

STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD

25 November 2020

Comm: 1.00pm

Term: 1.50pm

Present:

- Dr Ashwin Ramachandra – NHS Tameside & Glossop CCG (Chair)
- Councillor Brenda Warrington – Tameside MBC
- Councillor Warren Bray – Tameside MBC
- Councillor Gerald P Cooney – Tameside MBC
- Councillor Bill Fairfoull – Tameside MBC
- Councillor Leanne Feeley – Tameside MBC
- Councillor Joe Kitchen – Tameside MBC
- Councillor Oliver Ryan – Tameside MBC
- Councillor Eleanor Wills – Tameside MBC
- Steven Pleasant – Tameside MBC Chief Executive and Accountable Officer
- Dr Asad Ali – NHS Tameside & Glossop CCG
- Dr Christine Ahmed – NHS Tameside & Glossop CCG
- Dr Kate Hebden – NHS Tameside & Glossop CCG
- Dr Vinny Khunger – NHS Tameside & Glossop CCG
- Carol Prowse – NHS Tameside & Glossop CCG

Apologies for absence: Councillor Allison Gwynne

In Attendance:

Sandra Stewart	Director of Governance & Pensions
Kathy Roe	Director of Finance
Richard Hancock	Director of Children's Services
	Director of Adults Services
Ian Saxon	Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods
Jayne Travers	Director of Growth
Jess Williams	Director of Commissioning
Tom Wilkinson	Assistant Director of Finance
Debbie Watson	Assistant Director, Population Health
Sarah Threlfall	Assistant Director, Policy, Performance & Communications
Mathew Chetwynd	Estates Business Manager

59. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Board members.

60. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Commissioning Board held on 28 October 2020 be approved as a correct record.

61. MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board held on: 14 October 2020, 21 October 2020 and 4 November 2020, be noted.

62. MINUTES OF THE LIVING WITH COVID BOARD

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Living with Covid Board held on 14 October 2020 be noted.

63. REVENUE MONITORING STATEMENT AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2020

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Finance and Economic Growth / CCG Chair / Director of Finance, which updated Members on the financial position up to 30 September 2020 and forecasts to 31 March 2021. It was explained that in the context of the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, the forecasts for the rest of the financial year and future year modelling had been prepared using the best information available but was based on a number of assumptions. Forecasts were subject to change over the course of the year as more information became available, the full nature of the pandemic unfolded and there was greater certainty over assumptions.

Members were reminded that the CCG continued to operate under a 'Command and Control' regime, directed by NHS England & Improvement (NHSE&I). NHSE had assumed responsibility for elements of commissioning and procurement and CCGs had been advised to assume a break-even financial position in 2020-21.

It was explained that as at Period 6, the Council was forecasting an overspend against budget of £3.678m. Whilst this forecast included some COVID related pressures, £2.830m of pressure was not related to COVID but reflected underlying financial issues that the Council would be facing regardless of the current pandemic. This included continuing significant financial pressures in Children's Social Care, budget pressures in Adults services and income shortfalls in the Growth Directorate, and in Capital and Financing due to the loss of income from Manchester Airport.

It was reported that Council Tax collection rates had slowly improved since April, but remained 1% below target. If this trend continued then the forecast deficit on Council Tax collection by the end of March 2021 was £1.090m of which the Council's share was £0.912m.

Business Rates collection improved between April and July. This improvement was not sustained in August, with a deterioration in September and overall collection was still significantly below target. If this trend continued then the forecast deficit on Business Rates by the end of March 2021 was £3.299m. There remained a risk that economic conditions, and Tier 3 restrictions, could have a significant negative impact on the sustainability of some businesses, resulting in increased non-payment with minimal opportunity for recovery.

It was highlighted that the Council was facing significant pressures on High Needs funding and started the 2020/21 financial year with an overall deficit on the DSG reserve of £0.557m. The projected in-year deficit on the high needs block was expected to be £3.543m due to the significant increases in the number of pupils requiring support. If the 2020/21 projections materialised, there would be a deficit of £3.638m on the DSG reserve at 31 March 2021.

With regard to the Capital Programme, assuming that the planned disposals proceeded there was a forecast balance of £8.306m of capital receipts to fund future capital schemes not reflected in the fully approved programme. Earmarked schemes currently included on the capital programme totalled £44.9m, with a forecast £33.2m of corporate funding needed to finance these schemes compared to a forecast balance of £8.306m surplus capital receipts. Many of the earmarked schemes were identified in 2017/18 and therefore, as reported to Members in the Month 3 finance report, should be the subject of a detailed review and reprioritisation.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the forecast outturn position and associated risks for 2020/21 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (ii) That the significant pressures facing budgets, and the progress with savings delivery, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be noted;
- (iii) That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the reserve transfers set out on page 24 of Appendix 2 to the report;
- (iv) That the collection rates for Council Tax and Business Rates as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, be noted;
- (v) That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the budget virements as set out in Appendix 4 to the report;
- (vi) That the forecast position in respect of Dedicated Schools Grant as set out in Appendix 5 to the report, be noted;
- (vii) That Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the write-off of irrecoverable debts for the period 1 July to 30 September 2020 as set out in Appendix 6 to the report;
- (viii) That the funding position of the approved Capital Programme as set out in Appendix 7 to the report, be noted; and Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve the removal of all remaining earmarked schemes and approve a full review and re-prioritisation of the future Capital Programme, to be concluded alongside the Growth Directorate's review of the estate and identification of further surplus assets for disposal.

64. ADULT SOCIAL CARE WINTER PLAN 2020-21

The Executive Member, Adult Social Care and Population Health / Director of Adults Services submitted a report, which presented the local economy response to the Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020-21 that was published by the Department of Health and Social on 18 September 2020.

It was explained that the Winter Plan covered four key themes:

- preventing and controlling the spread of infection in care settings;
- collaboration across health and care services;
- supporting people who receive social care, the workforce, and carers; and
- supporting the system.

The Winter Plan further described key government national interventions and set out the key actions for local authorities, NHS organisations and providers, as detailed in the report.

The local economy response to the Winter Plan 2020-21 was appended to the report. The response set out the key actions and priorities for the local area to ensure resilience and contingency to support individuals and providers through the winter.

The overarching aims of the local Winter Plan were detailed as follows:

- Ensuring everyone who needed care and support could get high quality, timely and safe care throughout the autumn and winter period;
- Protecting people who need care, support or safeguards, the social care workforce, and carers from infections including COVID-19; and
- Making sure that people who need care, support or safeguards remain connected to essential services and their loved ones whilst protecting individuals from infections including COVID-19.

Members were informed that a comprehensive review of the current local system position was currently being undertaken to understand the local system's preparedness to meet the needs of local people, with providers and a workforce that were equipped to deliver safe, appropriate services. This assessment would be used to inform key priorities for the local economy to ensure delivery against the Winter Plan 2020-21.

The government had announced various funding streams to support the delivery of the range of programmes required to protect the local population during the pandemic. The allocated budgets to support additional or specific spend to deliver pandemic specific services were being closely monitored via the Finance Teams. It was unclear at this stage what the additional costs of delivering the Winter Plan would be.

RESOLVED

That the local response to the Adult Social Care Winter Plan 2020-21 be noted and supported.

65. PROVISION OF GENERALIST SOCIAL WELFARE INFORMATION AND ADVICE AND SPECIALIST EMPLOYMENT ADVICE

A report was submitted by the Executive Member, Neighbourhoods, Community Safety and Environment / Executive Member Adult Social Care and Population Health / Clinical Lead, Public Health / Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods, which explained that the Council had a contract with Citizens Advice Tameside for many years to deliver generalist social welfare advice and specialist employment advice. The current contract ended on 31 March 2021 therefore consideration was being given to the provision of this service moving forward.

It was explained that, the contract agreement enabled Citizens Advice Tameside to meet the core costs of delivering the advice service including the salary costs of a small number of managerial, advice and administrative staff. The contract also acted as a conduit for levering in external funding and during 2018/19 this amounted to an additional amount of £272,918 that provided additional advice and support services to Tameside residents. Prior to Covid-19 the delivery model was centred predominantly around a daily drop-in advice service from Tameside One, telephone advice through the GM telephone advice line and by face to face appointments. Additionally specifically funded projects to deliver debt advice, Universal Credit Help to Claim, social prescribing and advice appointments at outreach venues. Since March 2020, the service had been delivered remotely by telephone, email and webchat.

In 2019/20, the service advised 4681 new clients and reported £1,920,564 in additional income gains for Tameside residents which included successful claims for benefit, energy switches, grants and compensation payments. The service assisted 336 clients with employment advice in 2019/20 with 130 clients advised by the employment caseworker. This caseworker was funded through the current contract to provide 18 hours a week of specialist employment advice. Advice included helping people realise their rights, assisting with dispute resolution, raising grievances, challenging dismissals and assisting with employment tribunals. As well as paid staff, the service was supported greatly by volunteers and 23 new volunteers were recruited and trained in 2019/20 along with 3196 volunteer hours worked across the year.

Members were informed that the contract was managed quarterly with performance figures provided on time and included demographic data, numbers of clients helped, outcomes, complaints, customer satisfaction and social policy issues. There had been no areas of concern raised throughout the contract period.

The current contract fulfilled all the requirements to support residents of Tameside seeking information and advice and it was proposed that any new contract specification included the same areas of social welfare law and debt advice. It was also proposed that any new contract included a requirement to deliver 18 hours a week of specialist employment advice to include assistance with tribunals. Due to the limited amount of funding, it was expected that the provider would utilise the core contract funding to develop the service offer and make the organisation sustainable by securing additional external funding.

Board members were advised that, previously a direct contract had been awarded to Citizens Advice Tameside by a waiver to standing orders. The current contract ended on 31 March 2021 and advice was sought from STAR as multiple waivers had been agreed with no market testing. STAR provided

a report that outlined three options for the re-commissioning of the contract that ensured the Council remained compliant with Contract Procedure Rules (CPR), as follows:

- Join the GM collaborative Citizens Advice contract;
- Direct award of contract to Citizens Advice Tameside; and
- Tender the contract by procurement exercise.

Having considered the options above, as detailed in the report, and the outcome of the soft market test; the Contract Procedure Rules required the authority to demonstrate value for money through a competitive tender exercise. It was proposed therefore, that a tender exercise be undertaken to the amount of £116,000 per annum for a 3 year period, to enter into a contract for the provision of generalist social welfare information and advice and specialist employment advice. Following completion of a successful tender exercise, it was proposed that consideration was given to delegate authority to the Director of Operations and Neighbourhoods to award the tender and enter into all necessary contract arrangements.

RESOLVED

- (i) That approval be given to tender the provision of generalist social welfare information and advice and specialist employment advice to commence 1 April 2021; and**
- (ii) That authority be given to award the tender and enter into all necessary contract arrangements.**

66. TARGETED NATIONAL LUNG HEALTH CHECKS

Consideration was given to a report of the Executive Member, Adult Social Care and Population Health / CCG Chair / Director of Commissioning providing an update on development of the Targeted Lung Health Check (TLHC) Programme within NHS Tameside and Glossop CCG (T&G CCG).

It was reported that, on 27 November 2019 a report was presented and approved at the Strategic Commissioning Board, detailing the preferred model of delivery and proposed contractual arrangements for governance and assurance purposes.

Progress on implementation was limited when, due to COVID-19, TLHC programmes were paused from March 2020. In August programmes recommenced, following the publication of the Phase 3 planning guidance, which stated: *'All existing projects within the Targeted Lung Health Check programme to be live by the end of 20/21. Existing projects on boarded into the TLHC programme in 20/21 to restart. New on boarding projects for 20/21 to have all required plans in place to go live in 2021/22.'*

Since recommencing, Manchester Foundation Trust (MFT) confirmed their intention to work in partnership with T&G CCG to provide a TLHC fully managed service. This, along with the national decision to extend the length of the programme to March 2024, enabled a revised two year trajectory with commencement on 1 February 2021 and full roll out across the Locality by March 2022. This enabled all Low Dose Computed Tomography (CT) scans required by the protocol to be completed by March 2024.

T&G CCG intended to commission an 'End to End' fully managed TLHC service from Manchester Foundation Trust varying the service specification into the existing Manchester Foundation Trust contract held by NHS Manchester CCG to which T&G CCG was an associate.

Manchester Foundation Trust would work with providers across Greater Manchester to ensure that people who required any follow up care had the choice to receive this care closer to where they lived, where possible.

RESOLVED

That the intention to commission the 'End to End' fully managed Targeted Lung Health Check Service from Manchester Foundation Trust, be noted and approved.

67. URGENT ITEMS

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

CHAIR