

## Kirklees Council

### Scrutiny Lead Member Report

Lead Member: Cllr Jackie Ramsay

Panel: Health and Adult Social Care

Period of Update: From: November 2022 to January 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:

- Emily Parry-Harries – Head of Public Health.
- Michael Crowther - Chief Executive The Kirkwood Hospice
- Catherine Wormstone - Director of Primary Care, Kirklees Health and Care Partnership
- Richard Parry – Strategic Director for Adults and Health.
- Jane Close - Chief Operating Officer, Locala
- Jill Greenfield - Service Director Customer and Communities, Kirklees Council
- Amanda Evans - Service Director Kirklees Council Adult Social Care Operations
- Cllr Musarrat Khan – Cabinet Member Health and Social Care.

#### Panel Meeting – 13 December 2022

##### **New Plan for Adult Social Care Reform**

Representatives from Kirklees Adult Social Care provided the Panel with an update on the social care reforms. It was noted that although the charging element of the reforms had been delayed until October 2025 the Council would still need to start work on preparing for the changes from the summer 2023.

The Panel was also told that the Council would be commissioning external support to model the impact of the charging reform, demographic demand and to identify opportunities for savings.

Other areas discussed included: the main drivers of social care reform; the Council's vision for adult social care; and the challenges facing the Council as a result of the increased costs associated with the reforms.

##### **Joined up Care in Kirklees Neighbourhoods**

The Panel considered how local primary care services via the Primary Care Networks contributed to targeted integrated service delivery in Kirklees neighbourhoods and assessed the capacity of out of hospital care. Areas that were discussed included: the role of community pharmacy in helping to alleviate pressures across the wider primary care system; the work being done to utilise the different skill mixes in the workforce and developing further the use of digital technology; The work that was taking place to align the agencies working in the neighbourhood model to general practice; and plans for the introduction of community diagnostic centres.

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

It was reported that the Panel had received a holding response to the letters that it had sent to the Chief Executives of Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust (CHFT) and Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (MYTH) regarding the provision of maternity services in Kirklees.

The Panel was informed that members had been invited to visit the maternity service in Calderdale Royal Hospital. It was confirmed that the Panel would accept the invitation although focus would still be given to the wider issues covering the lack of provision in Kirklees

Issues for future discussion were finalised and included:

- confirmation that palliative and end of life care and inequalities in access to health care services would be covered at the January 2023 meeting and:
- access to dentistry and a detailed look at the provision of adult social care with a focus on community provision and domiciliary care would be scheduled for the March 2023 meeting.

### **Outcomes:**

#### **New Plan for Adult Social Care Reform**

It was agreed that an offer to have a more detailed discussion on the broader range of changes that the Council was developing to improve the social care offer would be considered.

#### **Joined up Care in Kirklees Neighbourhoods**

The discussions included a number of panel concerns that were addressed and included: an agreement that more work was needed to align the role of elected members in the work of Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and the neighbourhood model including developing the right forums to build that working relationship; an agreement that the development of the working relationships with the PCNs should be undertaken outside of the PCN formal business meetings; and an acknowledgment of the importance of communicating with the public and raising awareness of the local neighbourhood services.

The Panel acknowledged that the information and discussions had 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.

### **Monitoring Work**

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

N/A

### **Looking Ahead**

Arrangements to visit to the maternity service at Calderdale Royal Hospital will be scheduled to take place during February 2023.

The following areas will be considered by the Panel at the meetings scheduled to take place in January and March 2023:

- Considering the work being done to support people in Kirklees with palliative and end of life care.

- Inequalities in access to health care services
- Dentistry in Kirklees
- A detailed look at adult social care community provision/domiciliary care.
- An assessment of the out of hospital capacity and the ability of out of hospital services in Kirklees to support the CHFT Business Case demand in growth assumptions

The Panel will continue to monitor the position of maternity services in Kirklees with a view to arranging a review of any new proposed maternity services model and to consider if the proposed model constitutes a substantial change or variation to service.

### **General comments**

These are extremely challenging times for Health and Social Care nationally and we see clear evidence of the strain on the systems locally.

The key concern remains the inability to recruit and retain the workforce required to support the quality of care expected of local providers i.e. waiting times in planned/ unplanned care and staff morale.

Healthwatch have consistently assured us that staff are appreciated for what they do by patients/service users, but the system is in crisis.

It's worrying that we haven't had a straight answer as to when the Birthing Centres at Huddersfield and Dewsbury will be re-opened, and we need to be aware that the Huddersfield Unit has been closed 'temporarily' since March 2020.