

Kirklees Council

Scrutiny Lead Member Report

Lead Member: Cllr Bill Armer

Panel: Health and Adult Social Care

Period of Update: From: January 2024 – March 2024

Panel Highlights

During the reporting period the Lead Member has had briefings with a number of key contacts from across the local health and adult social care system including:

- Richard Parry – Strategic Director for Adults and Health.
- Cath Simms – Service Director Adults Social Care Operations
- Brendan Brown – Chief Executive, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
- Darryl Thompson, Chief Nurse & Director of Quality and Profession, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Leonard Richards, Chief Executive, Mid Yorkshire Teaching Trust

Panel meeting 24 January 2024

Dentistry in Kirklees - The Panel heard from representatives from the Integrated Care Board who provided information on Dentistry across Kirklees.

The Panel heard that the Integrated Care Board (ICB) had become the responsible commissioners for dentistry in April 2023, with an outlined medium and long-term ambition.

The issue of access to NHS dentists and paediatric surgical dental extraction remains an area of concern for the Panel, with waiting lists for paediatric surgery being over a year in some areas.

Outcomes: The Panel requested further information on inequalities between Huddersfield and Dewsbury, along with data for people attending accident and emergency who were registered with an NHS dentist.

Panel meeting 28 February 2024

CQC Inspection preparation and External Consultancy - The Panel continued its focus on the services being delivered by Kirklees Adult Social Care including (i) looking at the Council's approach to preparing for the CQC inspections (ii) considering the new CQC inspection areas of responsibility to understand the assurance regime (iii) looking at emerging themes and outcomes from the CQC pilot inspection sites (iv) receiving details of the broader range of changes that the Council is developing to improve the social care offer (v) Supported Living.

At the time of the discussion the Panel noted that 5 CQC pilot inspections had taken place with another 20 to take place between October 2023 and March 2024. The ASC team had noted the emerging themes and outcomes from the CQC inspections in readiness for the Kirklees inspection.

Outcomes: The Panel was satisfied with the progress of the ASC team and how well prepared they were in readiness for the Kirklees inspection.

Future arrangements for the council run long stay dementia homes – The Panel heard from officers within Adults Social Care who outlined the proposal to Cabinet for the future of council run dementia care homes. The report was seeking approval to explore potential opportunities to transfer two homes to an independent sector provider with the council continuing to operate the homes during this time, and thereafter if a transfer was not successful. The service had been approached by several independent providers who wished to explore as a potential opportunity.

Outcomes:

The Panel welcomed the proposal to explore opportunities to transfer the homes as a going concern with the view that the council would continue to operate the homes if not successful.

Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board Report 2022/23 – The Panel heard from the Independent KSAB Chair who advised that in 2022/23 the Board had worked jointly with regional consortium colleagues in procuring an online platform, with the overarching aim of joint multiagency safeguarding adults policy and procedures, to be easily accessed by all partner organisation in West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire and City of York.

Several networking groups had taken place in 2022/23, inviting frontline staff and volunteers working in the safeguarding arena. The Board continued to work together with partner organisations and people in the community.

Outcomes:

The Panel was satisfied with the work that had taken place by KSAB in 2022/23.

Monitoring Work

(If monitoring previous recommendations please identify what difference Scrutiny has made).

N/A

Looking Ahead

The following areas will be considered by the Panel at the meetings scheduled to take place in April 2024:

- Joined up hospital Services in Kirklees.
- Non-Surgical Oncology
- CQC – Regulated Services across Kirklees.

General comments

It is clear that Dentistry is experiencing significant challenges nationally as well as locally, with contract reform, workforce planning and finances. A lack of NHS provision for dentistry across Kirklees remains an area of concern. The Panel will

continue to keep in focus the golden threads on the work programme being recruitment and retention, the impact of Covid-19, performance data to inform the individual strands of work and inequalities in health.