

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

26 July 2018

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.30pm

Present: Councillors Peet (Chair), T Smith (Deputy Chair), Affleck, Billington, Bowden, Boyle, Buglass, Cooper, P Fitzpatrick, Gosling, S Homer, Mills, Welsh, Wild.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Cartey, Jackson, Taylor, Whitehead.

10. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel held on 14 June 2018 were approved as a correct record.

Panel members noted a previous discussion on key performance indicators (KPIs) and future reporting of such data. It was agreed by the Chair at the meeting on 14 June 2018, that given the sheer volume of performance information recorded across the Council and Clinical Commissioning Group, officers will continue to ensure that timely performance updates are provided with regards to specific activity and working groups.

11. OVER THE COUNTER MEDICINES

The Panel welcomed Peter Howarth, Head of Medicines Management, Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), to receive engagement information on the implementation of NHS England guidance which aims to reduce the prescribing of medicines for minor and short-term health conditions.

In April 2018, following a 12 week consultation, NHS England issued guidance on the conditions for which over the counter items should not routinely be prescribed in primary care. NHS England expect local Clinical Commissioning Groups to take note of the guidance when developing policies at a local level.

Objectives of the guidance are to support decision making for commissioners, to address unwarranted national variations and to make local prescribing practices more effective. In the year prior to June 2017, the NHS spent approximately £569 million on prescriptions for medicines, which could otherwise be purchased over the counter from a pharmacy or supermarket.

Panel members received the outlined guidance, with an extensive discussion taking place with regards to the possible impacts which may arise as a result of the proposals. Members were informed that this work forms part of a national agenda to promote self-care and proficiency in treating minor and self-limiting conditions.

Mr Howarth advised that collective efforts are required across Tameside and Glossop to raise awareness of the new guidance to inform the development of a local policy. It is important to note that the guidance does not remove the clinical discretion of the prescriber in accordance with their professional duties.

A copy of the NHS England guidance was included as part of the meeting papers, with a list of medical conditions and treatments for inclusion. The conditions range from migraines, conjunctivitis, infant colic and indigestion; with a focus for future prescribing restrictions to be

identified.

Discussion points included the potential for disproportionate impacts on residents with low incomes who may currently receive free prescriptions. The impact on single parents was also discussed when seeking the advice and guidance for infant related conditions who may not be able to afford medication sold at pharmacies.

In order to consider the proposals and a local policy, a 12 week period of engagement is being carried out between June and September 2018, with comments and responses from members of the scrutiny panel to be submitted. The Chair thanked all members for their engaged contribution. In addition to the discussions noted members were asked to consider the information in a much wider context and for any further feedback to be included in the panel's response.

Resolved:

(1) That Mr Howarth be thanked for attending the meeting.

(2) That any further feedback and comments regarding the guidance be emailed to the Scrutiny Manager BY 24 August 2018.

(3) That the Panel's formal consultation response and submission be approved at the next meeting on 13 September 2018.

12. SCRUTINY TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Simon Brunet, Policy Manager advised members that a variety of training options have been explored, with confirmation that North West Employers have been invited to provide a suitable training programme for all scrutiny members.

It has been arranged for two sessions to be delivered by Dr Stephanie Snape, who is a leading expert on shaping successful scrutiny. Members were advised that they only need to attend one session which will last approximately 3 hours, with options of the afternoon and evening in order to accommodate work commitments.

The aim will be for the first session to take place towards the end of August, with the second early in September. Once confirmed the dates and times will be circulated to all scrutiny members to book their place.

Resolved: That the dates and times of scrutiny training sessions are circulated by email and as a calendar invitation.

13. SCRUTINY ENGAGEMENT

Simon Brunet, Policy Manager provided members with options for methods to raise the public profile of scrutiny activity, as well as possibilities to increase engagement with services and partners to promote insight and service development.

The Panel heard that finding ways to encourage attendance at meetings and promoting the successful work of scrutiny will be explored. There are opportunities to raise resident awareness through a number of channels, including social media and network forums.

It is important for links to be created with communities and to identify individuals to contribute to some of the in-depth working group meetings, as co-opted and non-panel members.

Resolved: That work is undertaken to raise awareness of scrutiny activity through social media, with future updates on non-panel representatives to be invited to working group meetings.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel will take place on 13 September 2018.

15. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR