

Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel

30 July 2020

Commenced: 6.00pm

Terminated: 7.00pm

Present: Councillors T Smith (Chair), S Homer (Deputy Chair), Affleck, Boyle, Cooper, Drennan, Jackson, Martin, Mills, Owen, Patrick, Welsh, Wild.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Alam, Gosling.

7. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel held on 11 June 2020 were approved as a correct record.

8. TAMESIDE AND GLOSSOP INTEGRATED CARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

The Panel welcomed Karen James, Chief Executive, Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust, to present an overview of the urgent response to Covid-19 and challenges associated with bringing routine back on stream for referrals, routine appointments and surgery.

Initial challenges associated with Covid-19 include the need to increase ventilation capacity above the current baseline and to secure additional staff with the right skills to manage intensive care patients. Capacity improved by working to upskill staff from the existing theatre teams. As reported nationally, there was also a lack of PPE equipment during initial stages. The regional response to this across Greater Manchester providers and partnerships has been uplifting. Additional workforce issues regarding shielding, sickness and testing limitations.

There was an immediate need to redesign key areas and manage patient flow for patients identified as Covid-19 positive and negative. All non-urgent planned care was postponed which included outpatient appointments and elective surgeries.

The Panel heard that Tameside & Glossop was in a good starting position with joint working and established integration across the local authority and health. This allowed key pressures to be identified and with the ability to draw on expertise and resources. The existing Digital Hub is now undertaking virtual reviews to manage the condition of patients and this continues to build on the strong links with adult social care and care homes.

The introduction of a national command and control structure has helped the Trust to operate in a much more responsive way. Excellent relationships maintained over the last few years have helped enormously to manage the challenges and recent learning will undoubtedly inform further integration.

The Trust has introduced comprehensive infection control measures and going forward there is a definite need to reassure the public that the NHS is open and ready to meet the urgent needs of patients in a safe and structured way. This includes patients with urgent care needs, as well as cancer referrals and treatments, when taking account of a noticeable dip in recent months.

It has been important to undertake risk assessments on outpatient waiting lists and the Trust has written to all patients informing them of plans to restart some of the normal work, even with reduced capacity. The majority of outpatient consultation will be undertaken remotely where

appropriate. The Trust has strong links with colleagues in Primary Care as well as the voluntary sector to support patients.

The Trust's workforce has remained committed to providing an excellent standard of care during Covid-19, with an ongoing need to support the mental and physical wellbeing of staff. This includes:

- Counselling services and mental health support available 24/7.
- Internal Staff Sanctuary, where immediate support may be needed in a safe environment.
- Flexibility to meet home and family commitments.
- Frequent testing for Covid-19 in A&E and critical care units.
- Online physical support sessions.
- Personal risk assessments for all BAME staff and those identified as vulnerable to help mitigate risks and inequalities.

Risks going forward include anticipated Covid-19 pressures and additional demand during winter months. Complexities associated with the identification of Covid-19 complications from the normal Flu virus. Challenges based on current timescales for test results as well as additional concerns regarding increased waiting lists.

Ms James responded to a number of questions from the Panel on:

- Expected timescales for command and control structure to remain in place.
- Continued work with care homes (Safer Steps), frailty and long-term conditions.
- Expectations regarding winter pressures and Flu vaccination.
- Additional needs and complexities that Covid-19 has placed on Tameside's vulnerable children and families.
- Impact of increased waiting times on patient outcomes.

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

9. FEEDBACK AND LEARNING FROM COMMUNITIES ON COVID-19

The Chair presented a report informed by feedback received from panel members regarding the impacts and learning from communities on Covid-19. The paper summarises the key points raised and insight from scrutiny panel members, received in June 2020. The paper includes sections on:

- Responding to Covid-19
- Health systems
- Economy
- Children and families
- Vulnerabilities (elderly/shielded, BAME, homelessness, domestic abuse)
- Future consideration

Information and data detailed within the report aims to provide a collective and clear picture on areas of future concern, which allows comparisons to be made when taking account of:

- Health inequalities and the future demand on services
- Access to future employment and associated rise in the local claimant level
- Delivering safe environments for residents to work and travel
- Equality impacts and the mitigation of risk for outcomes associated with Covid-19

The Chair thanked all members for the time taken to provide the feedback and confirmed the report was tabled at the meeting of Overview Panel on 27 July. The paper will now be circulated to the Council's Executive and wider leadership team for information and awareness.

10. RESPONSE TO HEALTHWATCH TAMESIDE COVID-19 SURVEY

The Chair presented a formal response letter of the Panel, submitted to the Healthwatch Tameside Covid-19 survey on 8 July 2020. Healthwatch have since made contact and arrangements will ensure results from the survey be presented at a future meeting.

11. GREATER MANCHESTER SCRUTINY

The Deputy Chair provided a verbal update on recent activity of the Greater Manchester Economy, Business Growth and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The most recent meeting was held on 10 July 2020, with discussion on the following topics:

- Impact of Covid-19
- GM Industrial Strategy
- Innovation, Science and Graphene Commercialisation

Regular Scrutiny update emails will continue to include a link to all public papers for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Scrutiny Committees.

12. CHAIR'S UPDATE

The Chair informed panel members that the next meeting of the Children's Working Group would take place on 17 September 2020, with a suitable topic to consider the impacts of Covid-19 on education provision and attainment.

Recent Scrutiny reports presented at the meeting of Overview Panel on 27 July 2020 include:

- Annual Work Programmes
- Feedback and Learning from Communities on Covid-19
- Scrutiny Update

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the next meeting of the Integrated Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Panel will take place on 10 September 2020.

14. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR