

SCRUTINY BOARD (ADULTS, HEALTH & ACTIVE LIFESTYLES)

TUESDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor A Marshall-Katung in the Chair

Councillors C Anderson, L Cunningham,
J Gibson, N Harrington, C Hart-Brooke,
M Iqbal, W Kidger, G Latty and E Taylor

Co-opted Member present – Dr J Beal

29 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals.

30 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

31 Late Items

There were no late items.

32 Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

33 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Councillor J Dowson submitted her apologies to the meeting.

34 Minutes - 5th October 2021

RESOLVED - That the minutes of the meeting held 5th October 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

35 Update on the development of the local Integrated Care System

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report regarding the ongoing development of the local Integrated Care System (ICS) and the update to be provided to the Board during the meeting.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships

- Councillor Salma Arif, Executive Member for Public Health and Active Lifestyles
- Cath Roff, Director of Adults and Health
- Victoria Eaton, Director of Public Health
- Tim Ryley, Chief Executive of NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)
- Sam Prince, Executive Director of Operations, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust

The Chief Executive of NHS Leeds CCG introduced the report and delivered a PowerPoint presentation which provided an update on the developing decision making and governance arrangements surrounding the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, as well as the developing Leeds Place Based Partnership ICB Committee. It was highlighted that the West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership had now launched a consultation on the draft Integrated Care Board Constitution, which is an important document setting out what the ICB will do and how it will work. The consultation will run from 8th November 2021 until 14 January 2022. It was noted that the Scrutiny Board will be utilising its next public meeting on 11th January 2022 to consider this in greater detail.

Members discussed a number of matters, including:

- In response to a query, it was confirmed that a Public Health representative will be part of the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership (ICP), as well as the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB). However, the formal arrangements are yet to be finalised.
- It was highlighted that while the West Yorkshire ICB will be a new statutory organisation, it will primarily be building on the existing partnership working arrangements that have been in place across local health and care organisations over the last five years.
- Members highlighted the missed opportunity nationally to enforce tackling health inequalities as part of the Health and Care Bill. In response to this, representatives assured Members that although not explicitly mentioned within new legislation, tackling health inequalities is central to the approach of the Integrated Care Partnership and will be supported by local leadership and commitment across the system.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report, along with Members comments, be noted.

36 The impact of Covid-19 and the ongoing recovery measures across the local health and care system.

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that presented a further update on the current understanding of the system impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in Leeds through the lens of health and care service provision, as well as providing an insight to the response plans and measures that are in place too.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Councillor Salma Arif, Executive Member for Public Health and Active Lifestyles
- Cath Roff, Director of Adults and Health
- Victoria Eaton, Director of Public Health
- Tim Ryley, Chief Executive of NHS Leeds CCG
- Helen Lewis, Director of Pathway Integration, NHS Leeds CCG
- Sam Prince, Executive Director of Operations, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- Claire Smith, Chief Operating Officer, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

The Director of Pathway Integration introduced the report, highlighting the wide range of issues partners are managing within the context of increased pressures and demands, continued gaps in workforce and the impact of social distancing on the number of patients that can be safely seen in person.

The Director of Public Health provided an update on the rates of COVID-19, which have dropped slightly nationally and also in Leeds, with under 300 people per 100,000 testing positive per day for the whole city. It was highlighted that the current modelling projection also suggests a downward trend in terms of rates and hospital admissions.

The Executive Member for Adult and Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships also highlighted that recovery measures have been incorporated into existing council strategies. The Executive Member for Public Health and Active Lifestyles advised the Board that the low uptake of vaccinations in deprived communities in Leeds is still an issue and requires further support and attention moving forward.

Members discussed a number of matters, including:

- It was explained that areas with the highest rate of infection earlier in the pandemic, such as Headingley and Harehills, are now showing the lowest rates of infection, largely due to the widespread immunity following previous infections. Rates are now higher in more affluent areas, where people who were previously working from home and were able to have limited exposure, are more exposed and less protected through natural immunity.
- Members requested detailed data in relation to the prevalence of COVID-19, with a breakdown by demographic groups, as well as take-up figures for the COVID-19 and flu vaccines.
- Members recognised that flu prevalence is a serious risk to older people in particular and therefore welcomed the focused campaigning on flu vaccinations too. In response to a query, Members were advised that flu vaccine take-up decreases amongst younger age groups, similarly to the COVID-19 vaccine. Related to this, it was noted that

excess deaths from all causes is the most cohesive reflection of the pandemic.

- Members queried whether large increases in A&E visits and delayed waiting times, as reported in the media, are reflective of the position in Leeds. In response, it was confirmed that A&E numbers are still significantly above pre-COVID levels and, as a consequence, the Leeds A&E waiting time has been stretched beyond the four-hour target. Reference was also made to national guidelines which state that patients should be transferred from an ambulance to an emergency department within 15 minutes. Given the current context, it was highlighted that Leeds is one of the best performing areas in this regard, with no patients during the current period having to wait longer than two hours to be transferred from an ambulance into hospital.
- In response to a query, Members were advised that an extensive national recruitment programme for doctors is underway. Members acknowledged that a global approach is required to ensure that doctors are not recruited from other cities and countries that are also under significant pressure. It was also highlighted that the recruitment crisis continues into the care sector, with many choosing to leave social care roles and move to the retail and hospitality industry. The Director of Adults and Health advised that while government grants have been issued to support recruitment, more support is needed to increase rates of pay in order to compete with the retail and hospitality sector.
- In reference to the recent government announcement that staff who are not vaccinated will no longer be able to work in health and social care settings, Members sought more information on the impact of this change on the workforce in Leeds. Members were advised that while the current data indicates that 458 of 5966 staff in care homes are not double vaccinated, further work is being undertaken to validate these figures. It was also noted that care homes had put in place advance recruitment plans to try and deal with any consequential staff shortages.
- In relation to home care staff in Leeds, it was highlighted that 82.02% are currently double vaccinated. While acknowledging that the deadline for home care staff to be fully vaccinated is April 2022, along with NHS staff, Members were advised that health and social care services are awaiting further guidance from the government around plans to address any consequential workforce impacts.
- While acknowledging that NHS England colleagues had contributed to the broader update report in terms of outlining the current position on dentistry, the Chair informed the Board that arrangements are to be made to hold a separate working group meeting in the New Year to focus specifically on issues relating to dentistry. It was highlighted that representatives from NHS England had already committed to contributing to this working group meeting.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report, along with Members comments, be noted.

37 Work Schedule

Minutes approved at the meeting
held on Tuesday, 11th January, 2022

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that presented the work schedule for the remainder of the municipal year.

The report also referenced the Scrutiny Board's discussion last month in relation to plans to redesign the Community Neurological Rehabilitation Service in Leeds. It was noted that a written Statement setting out the observations, conclusion and recommendations of the Scrutiny Board was subsequently produced (in consultation with Board Members) and submitted to the Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust and NHS Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group. A copy of the agreed Statement had been appended to the report for information.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the work schedule be noted.
- (b) That the Scrutiny Board's agreed Statement on the redesign of the Community Neurological Rehabilitation Service in Leeds be noted.

38 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 11th January 2022 at 1.30 pm (pre-meeting for all Board Members at 1.00 pm)

In her closing comments, the Chair acknowledged it being the Board's last meeting of the calendar year and therefore took the opportunity to formally pay tribute and give thanks to the NHS and social care representatives for their valuable contributions over the past year.