

Contact Officer: Richard Dunne

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

Thursday 24th September 2020

Present: Councillor Habiban Zaman (Chair)
Councillor Vivien Lees-Hamilton
Councillor Aafaq Butt

Co-optees David Rigby
Peter Bradshaw
Lynne Keady

In attendance: Gary Boothby, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS
Foundation Trust
Ian Currell, Greater Huddersfield CCG and North Kirklees
CCG
John Haigh, Kirklees Council
Richard Mellor, Locala
Julie Oldroyd, Greater Huddersfield CCG and North
Kirklees CCG
Emily Parry-Harries, Public Health Kirklees
Richard Parry, Kirklees Council

Apologies: Councillor Alison Munro
Councillor Lesley Warner

- 1 Minutes of previous meeting**
The minutes of the meeting held on the 23 July 2020 were approved as a correct record.
- 2 Interests**
Dave Rigby declared an interest in item 7 (Financial Position of the Kirklees Health and Adult Social Care Economy) on the grounds that he was an ordinary member of South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.
- 3 Admission of the public**
All items were taken in public session.
- 4 Deputations/Petitions**
No deputations or petitions were received.
- 5 Public Question Time**
No questions were asked.

6 Kirklees Care Homes Programme

The Panel welcomed Richard Parry Kirklees Council Strategic Director for Adults and Health and Julie Oldroyd from Greater Huddersfield and North Kirklees Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) to the meeting.

Mr Parry informed the Panel of the background to the long history of joint working between the Council and the two Kirklees CCGs in relation to care homes.

Mr Parry stated that the joint working had been an important foundation for the work that had been carried out in the last 6 months in supporting care homes during the pandemic.

Mr Parry outlined details of some key initiatives that had been introduced that included the enhanced health in care homes framework that was being mobilised.

Mr Parry highlighted the activity that had taken place and explained that the Kirklees Care Home Programme Board had been introduced to help support coordination of the activity.

Mr Parry stated that there had been a lot of focus on making sure that practical support was being provided in terms of infection, prevention and control in care homes in response to the pandemic.

Mr Parry explained that work was being done to continue to engage with care providers and their staff on the continued focus on infection, prevention and control.

Mr Parry outlined details of other key areas of focus that included maximising patient and staff access to the flu vaccine. Mr Parry highlighted the financial initiatives that had been introduced to support the sector that had suffered increased costs and loss of income due to PPE and care home voids.

Mr Parry informed the Panel of the work that was taking place with an independent organisation to describe what the future care home market may look like in terms of demand so that providers could start to plan long term.

Ms Oldroyd informed the Panel that during the pandemic GP's had been asked to provide additional support for care homes and to check on a regular basis if residents required clinical assessment.

Ms Oldroyd stated that support to care homes also included the provision of PPE and clinical equipment such as pulse oximeters to help with remote consultations.

Ms Oldroyd outlined details of the Capacity Tracker that provided information to support the discharge planning processes; identified bed vacancies in the homes; and was used to report the numbers of infections and levels of PPE.

Ms Oldroyd explained the work that was being done to deliver the Enhanced Health in Care Homes (ENCH) Direct Enhanced Service (DES) that would come into effect in October 2020 and would build on the work that had taken place during the pandemic.

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Ms Oldroyd stated that every care home had been aligned to one GP practice which would provide significant improvements to communications and relationships between the GPs and care homes.

Ms Oldroyd highlighted a number of achievements during the pandemic that included all care homes being provided with a nhs.net address so they could share data.

Ms Oldroyd outlined details of the Kirklees Integrated Care Home Quality Strategy that included a process for reporting concerns. The Panel also heard about the work that was being done on supporting and developing the workforce in care homes.

A question and answer session followed that covered a number of areas that included:

- Details of the ENCH Task and Finish Group.
- A request that future reports include a summary section that highlighted the key issues and a brief overview of the actions taken to address them.
- A question on whether there were any current or anticipated problems with the availability of PPE.
- A question on whether there were any issues in care homes having access to COVID-19 tests.
- Confirmation that the Council held significant stocks of PPE that were available if needed to care homes.
- Confirmation that care homes providers were expressing a lack of confidence in the COVID-19 testing arrangements.
- An overview of the work that was being done on providing care homes with support and training on infection, prevention and control.
- The challenges facing care homes in controlling and isolating residents that had contracted the virus.
- An overview of the process that was followed by Public Health following notification of a resident being identified as COVID-19 positive.
- Details of the Primary Care Networks (PCNs) approach to establishing a clinical lead and their role.
- Confirmation that the clinical support to care homes was currently being delivered remotely.
- Details of the remuneration package provided to GPs by the DES.
- An overview of the role of Locala and details of the Care Homes Support Service Commissioned by Greater Huddersfield CCG and delivered by Locala.
- Details of how the work being done through the Care Homes Support Service had helped to reduce hospital admissions.
- Details of the membership of the Kirklees Care Home Programme Board.
- A question on whether care homes that declined the infection, prevention and control (IPC) training were required to show evidence that their procedures for IPC were robust.
- An overview of the wide range of care home operators across Kirklees that included some large national and regional providers that had the infrastructure to provide the required training and support.
- A question on whether consideration had been given to conducting virtual Environmental Care Home IPC Audits.

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- The work that was taking place to reflect individual experiences in personalised care plans.
- The work that was taking place with Healthwatch to obtain feedback on care homes and the experiences of residents.
- An overview of the work that was taking place on recruitment and retention in the care home workforce.
- Details of the work that was taking place to reduce care homes dependency on agency staff and to provide continuity on where agency staff were deployed.
- An overview of the work undertaken by the quality team.
- The financial challenges facing many care homes and the process for escalating concerns of a care homes viability.
- Details of the long-term vision strategy of supporting more people to remain in their own homes for longer.
- Details of the work that had been commissioned by the Council that would assess what the future care home market would look like.
- An overview of voids in care homes.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That at a future meeting a further report be submitted to the Panel to follow up on progress to include: a summary section outlining the key issues and actions taken to address them; and more details of the training and support that will be provided to care homes on end of life care plans.
3. To receive the outcomes of the work that is being done on analysing the care home market.

7 **Financial Position of the Kirklees Health and Adult Social Care Economy**

The Panel welcomed representatives from key organisations of the Kirklees health and adult social care sector.

Mr Currell presented an overview of the overall financial position of the local health and adult social care system that included the 2019/20 planned and actual surplus/deficit and the planned year end position and revenue budget for 2020/21.

Mr Currell outlined details of the level of savings required and achieved for each organisation in 2019/20 and explained how the financial regime had changed in response to COVID-19.

Mr Currell presented details of the financial positions of North Kirklees CCG and Greater Huddersfield CCG that included the context and background to their respective positions.

Mr Boothby presented details of the financial positions of Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust and Mid Yorkshire Hospital Trust that included details of their positions for the last financial year.

Mr Mellor presented details of the financial position of Locala that included the position last year; the plans for 2020/21; and the implications for the organisation as a result of the pandemic.

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Mr Haigh presented details of the financial position of Kirklees Council Adult Social Care that included: last financial years position; details of the efficiency savings; the support provided to care homes; and the impact of COVID -19.

A question and answer session followed that covered a number of areas that included:

- A question on whether the additional costs incurred as a result of COVID -19 had been offset by the reduced levels of activity in NHS services.
- Confirmation that the sheer costs of delivering services during the pandemic had far outweighed any benefits from a reduction in other areas of acute trusts activities.
- An overview of the challenges facing the acute trusts in dealing with the backlog of cancelled operations and consultations while still having to deal with the impact of the pandemic.
- Details of the work that was taking place to return to pre-pandemic levels of activity for outpatients that included a continued focus on using technology to deliver, where appropriate, virtual consultations.
- Details of the target to increase planned surgery at Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT) to around 80 or 90% of last year's activity.
- An overview of the arrangements that were in place with the independent sector to help ensure there was sufficient capacity available to provide the care needed for patients.
- A question on the value for money strategy when confronted with having to purchase items very quickly such as PPE.
- Confirmation that all costs incurred because of the virus were being audited.
- An explanation from CHFT on the approach it took to securing PPE and the challenges of having to deal with inflated prices.
- An explanation of the pre-Covid plans for dealing with the North Kirklees CCG cumulative deficit and post Covid the potential for government to write off some of the deficits built up by CCGs.
- A question on whether adult social care anticipated any problems next year in funding direct payments for self-directed support.
- Confirmation that there were ongoing challenges in managing future adult social care budgets.
- An overview of the changing dynamics in the costs of the various services associated with adult social care.
- An explanation of the various financial acronyms referenced in the reports.
- An explanation of the tariff system used to pay hospital trusts and the additional funding streams used to top up providers income.
- Details of the funding envelope for the remainder of the year allocated to the West Yorkshire Integrated Care System (ICS) and the approach to how this would be distributed to the various NHS providers.
- An explanation on the position of staff recruitment in South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.
- Concerns regarding the increased activity in the number of people seeking support from mental health services and details of the implications of a virus outbreak in one of the trusts units.

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- Details of the improvements that had been made in organisations working together and the workforce group that had been established.
- Details of Locala's decision to withdraw its home care service.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That a future report and discussion be arranged to include an update on the financial impact of the pandemic with a focus on services delivered in the community such as domiciliary care.

8 COVID-19 Update

The Panel welcomed Emily Parry-Harries Head of Public Health Kirklees Council to the meeting.

Ms Parry-Harries presented the data that covered the numbers of cases of Covid-19 in Kirklees that included the cumulative and current position.

Ms Parry-Harris provided an update on testing in Kirklees which included details of the mobile testing units, local testing sites and confirmation that Kirklees was able to offer asymptomatic testing in areas with high case numbers.

Ms Parry-Harries outlined details of the testing that was being carried out in care homes across Kirklees and highlighted the various plans and arrangements that had been put in place to respond to local need that included a Covid -19 Local Outbreak Control Plan.

Ms Parry-Harries informed the Panel of the current position on PPE and confirmed that Kirklees was managing the West Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum emergency supplies.

Ms Parry-Harries outlined the key lessons learned that included the importance of early engagement with communities. Ms Parry-Harries highlighted a number of ongoing areas of consideration that included seasonal flu planning, preparing for the winter months and the potential for a second wave in the numbers of people contracting the virus.

Ms Parry-Harries informed the Panel of the key messengers that public health were promoting to the residents of Kirklees that including the importance of hand washing, social distancing, getting tested if you displayed the common symptoms of the virus and if required the need to self-isolate.

A question and answer session followed that covered a number of areas that included:

- A question on whether the current problems relating to testing was due to the levels of demand or capacity issues.
- Clarification that there was an issue with the capacity to handle the volume of tests that were required.
- An overview of the work that public health was carrying out on a daily basis.
- Details of the approach taken by public health to test and trace.

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- Confirmation that test results reports were coming through relatively quickly.
- Clarification that work was being done to establish a testing centre in Huddersfield.
- Details of public health's primary focus of preventing the spread of the virus.
- The hope that there would be a national relaunch of the shielding programme to protect those people who were most vulnerable to the virus.
- The pros and cons of the NHS Covid-19 app.
- The hope that the data from the app would provide more detailed information on the levels of the virus and how it is circulating in the population.
- Details of the scam that was currently being linked to the app.
- The work that was being done to engage with communities and to deal with the myths and rumours about the virus.
- A question on whether there was a specific end of life guidance protocol for care homes and hospitals that allowed families to spend time with their loved ones who had reached their end of life stage.
- A question on whether there was guidance on how often domiciliary carers should be tested for the virus.
- A question on whether there was specific guidance on the use of PPE by workers in the NHS and social care undertaking home visits and how the equipment was disposed of.
- An explanation that because Kirklees was in an area of additional restriction people were being strongly advised not to visit family in care homes.
- An explanation that there were some exceptions to this advice and people were being provided with the support needed to assist visits to see family who had reach their end of life stage.
- Clarification that the only asymptomatic testing programme in place was currently for staff and residents of care homes and did not extend to domiciliary carers.
- Confirmation that guidance on the use of PPE for home care workers had been issued and an offer to share the guidance with scrutiny.
- Confirmation that the same support was provided to people who wanted to visit family in hospital who had reached end of life stage.
- A request to see the acute hospitals end of life protocols.
- The desire to see the capacity for asymptomatic testing increased to cover all key front-line workers.
- Confirmation that public health was receiving the level of data required to support local test and trace.
- Details of the work that was being done to complete a business case to support a local test and trace scheme.

RESOLVED –

1. That the information presented by public health is noted.
2. That an update on Covid-19 continues as a standing item on future agenda's.

9 Work Programme 2020/21

The Panel considered its work programme for 2020/21 and the forward agenda plan that included an overview of the items planned for the November 2020 meeting and the December 2020 meeting.

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The Panel discussed issues for inclusion in the December meeting that included: a detailed discussion with South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to understand the impact of the pandemic on mental health services; a presentation from CQC with a focus on adult social care; and a suggestion to wait until the impact of Covid-19 on winter pressures was much clearer before deciding which issues should be covered by the Panel.

Cllr Smaje stated that the Health and Wellbeing Board was responsible for looking at health inequalities and suggested that the Panel may wish to consider looking at this area, initially on an informal basis, to check that health inequalities was being considered in the NHS restart of services.