaccinations for vulnerable groups; whilst it was anticipated that the rollout would commence in September, no formal decision had been made but was expected in the next few weeks.

The success of the pop-up vaccination clinic at Darlington Pride was highlighted and members queried plans for pop-up clinics at upcoming events in Darlington.

RESOLVED – That the Head of Commissioning and Strategy, NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group be thanked for her informative and interesting presentation.

HH16 COVID-19 RECOVERY

The Director of Public Health gave a presentation updating Members on the Covid-19 recovery in Darlington.

Regarding Test 1 – ‘The vaccine deployment programme continues successfully’, Members were advised that vaccination rates continued to increase with the majority of adults having had two doses of vaccine and in respect of Test 2 – ‘Evidence shows vaccines are sufficiently effective in reducing hospitalisations and deaths in those vaccinated’, it was reported that hospital admissions were not rising to the same degree as the infection rates; and that this indicated that the vaccines were effective in reducing hospitalisations.

Regarding Test 3 – ‘Infection rates do not risk a surge in hospitalisations which would put unsustainable pressure on the NHS’, Members were advised that there had been a slight increase in bed occupancy in July but that this was now reducing; and details were provided of the changes to the government guidelines introduced from 16 August.

Discussion ensued in respect of guidance for staff working within the NHS and in Care Homes; and the Director of Public Health advised Members that an update on the Care Home position would be provided.

RESOLVED – That the Director of Public Health be thanked for her update on the Covid-19 recovery in Darlington.

HH17 CARE QUALITY COMMISSION INSPECTION UPDATE

The Chief Executive, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust gave a presentation (previously circulated) updating Members on the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections of the Adult Mental Health (AMH) and Psychiatric Intensive Care Units (PICU).

It was reported that the Elm Ward (female AMH) was inspected on 20 - 22 January, and again on 25 – 27 May alongside the Cedar (PICU) Ward; the key message from the inspection undertaken in January was outlined; and details were provided of the immediate actions undertaken.

Particular reference was made to the quality assurance schedule that had been designed to replace previous audit activity and included a range of activities to allow for early escalation of key issues.

Details were provided of the further actions undertaken including the rollout of the Safe Care system, a real-time rostering tool which had been implemented in 4-6 weeks; a programme of improvements in environmental safety including £3.8M of capital investment, with particular reference made to the anti-ligature sensors installed in West Park; and the creation of a new Organisational Learning Group.

The initial feedback from the inspection on 25 – 27 May indicated that the CQC felt the systems and processes in relation to risk management had been improved, however it was too early to give accurate feedback; and it was reported that further visits of CAMHS, Forensic, Community Adult Mental Health and the Crisis Team were undertaken in June, with feedback expected in September.

Members extended their thanks to the Trust for accommodating a tour of West Park; Members felt that this was a positive experience and that a number of changes within the

Trust were evident.

RESOLVED – That the Chief Executive, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, be thanked for his update on the CQC inspections.

HH18 TEWV'S NEW STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND BUSINESS PLAN

The Chief Executive and Director of Operations, Durham & Darlington, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) gave a presentation (previously circulated) updating Members on TEWV's new Strategic Framework and Business Plan.

Details were provided of the work undertaken to date as part of the Trusts Journey to Change; a new strategic framework had been approved in January 2021; and five strategic journeys were being established, with Year 1 priorities and actions agreed. These journeys were Our Clinical Journey, Our Quality and safety journey, our co-creation and comms journey, our people journey and our infrastructure journey.

The vision and value for the new strategic direction were outlined and the details were provided of the three goals, 'to co-create a great experience for our patients, carers and families', 'to co-create a great experience for our colleagues' and 'to be a great partner'; and details were provided of the work being undertaken to deliver the actions and milestones detailed in the Business Plan 21-22 to 23-24.

Members raised a question in relation to the continuity and choice in a patients journey; the Chief Executive advised Members that there was an element of choice regarding interventions, however the allocation of a care co-ordinator was geographically based but that accommodations were made where necessary; and that that improved patient choice would be considered as part of the service redesign.

Details were also provided of the work being undertaken by Healthwatch to understand how mental health services were being use by local people across the Tees Valley.

Following a question, Members were informed that the Trust had GP aligned professionals in most GP practices in the town; that there was an intention to deliver services in different locations across the town to improve integration with voluntary sector services; and Members proposed the use of community hubs in each ward.

RESOLVED – That the Chief Executive and Director of Operations be thanked for their informative presentation.

HH19 PERFORMANCE INDICATORS - QUARTER 4 2020/2021

The Group Directors of Operations, People and Services submitted a report (previously circulated) providing Members with an update on performance against those key performance indicators within the remit of this Scrutiny Committee for the period 2020/21.

Details were provided of the 36 indicators reported to this Scrutiny Committee, twelve indicators were reported both Housing and Culture and 24 by Public Health.

At Quarter 4 data was available for nine of the twelve of the Housing and Culture indicators and of those indicators two had targets to be compared against. It was noted that both HBS 013 – Rent arrears of current tenants in the financial year as a % of rent debit (GNPI 34) and HBS 016 – Rent collected as a proportion of rents owed on HRA dwellings * including arrears b/fwd, were showing performance better than the target; and that, of the nine indicators, three demonstrated an improved performance compared to the same period in the previous year whilst six indicators, which included the three Culture indicators, showed a performance not as good as that recorded at the same period in the previous year.

Following a question, particular reference was made to HBS 03 – Average number of days to re-let dwellings. Members were advised that repairs required on empty properties were now carried out before the property was let rather than after a tenant moves in; and that positive feedback has been received from new tenants on the quality of the accommodation.

It was reported that the Covid-19 restrictions had significantly impacted the performance of the Culture indicators, CUL 030 – Total number of visits to the Dolphin Centre (all areas), CUL 063 – Number of school pupils participating in the sports development programme and CUL 064 – Number of individuals participating in the community sports development programme, but that the response over the summer period had been excellent; and that there was planned re-engagement of residents over the next 24 months.

Details were provided on the Public Health indicators which had updated information to report at quarter 4, of which there were fourteen indicators. It was reported that of the fourteen indicators, five were showing an improved performance when compared to the same period in the previous year, whilst eight indicators were showing performance not as good as the previous year and one indicator was showing a performance the same as the previous year.

RESOLVED – (a) That the submitted report be noted.

(b) That Members submit any questions in respect of the Public Health indicators to the Director of Public Health.

HH20 WORK PROGRAMME

The Group Director of Operations submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to this Scrutiny Committee' work programme and to consider any additional areas which Members would like to suggest be included in the previously approved work programme.

Members requested that an update in respect of the Integrated Care System be brought forward to an earlier meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED – That the current status of the work programme be noted.

HH21 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

The next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board was scheduled for 16 September 2021.

RESOLVED – That Members look forward to receiving an update of the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board at a future meeting of Scrutiny Committee.

HH22 REGIONAL HEALTH SCRUTINY

The next meeting of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee was scheduled for 24 September 2021.

RESOLVED – That Members look forward to receiving an update of the work of the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee at a future meeting of Scrutiny Committee.