

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel

14 September 2023

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.20pm

Present: Councillors Owen (Deputy), Axford, Beardmore, Drennan, B Holland, Patel, Tilbrook, Warrington

Apologies: Councillors N Sharif, Bowden

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by members of the Scrutiny Panel.

15. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel held on 27 July 2023 were approved as a correct record.

The following action be noted under Item 4 of the agenda. That a working group is established to review Domestic Abuse services specific to the perpetrator needs assessment and access to safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse, including measures to protect and safeguard people in their own homes.

The Chair sought the interest of panel members and confirmed that the working group will consist of the Chair, Deputy Chair, Councillors Axford, Beardmore, Bowden and Drennan.

16. ADULT SOCIAL CARE

The Panel welcomed Councillor John Taylor, Executive Member (Adult Social Care, Homelessness & Inclusivity); and Stephanie Butterworth, Director of Adult Services, to receive an update regarding Adult Social Care Reforms.

Members received a summary and overview of the Adult Social Care Reform White Paper, People at the Heart of Care (2022). The paper sets out a 10 year vision for adult social care, with three key objectives that:

- People have choice, control, and support to live independent lives
- People can access quality and tailored care and support
- People find adult social care fair and accessible

The reforms also take account of aspects such as future population changes and what this is likely to bring as a change in social care needs and delivery. A number of factors will need to be considered and addressed locally, these include:

- Adult Social Care Workforce – capacity and pressures
- Carers
- Market sustainability
- New duties for the Care Quality Commission (CQC)
- Winter planning

Supporting Tameside's social care workforce remains in place as a key local priority, when taking account of pressures faced across the sector. Recruitment and retention challenges are faced by the Council and providers in residential, nursing care and community care. Councillor Taylor advised that further commitments have been made by the Council with recently obtained grants from the Department of Health, targeted specifically for workforce initiatives. The authority has remained committed to supporting and promoting the social care workforce, working with providers with recruitment initiatives, roadshows, developing career pathways within the sector and commitments to the national living wage and real living wage.

A significant review of market sustainability in Tameside will be undertaken, with the aim to assess and inform the authority and providers on current provision and to proactively prepare and plan for future and changing demand. The Council will assess what it is doing now and where it wants to move to in ensuring the borough has a healthy, diverse and responsive social care market to meet all care needs. Points were also discussed about the ongoing work with providers around the fair cost of care.

Tameside context was provided regarding Living Well at Home provision with the overarching aim to enable people to remain well and living independently in their own homes and communities. A vital part of this is to ensure that both support and accommodation is right for the individual. Integrated working is at the heart of this and it was reported that Tameside is in a good place moving forwards as part of the Greater Manchester integrated care arrangements.

Panel members received a summary of what's going well and pressure areas. Positives included the ongoing quality and improvement work with care homes, the homes for all programme, listening and learning from residents receiving services, blended roles and work on carers including the strategy and meeting requirements set within the Care Act.

Discussion touched upon local challenges and pressures specific to waiting lists, service users waiting for adaptations or equipment as well as reviews and occupational therapy assessments. It was reported that 6 additional reviewing officers have been recruited to alleviate pressures and wait times in this area.

Further points were discussed regarding the increasing use of long-term residential care, with numbers increasing for people requiring specialist and dementia care. Issues specific to No Criteria to Reside (NCTR), hospital patients are experiencing delays in suitable placements and assessments in some cases. A final point was made regarding the impacts of mental health and presenting factors identified during the assessment process, with the results of Covid and the cost of living crisis becoming increasingly present.

Councillor Taylor and the Director of Adult Services responded to questions on:

- Pressures on the adult social care budget and managing demand.
- Working with providers and workforce pressures both within the Council and across the local care sector.
- The role and support available for unpaid carers.
- The Care Cap.
- Capacity of residential and nursing care in Tameside.
- Supporting residents to stay at home with support and adaptations, disabled facilities grants.
- Preparations for CQC inspections and new framework - Implications for the Council.
- Learning from social care compliments and complaints.

Actions: The points for action include:

- Changes to CQC inspection framework, notable changes, focus areas and key lines of enquiry, what it means for the Council – to be summarised on a page for members.
- Assurance and managing risk within the community and people's homes. Data specific to service users returning to hospital closely following discharge and repeat admissions, specific to residents assessed to be suitable for independent living with social care.

- Waiting times associated with Disabled Facilities Grants and awaiting adaptations.
- Budget allocation for Adult Services, as a proportion of the Council's total spend.

17. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair informed member that the first meeting of the Domestic Abuse working group will take place at 5pm on 31 October. Members of the working group have received notice and details of the meeting.

The Chair also advised members of the upcoming Scrutiny Mid-Year budget meeting, with a date to be confirmed shortly and circulated by email.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel will take place on Thursday 9 November 2023.

19. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR