

## Kirklees Council

### Scrutiny Lead Member Report

Lead Member: Cllr Jackie Ramsay

Panel: Health and Adult Social Care

Period of Update: From: January 2023 - March 2023

#### 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.
- Amanda Evans - Service Director Kirklees Council Adult Social Care Operations
- Catherine Riley - Associate Director of Strategy, Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT).
- Diane Tinker - Director of Midwifery and Women's services, CHFT.
- Vicky Dutchburn - Director of Operational Delivery & Performance. Kirklees Health and Care Partnership

#### Panel Meeting – 25 January 2023

##### **Inequalities in Access to Health care Services**

Representatives from Kirklees Public Health, Kirklees Health and Care Partnership and a selection of providers from the local health and care system attended the meeting to discuss inequalities in accessing health care services in Kirklees.

The discussions highlighted a number of factors that included: the need to do more in promoting the range of services and support available to local communities; the importance of tackling the wider issues that impacted on poverty; and the importance of encouraging the uptake of health checks and screening programmes in the more deprived communities of Kirklees.

##### **Palliative and End of Life Care**

Representatives from the Kirklees Palliative Care Partnership presented an outline of the work that was being done to provide an integrated package of palliative and end of life care in Kirklees.

There were a number of areas discussed that included: the role of councillors in helping to influence and advocate the work of the Partnership; the bereavement support provided to family carers; the increases in demand for palliative care; and the work that had been undertaken by the Partnership to provide additional services.

##### **Work programme 2022/23**

It was confirmed that the March meeting would include items covering dentistry in Kirklees and an in depth look at adult social care community provision and domiciliary care.

##### **Panel visit to Calderdale Royal Hospital (CRH) Birthing Unit and Labour Ward – 16 February 2023**

As part of their review into maternity services in Kirklees panel members visited CRH to have a tour of the Birthing Unit and Labour Ward and to receive a presentation on CHFT maternity services that included an update on service developments.

## **Panel Meeting – 1 March 2023**

### **Adult Social Care - Community Provision in Kirklees**

Representatives from Kirklees Adult Social Care and the Kirklees Care Association attended and presented details of the work being done in the provision of domiciliary care, care homes and intermediate care in Kirklees.

The discussions covered a number of issues that included: the challenges facing the recruitment and retention of the workforce in adult social care; the national problem of rates of pay for the social care workforce; and the challenges associated with the increased demand for social care services and complexity of service user's needs.

### **Dentistry in Kirklees**

Representatives from NHS England, Public Health, Locala and the Kirklees Local Dental Committee were in attendance to discuss dentistry in Kirklees.

A number of issues were discussed that included: the position of Orthodontic services in Kirklees; an update on the Oral Health Needs Assessment for the Yorkshire region; the challenges in accessing an NHS Dentist; delays in accessing hospital dental extractions for children and young people; the work undertaken by Locala in providing Community Dental Services; and the transfer of commissioning responsibilities from NHS England to West Yorkshire ICB

### **Outcomes:**

#### **Inequalities in Access to Health care Services**

The Panel had a full and frank discussion that included a number of concerns that were highlighted and addressed that included: the importance of the role of the voluntary sector in helping to support vulnerable and elderly people who had been discharged from hospital to avoid unnecessary readmission; the need to promote health services and support available to local communities; the important role of community champions in engaging with their local population; the importance of the NHS screening programmes; and the need to build on the success of screening campaigns that had focused on increasing uptake in the more deprived communities of Kirklees.

#### **Palliative and End of Life Care**

The Panel noted the good practice of the work of the Partnership and agreed that palliative and end of life care should remain a key priority within the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

#### **Panel visit to CRH Birthing Unit and Labour Ward**

Following the visit panel members discussed their findings that included further concerns relating to the intermittent closure of the CRH Birthing Unit due to staff shortages. The Panel agreed that it still had concerns regarding the lack of access for women living in Kirklees to a birthing facility located in their local district. The Panel also highlighted concerns regarding the equality of access for Kirklees parents who had to travel further than they would have if a service was still available at Huddersfield and the impact on those families who relied on public transport. The Panel concluded that taking account of the length of time that the Birthing Units in Huddersfield and Dewsbury had been closed it had no alternative but to recognise that a substantial change to service had taken place that the public should, retrospectively, be consulted on.

A further letter outlining these concerns and seeking information on an indicative timeline for the reintroduction of the midwife led birth centre(s) in Kirklees and an outline of the proposed service model has been sent to the Chief Executives of Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust and Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust.

### **Dentistry in Kirklees**

The Panel agreed that it would write to Locala who manage the waiting list and CHFT and MYHT who provide access to General Anaesthetics outlining its concerns in delays in accessing hospital dental extractions for children and young people. The Panel also agreed that following the transfer of the commissioning of dental services to the West Yorks Integrated Care Board (WYICB) that representatives of WYICB should be invited to attend a future Panel meeting to discuss inequality in access to dentists and its response to the delays in hospital dental extractions for children and young people.

### **Monitoring Work**

(If monitoring previous recommendations please identify what difference Scrutiny has made)  
N/A

### **Looking Ahead**

The April meeting will include:

- A presentation of the Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board (KSAB) 2021/22 Annual Report.
- A review of the 2022/23 Work programme

A recent Lead Member briefing with the Kirklees Health and Care Partnership included high level details of plans to transform Older People's Mental Health Inpatient services. The proposals will impact three local authorities in West Yorkshire – Kirklees, Wakefield and Calderdale. The proposals are likely to be considered a substantial change to service which may lead to the requirement to establish a mandatory Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Kirklees Health and Care Partnership will be forwarding further details and these will be circulated to the wider Panel and discussed at a future meeting.

The Panel will continue to monitor the position of maternity services in Kirklees.

### **General comments**

It's clear that Health and Adult Social Care are struggling nationally as well as locally, it has been a difficult winter. The big issues remain the same i.e., lack of resources both money and workforce. This is leading to inefficient, and at times poor quality, care as patients are unable to be seen at the right time, in the right place, by the right person.

The issue regarding the lack of provision for babies to be born in Kirklees remains and a second letter to the Trusts (MYHT & CHFT) has been sent. It is understood, by the panel, that the midwifery vacancies have compromised the ability to reopen the birthing centres, but it is disappointing that neither an action plan or timeline has been provided and the panel believe it is a significant change in service provision.

A new concern in relation to the long waits by children for dental extraction under

General Anaesthetic is of concern to the panel and a letter to the CEOs of Locala, who hold the waiting list, and MYHT & CHFT, who provide theatre time and anaesthetic cover, has been sent to see if there is anything that can be done to resolve this issue.