

HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

29 NOVEMBER 2023

PRESENT

Councillors: Butt (Chair), Taylor (Vice Chair), Axford, Chakraborty, Gilbert, Hartley, Leicester, Lepori, Lloyd, Maitland, O'Brien, Slater.

In attendance

Richard Spearing	Managing Director LCO Trafford
Gareth James	Deputy Place Lead
Cathy O'Driscoll	Associate Director
Alison Jones	Director of Cancer Commissioning and Early Diagnosis
Lucy Webster	Public Health Manager
Ben Squires	Director of Primary Care
Nathan Atkinson	Corporate Director, Adults Care and Wellbeing
Heather Fairfield	Director, Healthwatch Trafford
Stephanie Ferraioli	Governance Officer

1 ATTENDANCES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Western.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members and colleagues informed of their roles within the NHS.

3. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions were received from members of the public.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2023 be noted as a true and correct record.

5.AIDS AND ADAPTATION SERVICE UPDATE

The Managing Director of the Locality Care Organisation Trafford attended the meeting to provide the Committee with an update on the service since the first presentation back in July 2023.

He informed that that the service had been under a lot of pressure because of the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the service and that waiting lists for assessment have grown longer and subsequently also the waiting times to receive equipment have grown too.

The service's main priority remains to ensure the equipment is sent out faster. The service is somewhat behind schedule in collecting equipment back when patients no longer need it. There is some catching up to do in this area.

Members would like to see some actual data in this context to measure progress made by the service. The Managing Director stated this could be provided especially now all staff are receiving training on the new IT system which is able to track all equipment including new orders.

RESOLVED – That factual service data be provided at year end.

6. DENTAL ACCESS

The Director of Primary Care presented Committee with an update on the dental service in Trafford as a follow up from the previous report back in September 2022.

The Director informed that overall children in Trafford have a very good access to dental care with quite a few children and family friendly practices across the borough.

Concerns were expressed about the difficulty of finding an NHS dentist and the cost of going private which puts people off resulting in poor oral hygiene and the Director explained that the cost is nationally directed.

Concerns were also expressed in relation to the practices not being distributed in an equal manner across the borough and the Director did confirm that in certain parts of the area there were more practices than in the rest of the borough, mainly in the south. He maintained that despite the difference between north and south of the borough, the practices are actually well distributed and with a total of 34 practices, the challenge is not the locality of the practice but its size.

There is no initiative in place at the moment to support dental care for homeless but the Director would be happy to work with colleagues on any new schemes.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

7. ELECTIVE PROCEDURES – PERFORMANCE UPDATE

The Associate Director for Delivery and Transformation Trafford explained that Elective Procedures are led by Greater Manchester and not at locality level and that there are six main areas of focus: Children and Young People, Integrated Elective Care, Productivity and Efficiency, Surgical Hubs, Utilisation of Independent Sector and the Management of Waiting lists. Slides 3 and 5 of the report offer a full explanation for each area.

Although in recent months there has been a decrease in waiting lists across Trafford and Greater Manchester in general, Members felt that a 78 week waiting list was still too high and queried how many people returned to care once they had been discharged. Information relating to initiatives to prevent a return to care once discharged to be provided at future meetings.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That information on preventative initiatives relating to too early discharge be provided at future meetings.
- 2) That the report be noted.

8. HEALTH SOCIAL CARE - WINTER PLANS

The Associate Director for Delivery and Transformation Trafford, reported that the paper presented at tonight's meeting had the purpose to update Members on the collaborative work undertaken by the Manchester and Trafford System Resilience Team who are working together to coordinate winter plans which will be fully published in December 2023. She continued informing that an additional funding in the region of £2m had been secured and will go towards supporting primary care.

The Associate Director stated that North Manchester presented a higher hospital bed occupancy than other parts of Manchester and that both North Manchester General and Manchester Royal Infirmary were trying to put more capacity towards prevention.

Communication between services is being improved with GPs now being notified of a patient's discharge within 48 hours.

Feedback on the outcome of the initiatives explored by the Manchester and Trafford Resilience Team will be possible from March 2024 onwards.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That a report on the impact of the Winter Plans initiatives be provided after March 2024.
- 2) That the update be noted.

9 CANCER DIAGNOSIS

The Director of Cancer Commissioning and Early Diagnosis presented the report on behalf of the Director of Public Health and confirmed that rates continue to be high in the Partington area of the borough.

The Director of Cancer Commissioning and Early Diagnosis stated that colleagues in the Public Health team are working closely with partners to prevent cancer and to support early diagnosis and informed of a number of events held across Trafford aimed at informing on women's health which have been very successful and that going forward a health hub will be available in every borough.

The Locality Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board have been established to focus on reducing health inequalities and now a Joint Locality and Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being developed. The Locality Board looks at the resilience of discharges, the urgent care and the neighbourhood programme, whereas the Health and Wellbeing Board aims to reduce the impact of poor mental health, the lack of physical activity, to reduce the number of people who smoke, to reduce alcohol consumption and to tackle obesity. The successful addressing of these areas will reduce cancer rates.

The Health and Wellbeing Board conducts an annual review of each priority area and colleagues work closely with the Greater Manchester Cancer Alliance to monitor the effectiveness of the service's impact across the borough.

Plans are underway to develop an annual report process including an online dashboard to immediately demonstrate outcomes and progress to date.

RESOLVED – That the report be noted.

10. IVF TREATMENT

The Associate Director for Delivery and Transformation Trafford, informed that only one cycle of IVF treatment is being offered by Trafford at the moment and this can be obtained via GPs if criteria is met whereas in the past it was possible to receive three cycles of treatment.

Some complaints have been received by Healthwatch Trafford about the poor number of cycles offered in Trafford as opposed to Tameside where three cycles of treatment can still be had and Greater Manchester are in the process of balancing the number of cycles offered across its boroughs but there are no plans to increase the number of cycles in Trafford at the moment.

RESOLVED - That the update be noted.

11. URGENT BUSINESS: URGENT CARE REVIEW

The Deputy Place Lead informed Members that the final report on the Urgent Care Review was to be submitted to the Local Partnership Board on 19th December 2023.

Concerns were expressed in relation to the proposals included in the report that Members had no sight of and could not comment on.

It was decided to call a TEAMS meeting to discuss the content of the report soon after the publication of the report on 12th December 2023 for Members to discuss the matter further.

RESOLVED – That a TEAMS meeting be arranged to discuss the report and recommendations.