

Kirklees Council

Scrutiny Lead Member Report

Lead Member: Cllr Bill Armer

Panel: Health and Adult Social Care

Period of Update: From: September 2023 – December 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.
- Michelle Cross – Service Director Mental Health and Learning Disability
- Anne-Marie Henshall – Director of Midwifery and Women’s Health Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust

The Panel visited Pinderfields Birth Centre in October 2023, and also received a presentation from Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Midwifery whilst there.

Panel meeting 27 September 2023

Managing Capacity and Demand - The Panel heard from representatives from the Kirklees Health and Care Partners who provided an update on managing Capacity and Demand.

The Panel was pleased to note that there was currently no waiting list in Kirklees for home care provision.

As part of the discussion, the Panel was advised that in relation to Dentistry, CHFT at the time of writing of the report, had 12 children awaiting surgical dental extraction. At the time of the report preparation, 119 paediatric patients in MYTT were currently awaiting surgical dental extraction.

The issue of access to dentists and paediatric surgical dental extraction remains an area of concern for the Panel and a further discussion will take place at the Panel in January 2024.

Further information will be provided to the Panel in January 2024 following the informal West Yorkshire Joint Health Scrutiny Committee meeting about Dentistry at its virtual meeting on 23 November 2023.

Joined up care in Kirklees neighbourhoods - The Panel heard from Health and Care Partners regarding the Primary Care Access Recovery Plan, Community Pharmacy, Urgent Community Response and Community Neighbourhoods. The Panel noted the continued work being done around workforce recruitment and retention, including staff health and well-being.

Outcomes: The Panel acknowledged that the information and discussions provided good evidence of the progress that was being made in integrated working despite the pressures in the local health and adult social care system.

Panel discussion – 26 October 2023

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 ASC would be given five weeks' notice of the inspection and the inspection could be in five weeks, or up to 18 months time.

The Panel was satisfied that the ASC team in Kirklees was well along with its preparations for the five key 'I' statements and the core themes emerging from pilot areas.

Outcomes: The Panel will consider the CQC self-assessment and development plan at a future meeting of the Panel.

Panel Meeting - 17 November 2023

Call in of Strategic Director Decision in relation to Care Phones – The Panel heard from signatories to the call in regarding concerns in relation to impact and consultation. Having considered the issues, the Panel requested that the stage 2 impact assessment be published with the decision, and noted the change in provision was not substantial and would not result in the removal of an elements that were already provided. The Panel was satisfied that the alternative funding streams had been considered and was content that the means tested model offered the fairest way of funding provision.

The decision taken in relation to care phones was therefore freed for implementation.

Panel Meeting – 22 November 2023

Consultation on the closure of Claremont House and Castle Grange - The Panel heard from officers within Adult Social Care who outlined the proposals for approval in principle to withdraw from the long stay residential care market. The report also covered a summary of the aims, principles, methodology and emerging themes of the public consultation.

The Panel also heard from families of residents of Claremont House and Castle Grange and the Panel heard that measures were in place to engage with and ask questions of officers of the Council. The Panel noted that individual conversations were offered to families and carers.

Outcomes: The Panel requested clarity on the financial details contained within the Cabinet report. They noted the information received regarding the consultation and may to return to the issue at a later date.

Maternity Services – The Panel heard from representatives from Mid Yorkshire

Teaching NHS Trust, and Calderdale and Huddersfield Foundation NHS Trust. The Panel was satisfied that MYTT had firm proposals and timeframes to re-open the birthing unit at Dewsbury District Hospital. The Panel was also assured that MYTT's sustainability plan appeared robust, but a monitoring period by the Panel would continue.

The Panel remains concerned about the continued closure of the birthing unit at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary. The Panel determined that discussions should take place with Calderdale and Wakefield Council's regarding any concerns they may have regarding the birthing centres, and whether they wish to join with Kirklees to formally consider the issue.

Outcomes:

The Panel instructed officers to commence discussions with Calderdale and Wakefield Council. Calderdale Council has some level of concern, which will be explored further, and Wakefield Council will be considering the issue of Maternity Services at its meeting in January 2024, providing an update to officers following this. A further update in relation to next steps will be brought to the Panel early in 2024.

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 January and February 2024:

- Joined up hospital Services in Kirklees.
- Dentistry.
- Adult Social Care
- Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report.

General comments

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 (to include checking the work being done to promote the range of services and support available to deprived communities and actions/initiatives to increase uptake of services and screening programmes).

The issue regarding the lack of provision for babies to be born in Kirklees remains an area of concern for the Panel and further scrutiny will take place with CHFT regarding their proposals.