

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

15 March 2018

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.15pm

Present: Councillors Peet (Chair), Affleck, Bowden, Fowler, Patrick.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Buglass, Cartey, Cooper, Mills, T Smith, R Welsh, Wills.

33. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel held on 11 January 2018 were approved as a correct record. It is assumed

34. TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED CARE

The Panel welcomed Peter Grace, Clinical Nurse Lead for Digital Health; and Joanne Strothers, Telehealth Manager, to receive an update on innovations and benefits achieved through the increased use of technology throughout health and social care provision in Tameside.

Panel members received a comprehensive overview of both the Community Response Service (CRS) and Digital Health. Detail was provided on the Telecare enhanced monitoring systems that support and complement packages of personalised care. There are a number of devices and technologies available to support residents, ranging from medication dispensers to falls detectors. Residents receive an assessment to identify need and to ensure the most appropriate devices are used. Equipment has the ability to detect potential issues and alert the emergency control operators.

It was reported that the vast majority of older people express an interest and intention to remain living independently in their own home for as long as possible. The service aims to improve safety and security for elderly and vulnerable residents; to encourage earlier discharge from hospital; reduce inappropriate admissions to residential and nursing care and to deliver more personalised freedom and reassurance for carers and families.

The Panel heard that for the year ending February 2018 the service monitored over 3500 clients, of which 73% have CRS only with no other involvement from Adult Services. The Council's emergency control operators have handled almost 200,000 inbound calls from Telecare devices, as well as 14,000 Council out-of-hours calls. It was reported that over the same period wardens have physically responded to 10,891 emergency calls and from the 3500 service users, 71% are over 75 years of age.

Ms Strothers advised members of the important work that is undertaken with regards to falls prevention. Thanks to improved and highly effective lifting equipment the service is able to support residents quickly and effectively, which in many cases is reducing the need for ambulances to be called out.

The Digital Health Centre is located at the hospital site and allows residents and their carers to contact nurse assessors and clinicians to receive a 'live' consultation on health conditions as they arise. The centre supports the need to reduce attendances to, and admissions from the emergency department for the residents of care and nursing homes, along with residents of Tameside living independently in their own homes with CRS support.

Mr Grace informed members that 45 care homes are using Digital Health services. From 3400 calls/consultations that have taken place since the pilot in March 2017, it is estimated to have successfully avoided over 1000 unnecessary emergency attendances.

The service provides a multitude of benefits to patients by working to ensure the correct triage and treatments are delivered in the most appropriate places. Positive outcomes also include the ability to upskill care home staff to identify and access medical support and advice, reducing the strain on ambulance resources and supporting hospital discharge.

For the period from April 2017 to January 2018 a benefit analysis of non-cashable and notional savings for Digital Health equates to £475,000. Further investigation also shows a saving of 1723 bed days, which equates to 6 hospital beds and a financial benefit of £255,000. With the service delivering a financial cost benefit when compared with the costs allocated from transformational funding.

Panel members asked about future opportunities to develop technology enhanced care within communities.

Mr Grace and Ms Strothers highlighted the potential need for services to work more with long-term conditions and monitoring systems. Joint working across services has played a significant role in the success achieved to date and it is important that this is built upon with primary care providers and emergency services.

RESOLVED: That Mr Grace and Ms Strothers be thanked for attending the meeting.

35. CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

Panel members received a briefing note on the recent Department of Health and Department for Education policy consultation on 'Transforming Children and Young People's Mental Health'.

The briefing detailed prevalence of mental health problems within children and young people, as well as the problems faced within educational settings and their ability to respond. Proposals include trained Mental Health Leads to be located within schools and colleges by 2025, with work needed to enhance links between NHS mental health services.

RESOLVED: That the content be noted and used to inform future activity where appropriate.

36. UPDATE ON CURRENT REVIEW

The Chair provided a verbal update on the most recent working group meeting of the Suicide Prevention review. It was discussed that arrangements will now be made to explore options for a meeting with representatives from primary care.

RESOLVED: That working group members are advised of any future meetings by email and calendar invitation.

37. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that this is last formal meeting of the Panel for the 2017/18 municipal year.

38. URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items for consideration at this meeting.

CHAIR