

HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 27 April 2022

PRESENT – Councillors Bell (Chair), Layton, Newall and Wright

APOLOGIES – Councillors Heslop, Lee and McEwan,

ABSENT – Councillors Bartch and Dr. Chou

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Councillors Jill Foggin (Communications Officer, County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust), Dominic Gardner (Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust), Rebecca O'Keeffe (Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust), Nichola Kenny (County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust), Jon Murray (We Are With You), Gary Besterfield (We Are With You) and Dr Thomas Adams

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE – Penny Spring (Director of Public Health), Anthony Sandys (Assistant Director - Housing and Revenues), Ken Ross (Public Health Principal), Abbie Kelly (Public Health Portfolio Lead) and Hannah Miller (Democratic Officer)

HH49 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

HH50 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS SCRUTINY HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2022

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 23 February, 2022.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee held on 23 February, 2022 be approved as a correct record.

HH51 COUNTY DURHAM AND DARLINGTON ADULT MENTAL HEALTH REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY SERVICE: REPROVISION OF PRIMROSE LODGE, CHESTER LE STREET INPATIENT SERVICE - UPDATE

The Director of Mental Health and Learning Disability, Durham Tees Valley Partnership and the Director of Operations County Durham and Darlington, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust submitted a report (previously circulated) updating Members of the outcome of the further targeted engagement to support the proposal to relocate Primary Lodge Inpatient Rehabilitation and Recovery unit from Chester le Street to Shildon.

The submitted report stated that an initial paper was presented to this Scrutiny Committee in January, explaining the rationale for the change, the engagement that had taken place up to that point and the plan to undertake further targeted engagement in February and March before finalising the relocation.

The report outlined the key factors for the change; the targeted engagement plan which

included a briefing document and bespoke surveys for service users, families, carers and referring organisations; and two forums were held to explain the proposal further and seek direct feedback.

Reference was made to the survey responses; the average rating for the proposal was 3.9, with 5 being fully support the proposal, with recognition and support of the importance of an improved environment of the Shildon unit and the ability of the staff to continue to support service users recovery. The engagement identified concerns regarding the bed reduction from 15 to eight beds, however this would be safely and effectively managed through a phased bed reduction; and overall there was a high level of rated support for the proposal.

Following a question, Members were informed that significant investment into community mental health services would help service users transition into the community.

RESOLVED – (a) That the report, detailing the outcome of the targeted engagement to support the proposal to re-provide the Primrose Lodge unit from Chester le Street to Shildon with a reduction from 15 to 8 beds, be received.

(b) That the proposal and relocation of the inpatient rehabilitation service to Shildon, be supported.

HH52 CARE QUALITY COMMISSION - UPDATE

The Care Group Director for Adult Mental Health services, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust provided an update to Members on the work undertaken by the Trust following the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections of the Adult Mental Health (AMH) and Psychiatric Intensive Care Units (PICU) in January and May and visits of CAMHS, Forensic, Community Adult Mental Health and the Crisis Team in June 2021.

It was reported that following the inspection, work had been undertaken across the organisation, including community services, to improve systems and processes to safely assess and mitigate patient risk; that this included all key risk information for patients being contained in one place and a range of quality assurance measures; and a further visit was expected in the coming months.

Following a question regarding staffing levels, Members were informed that significant work had been undertaken to address staffing levels and a range of incentives were in place to recruit staff; and following concerns raised regarding CAMHS, the Care Group Director for Adult Mental advised Members of the actions in place, including a Keeping In Touch (KIT) process for those on a waiting list and improved mental health support in schools, including online resources.

RESOLVED – (a) That the Care Group Director for Adult Mental Health services, Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust, be thanked for his update on the CQC inspections.

(b) That Members receive an update on CAMHS at a future meeting of this Scrutiny Committee.

HH53 A & E WAIT TIMES

The Director of Performance, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, gave a presentation (previously circulated) updating Members on Accident and Emergency (A&E) wait times.

Reference was made to the A&E four hour standard, Members were informed that following the peak of the winter pressure period, performance had been improving throughout March; and there had been no 12 hour trolley waits during March.

The presentation outlined the new Emergency Department (ED) measures; Members were informed that there had been a reduction in patients waiting more than 12 hours in Darlington Memorial Hospital (DMH) ED, with a decrease from 9.3 per cent in January to 5.5 per cent in March; and overall in March, 72 per cent of patients had been assessed within 15 minutes of arrival.

It was reported that a key area of focus was ED and ambulance handover and Members noted that handover times for March were 37 minutes for Darlington and 33 minutes for Durham, against a target of less than 30 minutes. Reference was made to the range of improvement actions in place, including dedicated clinical and management support for the ED to enhance the quality and safety of the services, recruitment of junior doctors and increased bed base; and details were provided of rag ratings for the improvement actions.

Members questioned the impact of pressures in other regional ED's on Darlington and were informed that a Local Delivery Board was in place to monitor A&E performance and work was being undertaken by the ICB to ensure the right infrastructure was in the right place.

Discussion ensued regarding the timeline for the additional wards in Durham and Darlington and triage and discharge pathways.

RESOLVED – That the Director of Performance, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, be thanked for her informative presentation.

HH54 DARLINGTON DRUG AND ALCOHOL SERVICE

The Contracts Manager and Executive Director of Services, We Are With You gave a presentation (previously circulated) updating Members on the Darlington drug and alcohol service.

It was reported that the service was founded in 1967 as Association for Parents of Addicts, became Addaction and following a rebrand was now known as With You.

The presentation gave a service overview, detailing the three key components which were clinical support, treatment and care and abstinence, recovery and wellbeing; and the priorities of the service were outlined. Reference was made to the challenges associated with the delivery site and to the need for partnership working was highlighted.

Members raised concern regarding the perceived lack of work by the new service; the Executive Director of Services acknowledged the need for improved communication with the local authority and stakeholders to ensure the work being delivered by the service was

evident.

Members questioned the option of heroin assisted treatment; the Public Health Principal informed Members that this option was not in the current service specification, that national policy did not support this as a mainstream treatment and that it was not a cost effective treatment.

Discussion ensued regarding the location of the delivery site; access for vulnerable residents; and Members were assured that there was no waiting list to access the service.

Following a question regarding partnership working, Members were advised of a dual diagnosis pathway with TEWV and this would be extended to include Darlington; and Members were reminded of the outreach work of the ACCESS Team.

RESOLVED – That the Contracts Manager and Executive Director of Services, We Are With You, be thanked for their informative presentation.

HH55 HOUSING MANAGEMENT POLICY

The Assistant Director Housing and Revenues submitted a report (previously circulated) requesting that consideration be given to the draft Housing Management Policy (also previously circulated) prior to its consideration at Cabinet on 14 June 2022.

The submitted report stated that Darlington Borough Council provides over 5,300 high quality homes for local residents; that to enable the Council to manage these properties effectively, rental and service charge income from Council tenants need to be maximised to ensure comprehensive range of good quality housing management and support services is provided to tenants; and the Housing Management Policy sets out how the Council would do this.

The housing management policy was divided into two main sections; Income Management, which details how the Council collects rent and service charges and recover arrears and debts from current and former Council tenants; and Tenancy Management, which details how the Council manages its properties and how decisions are made by the Council across a range of issues.

It was reported that the Tenants Panel had been consulted on the draft policy in March 2022; that overall the Panel supported the proposed Housing Management Policy; and reference was made to examples of the Panel's comments.

RESOLVED – That Members support the onward submission of the draft Housing Management Policy to Cabinet.

HH56 WORK PROGRAMME

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

Members agreed that the item 'Affordable Home Ownership Policy' scheduled for the next meeting of this Scrutiny Committee, be deferred to a later date.

RESOLVED – That the work programme be updated to reflect discussions.

HH57 HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Members were informed that the Board last met on 17 March 2022 and that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for 30 June, 2022.

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