

Contact Officer: Nicola Sylvester

KIRKLEES COUNCIL

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL

Wednesday 28th February 2024

Present: Councillor Bill Armer (Chair)
Councillor Itrat Ali
Councillor Alison Munro

Co-optees Helen Clay

In attendance: Richard Parry, Strategic Director for Adults and Health
Michelle Cross, Service Director, Mental Health and Learning Disability,
Cath Simms, Service Director, Adults Social Care
Alexia Gray, Head of Quality, Standards and Safeguarding
Jacquie Stansfield, Service Manager, Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board
Robert McCulloch-Graham, Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board.

Observers: Councillor Jackie Ramsay
Councillor Elizabeth Smaje

Apologies: Councillor Beverley Addy
Councillor Habiban Zaman
Kim Taylor (Co-Optee)

- 1 Membership of the Panel**
Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Beverley Addy, Councillor Habiban Zaman and Kim Taylor (co-optee).
- 2 Minutes of previous meeting**
That the minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2024 were approved as a correct record.
- 3 Declaration of Interests**
No interest were declared.
- 4 Admission of the public**
All items were taken in public session.
- 5 Deputations/Petitions**
No deputations or petitions were received.

6 Public Question Time

No questions were asked.

7 Care Quality Commission

RESOLVED: That the Care Quality Commission be deferred to the Panel meeting 17th April 2024.

8 Future of council run dementia care homes

The Panel received an update on the future of council run dementia homes.

Michelle Cross, Service Director, Mental Health, and Learning Disability explained that a 12-week consultation had taken place regarding the future of Claremont House and Castle Grange Care homes. The consultation was based on the preferred option of closure of both Claremont House and Castle Grange, with a view to supporting the safe reassessment and relocation of existing service users and an anticipated annual saving of £1.247m. The outcome of the consultation was that the service was seeking Cabinet approval to explore potential opportunities to transfer the 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 this as a potential opportunity. The consultation was extensively promoted throughout the period of 11 October 2023 to 3 January 2024 leading to good levels of engagement.

The Chair of the Panel commented on the consultation process and expressed that the process had demonstrated that the Council had responded to public concerns, which included this scrutiny panel providing time to the relatives to put their case forward, which received a very positive outcome.

Questions and Comments were invited from Members of the Panel and the following was raised:

- In terms of the future, the intention was to re-instate the capital works that had been paused along with filling the empty beds. The homes were expected to be specialists in complex dementia and would support self-funders more than had previously done.
- In terms of future funding, there was sufficient funds to support the £1m saving for Adult Social Care that had come from central government for this year. To ensure budgets were met in future years, assets and income had to be maximised.
- There were four parties interest in purchasing the homes as a going concern, the service would contact all parties to advise that they would now be looking at a fully established provision and the risks associated. It was noted that a similar exercise had taken place in 2017 which was not successful due to the risks associated.
- With regards to private providers taking ownership, and costs to residents. Kirklees Council would stipulate to providers that they would be taking residents at current fees and that renovations in the homes would be part of the transfer agreement.

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- It was noted by families that Kirklees staff provided an excellent standard of care.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the report and thanked Michelle Cross for her contributions.

9 Preparation for Care Quality Commission Inspections

The panel received a presentation on the Councils approach to preparing for the Care Quality Commissions (CQC) inspections that included the CQC inspection areas of responsibility to understand the assurance regime, emerging themes, outcomes from the CQC pilot sites, and details of a broader range of changes that the Council was developing to improve the social care offer.

Alexia Gray, Head of Quality, Standards and Safeguarding explained that the Health and Care Act 2022 placed a duty on the CQC to independently review adults within Local Authorities to assess how effective duties under the care act were being discharged. The focus of local authority assessments was across four themes and nine quality statements. The outcomes of the inspections remained the same as currently used, and were determined by:

- What was being done in practice,
- What front-line staff, carers, and people who used services were saying about what was done,
- The story that was told during the inspection.

The Panel was advised that during 2023, five pilot sites had been inspected, with another 20 sites to be inspected between October 2023 and March 2024. It was not clear how frequent CQC would be scheduling inspections. Progress in the service that had taken place was around:

- Governance, Support and Self-Assessment
- Building messaging and communications
- Linking everything together
- Identifying the opportunities, building momentum
- Keeping the activity live

Ms Gray explained that the challenges for the service were:

- Introduction of the new integrated case management system,
- The current financial position and staffing capacity,
- Scale of delivering the development plan alongside the new Adults and Health Change Programme,
- Winter pressures,
- Keeping the momentum of interest and understanding of CQC in partners, staff and leaders,
- External influences, such as an impending general election which could lead to a revised focus on social care reform.

Questions and Comments were invited from Members of the Panel and the following was raised:

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- Benefits of the work already carried out made the service reflect on the vision and the co production work, it also highlighted work done well,
- The service was confident that when the CQC called to notify of an inspection the service was ready,
- That the Communication plan be shared with Scrutiny Members.

Cath Simms, Service Director, Adults Social Care provided an update on the Adults Health Change Programme and explained that pre pandemic the service had worked towards implemented a strength-based approach to care and support planning, review, and assessment utilising local expertise around community-based solutions. Plans were underway to develop more assets in the local areas that were more accessible to those with a care of support need, with the front door and community plus offer focussing on prevention, wellbeing and more creative thinking around problems that people presented to the service. The Council had identified the need for a substantial expansion in extra care housing to reduce reliance on residential care. Once the pandemic hit, the pace of hospital discharges grew rapidly, as did the use of discharge beds in care homes. The service moved to a problem-solving mode rather than co-productive strength-based approach, which led to some overprovisions. Many councils needed to undertake significant changes to programmes as they had been affected by similar changes. In summer 2023, an external organisation was commissioned to complete an independent diagnostic.

The primary objective of the diagnostic was to understand how the service could improve outcomes for residents within Kirklees. Some findings were triangulated with feedback from the peer challenge and conversations with other councils. The directorate faced challenges which included the prospect of reform, demographic pressures, the cost-of-living impact, and national workforce challenges, with the diagnostic giving an independent view of changes the service would like to make or build on.

Ms Simms advised that a developed and refined designed plan had been created which would run across three years, with four key workstreams and 13 programme design principles to the plan.

Questions and Comments were invited from Members of the Panel and the following was raised:

- There was a focus on early support and admission avoidance into hospital by preventing admissions happening in the first instance,
- The difference the change programme would make was in supporting people to leave hospital into their own home quicker rather than into residential care and supporting them in the community. Efficiencies could be made by getting people home first.
- There was a rise in complexity in mental health, with a larger need to go into residential care that was not there pre pandemic. There was a workstream to understand if there was sufficient capacity in the district, or if there was a need for residential care out of area.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the presentation and thanked Alexia Gray and Cath Simms for their contributions.

10 Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board 2022/2023

The Panel received the Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022-23.

Robert McCulloch-Graham, Safeguarding Adults Board Independent Chair explained that the role of the Board was to make sure that there were arrangements in Kirklees that worked well to help protect adults with care and support needs from abuse or neglect by ensuring that local safeguarding arrangements were in places as defined by the Care Act 2014 and statutory guidance. The Safeguarding Board included an independent Chair, a strategic delivery group and three subgroups.

The Panel noted that the Board had three statutory duties which they had to comply with which were:

- To have an annual strategic plan in place,
- To respond to any serious cases that may occur,
- To produce the Kirklees Safeguarding Adults Board Annual report.

Mr McCulloch-Graham advised the Panel that in 2022-23 the Board had undertaken the following:

- Worked jointly with regional consortium colleagues in procuring an online platform with the overarching aim of enabling the Joint Multiagency Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedure to be easily accessed by all partner organisations in West Yorkshire, North Yorkshire, and the City of York.
- Held several network groups, inviting frontline staff and volunteers working in the safeguarding arena,
- Learned from experience, enabling safeguarding services to continue to be delivered effectively and professionally with Kirklees people at the centre of service delivery, drawing on experiences from a variety of partnership sources and share good practice and challenge practice to subgroups to re-evaluate and improve services across the partnership.

The Panel noted that the Board would continue to work together with partner organisations and people in the community, so that adults could live the best lives they could, with their wellbeing and rights being supported, safe from abuse and neglect.

Evidence was provided by partners that there were increased reports of self-neglect, for a multitude of different reasons where people did not want to engage in getting the help they required. The self-neglect policy and procedures were devised within Kirklees and had been commended by different partners.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the presentation and thanked Robert McCulloch-Graham and Jacqui Stansfield for their contributions.

11 Work Programme 2023/24

A discussion took place on the 2023/24 work programme and forward agenda plan.

