

SCRUTINY BOARD (ADULTS, HEALTH & ACTIVE LIFESTYLES)

TUESDAY, 16TH JANUARY, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor A Scopes in the Chair

Councillors P Alderson, C Anderson,
L Farley, M France-Mir, J Gibson, M Iqbal,
W Kidger, K Ritchie and E Taylor

Co-opted Member present – Dr J Beal

62 Appeals Against Refusal of Inspection of Documents

There were no appeals.

63 Exempt Information - Possible Exclusion of the Press and Public

There were no exempt items.

64 Late Items

With agreement from the Chair, there was Supplementary Information circulated to Board Members in relation to agenda item 11 – Work Schedule. This was Appendix 3 of the report, which was a summary note of the Scrutiny Board's working group meeting in relation to local NHS dentistry provision.

65 Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

66 Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitutes

Apologies had been received from Councillor C Hart-Brooke.

67 Minutes - 7th November 2023

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 7th November 2023, be approved as an accurate record.

68 Matters Arising

Minute 59 – Further to the Board's discussions around the Street-lives Thematic Review, it was noted that the Head of Community Safety Services had provided all Board Members with relevant service contact details aimed at supporting people living street-based lives or facing homelessness.

69 Out of hours bereavement arrangements at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust - Update

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report which presented an update report from the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust in relation to its out of hours bereavement service.

The following were in attendance:

Draft minutes to be approved at the meeting
to be held on Tuesday, 13th February, 2024

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Councillor Salma Arif, Executive Member for Adults Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles
- Caroline Baria, Interim Director of Adults and Health
- Victoria Eaton, Director of Public Health
- Phil Wood, Chief Executive, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT)
- Stephen Bush, Medical Director Operations, LTHT
- Ruby Ali, Associate Director of Operations, LTHT
- John Adams, Medical Director (Governance and Risk), LTHT
- Reece Wolfenden, Lead Service Manager for Bereavement and Medical Examiner Services, LTHT

The Chair invited the Chief Executive of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust to give a brief introduction and in doing so, Members were reminded that in February 2023, representatives from Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust had engaged with the Scrutiny Board during the early stages of its review of the out of hours bereavement service. Having supported the key principles of the review at that stage, the Scrutiny Board had requested to be kept informed of progress in relation to the new arrangements being put in place, as well as developments surrounding the anticipated introduction of the new national Statutory Medical Examiner System in April 2024.

To supplement the update report provided by the Trust, the Board also received a presentation. The key points raised during this presentation were as follows:

- The service review process had involved engagement with a number of key stakeholders, both internal and external, to look at ways of making the service more efficient.
- Following the service review process, new arrangements were put in place on 2nd October 2023, with the service now being managed both through the day and out of hours by the Mortuary Team in the Trust's Pathology Clinical Service Unit. This has helped provide a more consistent service.
- There is now an 8am-8pm, seven days a week service, with an on-call model implemented from 4.30 pm to 8pm Monday to Friday and during weekends and bank holidays, 8am-8pm. Exceptional requests outside these hours will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Engagement sessions were held throughout November with Funeral Directors and also Elected Members to listen to initial feedback on the new arrangements. There has also been positive feedback from representatives of Muslim and Jewish communities on the new arrangements.
- An ongoing review of the service will be maintained to support the effective implementation of the new arrangements and refinements in response to feedback.

- A review of paediatric and maternity out of hours arrangements is also underway to explore the opportunity to align with the new adult arrangements.
- A new Medical Examiner Service has been introduced by the Trust on behalf of NHS England and that provides the scrutiny of all deaths not investigated by HM Coroner.
- The introduction of the Medical Examiner Service came about following a number of key profile independent inquiries. The more recent Lucy Letby statutory inquiry has led to this service also being extended to paediatric and neonatal deaths.
- The key aims of the new service were outlined to the Board, which were primarily focused around driving efficiencies and providing greater assurance for the bereaved through independent review of care.
- The team consists of 20 Medical Examiners and 6 Medical Examiner Officers who are all independent of the Trust. They will also be independent of the case being reviewed as they will not have had any involvement in that particular patient's care.
- Charts were presented to the Board to help illustrate the death certification process and the complete bereavement/mortality process from verification through to registration of a death.
- Accountability of the service is to the Director for Governance and Risk at the Trust and also to the National Medical Examiner.
- The service has been expanding since 2021 as there were only 2 Medical Examiner Officers and 2 Medical Examiners within the Trust at that time.
- There are 5 General Practices across Leeds that are actively referring deaths to the service. However, the Trust has been met with challenges from several GP practices who are not willingly engaging with the service until it becomes a statutory requirement.

During the Board's discussions on this matter, the following points were also raised:

- *Communication with families* – It was noted that following any death, family members will need to appoint a funeral director who will guide them through the process. When a death occurs in a community, then specific communities will have designated funeral directors who will be able to guide the bereaved family through the relevant processes and will also liaise with the Trust around expectations associated with that community.
- *Weekend deaths in the community and the challenge of contacting GPs* – Some Members shared positive experiences of GPs willing to make themselves available during weekends to issue a medical certificate of cause of death (MCCD) for ceremonial and burial purposes for religious and cultural reasons. However, some Members, including the Executive Member for Adults Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles, also shared recent experiences of bereaved Muslim families being unable to contact their GP following a death that occurred during a weekend. Members were informed that while there is ongoing engagement with the West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the GP Confederation regarding preparations for the new national Medical Examiner System

commencing in April 2024, more clarity was still being sought surrounding the implications of the new regulations. It was expected that further national guidance would be made available in the coming weeks. In the meantime, the Chair suggested that he writes on behalf of the Scrutiny Board to the Chair of the GP Confederation on this issue and to particularly encourage a proactive and consistent approach across local GP practices to help meet the needs of communities.

- *Deaths of adults with learning disabilities* – It was highlighted that while there are specific lines of enquiry that need to be followed in this regard, the Medical Examiner Service will still feed into that process from an independent point of view.
- *Registration services* – In acknowledging that the new regulations will also have implications for registration services, which are the responsibility of Leeds City Council, the Chair advised that further information surrounding the position of this service would be sought and relayed back to the Board.

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and welcomed the progress that has been made by the Trust regarding this service.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the contents of the report and presentation be noted, along with Members comments.
- (b) That the Chair of the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board writes to the Chair of the GP Confederation on this matter and particularly encourages a proactive and consistent approach across local GP practices to help meet the needs of communities.
- (c) That further information is also sought regarding the position of Registration Services on this matter.

70 Performance Update - Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles

The joint report from the Directors of Adults and Health, Public Health and City Development provided an overview of outcomes and service performance related to the council and city priorities within the Scrutiny Board's remit.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Councillor Salma Arif, Executive Member for Adults Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles
- Caroline Baria, Interim Director of Adults and Health
- Victoria Eaton, Director of Public Health
- Tim Fielding, Deputy Director of Public Health
- Shona McFarlane, Deputy Director Social Work and Social Care Service
- John Crowther, Chief Officer Resources & Strategy, Adults and Health
- Jane Walne, Chief Officer Operations and Active Leeds

- Steve Baker, Head of Active Leeds
- Rob Wood, Head of Intelligence & Performance

In considering the performance details presented, the Board discussed a number of matters in more detail, across Adult Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles, including the following:

Public Health

- *Weight management services and increases in BMI 30+* - It was reported that the percentage of adults in Leeds with a BMI over 30 in Q2 2023/24 was 24.3%. While noting that this is not a statistically significant change from the previous quarter (24.2% in Q1), it is significantly higher than five years ago (23.1% in Q2 2018/19) but also mirrors the national picture. Importance was therefore placed around the need to tackle this overall increasing trend.
- *New HIV diagnosis rates* – Reference was made to the significant increases in new HIV diagnosis rates since 2019 and Members were advised that such increases had been expected and were being managed accordingly. The attributable factors were linked to more testing being put in place across the city and overseas workers also being rigorously tested on entry.
- *Infant mortality rates* – Members noted that in the least deprived areas, the infant mortality rate was 5.8 per 1,000, which had increased from 5.5 in the previous period. Although this is not a statistically significant change and numbers are small, Members were assured that this was being monitored closely by Public Health given the increasing trends.
- *Employment rates for those with a learning disability* – Members were advised that the Council is awaiting new data in terms of monitoring the gap in the employment rate between those with a learning disability (aged 18 to 64) and the overall employment rate (gap - percentage points). It is expected that the new data will show an improvement in terms of this indicator.
- *Recorded diabetes for Type 1 and Type 2* – Having acknowledged that the statistical data is reflective of the combined recording rates of both Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, Members felt that these warranted being separated out to enable more meaningful data analysis and monitoring.
- *Life expectancy rates* – Members were advised that further work is being undertaken through the Marmot City programme to review data on life-expectancy in Leeds and that work is also being undertaken to learn from other existing Marmot Cities in terms of improving life expectancy rates. Particular reference was made to Coventry who became a Marmot City in 2013 and have seen sustained improvements in life expectancy rates.

Adult Social Care

- *People waiting safely for assessments* – Given the high numbers of people waiting for assessment, Members were advised of the ‘Waiting Well’ process guidance which has been implemented to ensure people are still monitored whilst they are waiting. It was also highlighted that a new development for a Self-Assessment tool within Leeds Directory is due to go live in the next month where people will be able to access information about equipment and other services that may support them in the interim. Members were also assured that all referrals deemed as high risk are seen within 7 days or receive crisis intervention support via the Rapid Response teams.

Active Lifestyles

- *Future targets for percentage of physically active adults* – It was noted that the latest performance data shows that 40.7% of adults in the most deprived areas of the city remain physically inactive. Members were therefore advised that efforts are continuing to be made in terms of targeting specific communities but to also improve the picture more generally, with a current target to reduce physical inactivity by 1% each year.
- *Children 11 to 15 years accessing gyms and fitness classes* - It was acknowledged that health and safety requirements now mean that children 11 to 15 years can only access gym facilities and fitness classes if accompanied and supervised by a responsible person 16 years or over. Members were advised that this was therefore being managed carefully by Active Leeds staff.

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

71 Financial Health Monitoring 2023/24 - October 2023 (Month 7)

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that introduced information regarding the projected 2023/24 financial health position at Month 7 (October 2023) in the context of the Scrutiny Board’s wider discussions about the initial budget proposals.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Children’s Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Councillor Salma Arif, Executive Member for Adults Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles
- Caroline Baria, Interim Director of Adults and Health
- Victoria Eaton, Director of Public Health
- Tim Fielding, Deputy Director of Public Health
- Shona McFarlane, Deputy Director Social Work and Social Care Service
- John Crowther, Chief Officer Resources & Strategy, Adults and Health
- Jane Walne, Chief Officer Operations and Active Leeds
- Steve Baker, Head of Active Leeds

In consideration of the report, further clarity was sought regarding the level of Adult Social Care & Public Health reserves. In response, it was reported that at the end of 2023/24, Adults and Health are projected to have the following type and level of reserves:

Ring-fenced Public Health Reserve	£2,344k
Earmarked Adult Social Care Reserves	£2,629k
General Adult Social Care Reserve	£325k
Total	£5,298k

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted.

72 **Scrutiny of the Budget - Initial Budget Proposals**

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that introduced the Executive Board's initial budget proposals for 2024/25 for consideration, review and comment on matters and proposals that fall within the Scrutiny Board's remit.

The following were in attendance:

- Councillor Fiona Venner, Executive Member for Children's Social Care and Health Partnerships
- Councillor Salma Arif, Executive Member for Adults Social Care, Public Health and Active Lifestyles
- Caroline Baria, Interim Director of Adults and Health
- Victoria Eaton, Director of Public Health
- Tim Fielding, Deputy Director of Public Health
- Shona McFarlane, Deputy Director Social Work and Social Care Service
- John Crowther, Chief Officer Resources & Strategy, Adults and Health
- Jane Walne, Chief Officer Operations and Active Leeds
- Steve Baker, Head of Active Leeds

The Chair highlighted that while the Board has already been initially consulted on the relevant budget proposals as part of a working group meeting held during December 2023, Members were given a further opportunity as part of this meeting to raise any further questions or make any further comments on the proposals.

The following areas were raised during the Board's discussion:

- *Proposed car parking charges in parks* - while acknowledging that proposals to introduce car parking charges in parks is outside of the remit of the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board, some related comments were made linked to promoting active lifestyles. The Chair therefore advised that these would be shared with the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board as part of its deliberations on the matter. In summary, the related comments were as follows:

- Although it is widely recognised that being physically active is essential for good physical and mental health and wellbeing, the latest performance data shows that 40.7% of adults in the most deprived areas of the city are physically inactive.
 - Having good levels of accessibility to green spaces, including all city and community parks, forms part of the ongoing efforts to encourage and support people to lead more active lifestyles and therefore it is important that this also forms part of the considerations in terms of any potential impacts.
 - Car parking payment methods in general should be non-discriminatory and offer a range of options, including a cash option.
 - Creating opportunities and empowering more people to choose active ways of travelling also remains a key priority and linked to this a suggestion was made around exploring opportunities for developing and providing route maps for walking, wheeling and cycling to local green spaces and parks.
- *Fees and charges:* Members reiterated the points also made during the Board's budget working group meeting surrounding the proposal to review the charges applied to adult social care activities. Assurances were again sought that people would not be charged more than it is reasonably practicable for them to pay based on their individual financial assessment. Importance was also placed on ensuring that individuals are safe in making any decision to no longer receive a service in terms of this being based on need rather than being financially driven.
- *Promoting and supporting active lifestyles:* Members acknowledged and praised the proactive approach of Active Leeds and partners in exploring external funding sources, particularly for key areas of need, and further encouraged this approach. The Chair also reminded Members that supporting healthy weight and active lifestyles will be a key feature of the Board's March meeting too.

The Chair concluded by explaining that the Board's deliberations on the relevant budget saving proposals will inform a composite report from Scrutiny that will be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration during its meeting on 7th February 2024.

RESOLVED – That the contents of the report be noted and the Board's deliberations on the relevant budget savings proposals inform a composite report from Scrutiny that will be submitted to the Executive Board for consideration during its meeting on 7th February 2024.

73 **Work Schedule**

The Head of Democratic Services submitted a report that presented the Board's latest work schedule for the forthcoming municipal year.

The Chair referenced Appendix 3 of the report, which was a summary note of the Scrutiny Board's working group meeting in relation to local NHS dentistry provision. The Chair also highlighted that the Chair of the West Yorkshire

Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee had wrote to Victoria Atkins MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, to relay the Committee's own concerns about the difficulty in accessing NHS dentistry in West Yorkshire and that Board Members would be kept informed of any further developments.

RESOLVED –

- (a) That the Scrutiny Board's work schedule for the 2023/24 municipal year be noted.
- (b) That the summary note of the Scrutiny Board's working group meeting in relation to local NHS dentistry provision be noted.

74 Date and Time of Next Meeting

RESOLVED – To note the next meeting of the Adults, Health and Active Lifestyles Scrutiny Board is scheduled for Tuesday, 13th February 2024 at 1:30pm (pre-meeting for all Board Members at 1:00pm)