

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

9 September 2021

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.50pm

Present: Councillors T Smith (Chair), S Homer, Affleck, Alam, Cooper, Drennan, Jackson, Patrick, N Sharif, Sweeton, Welsh.

Apologies: Councillors Owen, Pearce.

14. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel held on 29 July 2021 were approved as a correct record.

15. MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The Panel welcomed Councillor Eleanor Wills, Adult Social Care and Health; Jessica Williams, Director of Commissioning; Lynzi Shepherd, Head of Mental Health; and Emma Richardson, Pennine Care, to receive an update regarding the accessibility of local mental health services and responding to impacts of Covid-19 with regard to demand pressures and ongoing support for residents.

The Panel received detail on the current position of mental health services and impacts of Covid-19. New funding is available to support and transform services for people living with mental ill health including a focus to improve access, develop additional prevention support and specialist provision. It was reported that recruitment and retention remains a challenge and area of concern for service providers.

Covid-19 has presented a range of additional pressures, with the inability to closely monitor those with chronic serious mental illness, which has led to an increase in admissions and use of psychiatric intensive care units. Services have experienced a rise in presentations of trauma and there has been a delay in diagnosis for people presenting with cognitive impairment. Services have continued to work together, ensuring a rapid move to digital provision has helped to maintain capacity and accessibility.

The Tameside and Glossop Mental Health Transformation Plan 2021-23 aims to create a single strategy that focuses on the following themes:

- Population mental wellbeing
- Supporting people to Stay Well – Live Well
- Improving access and crisis
- Improving care for those with highest needs
- Co-production and provision that is safe, effective and high quality
- Innovative use of resources and new investment

The Panel heard that NHS Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group has successfully increased spend on mental health services year-on-year. Members received detail of each theme within transformation plan, with a particular focus on the wider neighbourhood offer, prevention strategies, creating improved access and pathways to timely and appropriate support for residents.

Councillor Wills and officers responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- Access to support and wait times
- How the Council can utilise and harness local insight and intelligence to ensure every contact counts and that mental health awareness and signposting is widely adopted across all customer facing services
- Suicide prevention and outcomes
- Support for children and younger adults
- Long-term impacts of increased pressures on the system
- Social care – elderly and most vulnerable adults presenting with mental health issues
- Role of the digital offer going forward to improve awareness and access

The Chair advised Councillor Wills that a working group would review work in this area to support work of the Executive, with a focus of key areas set within the transformation plan.

Resolved: That Councillor Wills and officers be thanked for attending the meeting.

16. BUDGET UPDATE

The Panel welcomed Caroline Barlow, Assistant Director of Finance, to receive an update on the 2021/22 budget and looking ahead.

Members received a comprehensive in-year budget appraisal that included an overview of financial impacts and projections related to Covid-19 as well as current financial pressures placed on a range of statutory services.

Members agreed with the key risk factors and emerging pressures. In response to the update, a letter of the Scrutiny Chairs will be sent to Councillor Ryan to take account of discussions captured from the meetings and subsequent feedback received.

Resolved: That Ms Barlow be thanked for attending the meeting.

17. PERFORMANCE SCORECARD

The Panel received the Corporate Plan Scorecard for information.

18. GREATER MANCHESTER SCRUTINY

The Chair provided a verbal update on activity of the GM Corporate Issues & Reform Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

19. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair informed panel members of the Children's Working Group meeting that will take place on 20 September 2021, with plans in place for members to receive an update on foster carer marketing and recruitment.

Scrutiny training is to be made available for members that are new to the panel since 2018. The session will take place on 4 October 2021 and will be delivered by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS). Content will focus primarily of key principles, impact and supporting members to gain specific skills in aspects such as effective preparation and questioning.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel will take place on 4 November 2021.

21. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR