

SCRUTINY BOARD (ADULTS,HEALTH & ACTIVE LIFESTYLES)

TUESDAY, 23RD JUNE, 2020

PRESENT: Councillor H Hayden in the Chair

Councillors C Anderson, J Elliott,
N Harrington, M Iqbal, C Knight, G Latty,
S Lay, D Ragan, A Smart, P Truswell and
A Wenham

Co-optee present - Dr. J Beal

1 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals.

2 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

3 Late Items

4 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

5 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

There were no apologies for absence.

6 Minutes - 11 February 2020

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2020 be approved as a correct record.

7 UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS (COVID19) PANDEMIC – RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLAN

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report in relation to the ongoing progress made by the council working with partners and communities in response to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

The Executive Board (19 May 2020) report titled ‘Update on Coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic – Response and Recovery Plan’ was appended for the Board’s attention and consideration.

The following were in attendance:

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Tuesday, 14th July, 2020

- Councillor Rebecca Charlwood, Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults
- Cath Roff, Director of Adults and Health, Leeds City Council
- Victoria Eaton, Director of Public Health, Leeds City Council
- Helen Lewis, Interim Director of Operational Delivery, Leeds Clinical Commission Group
- Julian Hartley, Chief Executive, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- Sam Prince, Executive Director of Operations, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- Sara Munro, Chief Executive, Leeds and York Partnership Foundation NHS Trust

The Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults introduced the report, and in doing so expressed her thanks to all health partners and their ongoing work throughout the pandemic, and also to residents of Leeds, recognising the difficulties and pressures placed upon families during this time. The Executive Member also noted that the position had evolved since the report submitted to the 19th May 2020 Executive Board meeting, and specifically, that there are now no cases of Coronavirus in care homes in Leeds.

Members discussed a number of matters, including:

- *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*. Members asked for an update on the accessibility to PPE stock in Leeds, particularly in care homes across the city, and were assured that a number of clear pathways to obtain PPE have been established to ensure that organisations are able to maintain sufficient stock levels, which is overseen by a city-wide group lead by the Director of Adults and Health.
- *Mental health services*. In response to a query around the impact of Covid-19 on mental health services in the city, Members were advised that there was an initial decline in mental health referrals at the beginning of the UK lockdown, however the demand is now returning to 'pre-Covid' levels. Members were advised that there had been cases of Covid-19 across all LYPFT settings, including psychiatric intensive care, which had created some challenges around behaviour. Members were informed that staff have undergone extensive additional training, and the estate had been reconfigured to protect those at high risk.
- *Wellbeing support services for shielded groups*. Members sought clarity around the steps taken to support the mental wellbeing of shielded groups living in isolation. Members were advised that targeted support is provided to shielded groups in partnership with the third sector, and there is an ongoing initiative to recruit shielded groups to the volunteer 'buddying' programme, to support others and their local community whilst improving their social and emotional wellbeing. It was also noted that people who are shielding are advised to do so on an individual basis, whilst being mindful of the importance of quality of life for those with terminal conditions.

- *Future outbreaks and contact tracing.* Members sought clarity on the capacity to manage local outbreaks, and the effectiveness of contact tracing locally. Members were advised that future outbreaks were likely, particularly through the autumn and winter months, and that the approach to localised 'lockdowns' is to manage complex cases through contact tracing by identifying specific workplaces, schools and other settings, rather than the whole / parts of the city.
- *Risk assessments for BAME staff.* Members sought assurance that risk assessments for BAME staff had been completed across the health sector in Leeds, due to the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on BAME communities. Members were advised that risk assessments had been completed across all organisations for BAME staff and examples could be provided to Members on request.

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

8 **Coronavirus (COVID19) pandemic - Health Inequalities**

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report introducing specific information and analysis of health inequalities associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following documents were appended to the report:

- Analysis of Leeds and national data for COVID-19 cases and mortality, using comparisons of available information
- 'Disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19' report, Public Health England, June 2020

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Rebecca Charwood, Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults
- Cath Roff, Director of Adults and Health, Leeds City Council
- Victoria Eaton, Director of Public Health, Leeds City Council
- Helen Lewis, Interim Director of Operational Delivery, Leeds Clinical Commission Group
- Julian Hartley, Chief Executive, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- Sam Prince, Executive Director of Operations, Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust
- Sara Munro, Chief Executive, Leeds and York Partnership Foundation NHS Trust

The Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults introduced the report, highlighting that levels of deprivation are shown to have multiplying effects on poor health outcomes as a result of Covid-19. Additionally, the Executive Member noted that education as child is a key predictor of health, and therefore it is important to recognise that children who have multiple deprivations and have missed out on education during the pandemic, may be

more likely to experience worse health in future, further widening the gap of health inequality.

The Director of Public Health informed Members that a number of national reports focused on inequality had been recently published, and that teams in Leeds are working closely with author Professor Kevin Fenton to ensure that findings are reflected in the Leeds Local Outbreak Plan.

- *Structural racism and discrimination.* In response to a query, Members were assured that specific focus on structural racism and discrimination within the health and care sector would be included in future plans for managing Covid-19 locally.
- *Digital inequality.* Members noted concern around inequalities in access to digital in the current climate, which due to social distancing and shielding, has a greater impact on peoples' access to information and services. Members were assured that work is ongoing to support third sector organisations to provide equipment and improve digital skills of communities.

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

9 Work Schedule

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report which invited Members to consider the Board's initial work schedule for June – August 2020.

The Principal Scrutiny Adviser introduced the report and outlined proposed revisions to the work schedule.

The Chair noted that it was Steven Courtney's (Principal Scrutiny Adviser) final meeting before leaving the Council to complete a secondment at the Hull Clinical Commissioning Group. The Chair thanked Steven for his support to the Board, and was joined by Members in wishing Steven all the best in his new role.

RESOLVED – That the report and outline work schedule presented be agreed.

10 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 14 July 2020 at 2:00pm (pre-meeting for all Scrutiny Board members at 1:45pm)