

Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee

12 March 2020

Present:

Councillors T Brady, J Cassidy, M Green, J Kirwin,
N Huscroft, T Mulvenna, C Davis, L Miller, A Percy and
P Richardson

Apologies: Councillors K Clark

ASCH44/19 Appointment of Substitute Members

There were no substitute members.

ASCH45/19 Declarations of Interest

Councillor L Miller declared an interest in all items in relation to his role as Chairman of Tynehealth GP Federation and as a member of a number of CCG Boards.

ASCH46/19 Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

ASCH47/19 Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust: Quality Account 2019/20

The Sub-committee received a presentation from Jeremy Rushmer, Executive Medical Director, Northumbria Healthcare Foundation Trust (NHCFT), which set out the Trust's Annual Plan and Quality Account, including revised priorities for 2020-21.

The Sub-committee noted that the Trust had a 5-year strategy with a vision to be 'the leader in providing high quality, safe and caring health and care services and to lead collectively, with partners, to deliver system wide healthcare'.

It was noted that the quality account aims to demonstrate how well the trust are performing on measures of quality, including patient safety, clinical effectiveness and patient experience. The quality account will set out information on the delivery of safety and quality priorities identified in 2019-20 and outline the agreed objectives for 2020/21.

The Sub-committee noted the performance for objectives set out last year including Frailty and flow, Deteriorating patient, Staff Experience, Cancer, Bereavement, Maternity and Every Contact Counts.

It was noted that the target of 90% had not been achieved in relation to ‘deteriorating patient’, IV antibiotics within 1 hr of suspected sepsis, with a rate of 83% being achieved. Further action will be taken towards meeting this target.

In relation to the 2020/21 priorities, it was noted that the previously identified targets of maternity and cancer had been integrated into mainstream objectives. A number of the 2020/21 objectives built on 2019/20 priorities and other are new objectives. The main objectives identified are:

- Flow – but with more focus on the ‘back door’ in relation to medical fitness for discharge and reducing length of stay;
- Deteriorating patients and observation – continuing to work on Acute Kidney Injury, sepsis and antibiotics via Deteriorating Patient Board;
- Medicines Management - including training of non-medical prescribers in community settings;
- Mental Health - especially improving child and adolescent mental health pathways (CAMHS);
- End of Life Care
- Patient Experience – including support for carers
- Staff Experience

It was noted that the draft Quality Account would be published in mid April and stakeholders, including Health Scrutiny Committees, will be asked to submit their opinions by the end of April 2020. The final Quality Account will be published in May 2020.

Members asked about current situation with staffing and about any issues in maintaining staffing levels. The sub-committee was advised that staff experience was taken seriously by the Trust and the Trust generally scores highly in the national staff survey and has not seen any increased level of staff turnover. The nurse vacancy rate at the Trust is currently 2% which is one of the lowest in the country and the Trust is continuously running recruitment to maintain staffing levels. The Sub-committee was advised that Brexit had not had a significant impact on staff levels compared to London and other areas.

The Sub-committee thanked the Trust for the informative presentation.

In considering the Sub-committee’s approach to responding to the Quality Account, it was agreed that responsibility for finalising the Sub-committee’s response should be delegated to the Chair of the Sub-committee.

Resolved: That responsibility for finalising the Sub-committee’s submission in response to the Quality Account be delegated to the Chair of the Sub-committee.

ASCH48/19 Autism Strategy - update

The Sub-committee received a presentation which provided a progress report on the development of the Council’s Autism Strategy. This was a follow-up from the last report received by the Sub-committee at the meeting on 4 July 2019.

The presentation outlined some of the autism statistics that underpin the strategy, including an increase of 79% in the number of children diagnosed with autism between 2016 and 2019, and the expectation that the number of working age adults with autism will decrease over the next 15 years in line with overall population decreases.

It was noted that this was now a bigger piece of work than first anticipated. As part of the review a number of actions are now in place: a working group has now been established with the involvement of people with autism and carers; high level priorities have been identified; and a draft action plan is being developed.

Officers would welcome views on how best to involve the Sub-committee in the development of the strategy.

Members welcomed the progress that was being made and especially welcomed the action that was being taken to involve people with autism in the process.

Members raised anecdotal evidence of significant delays being experienced by parents awaiting autism assessments for their children. While it was acknowledged that there may be waiting times, NHS providers are working to understand pathways and reasons for delays. It was also noted that the Council is looking at ways to support families while they are waiting for a diagnosis. This may include access to peer support and signposting to support groups in the community. The Council is looking to further develop this service.

There was some discussion about why there has been a big increase in the number of children identified with autism. It was noted that this may be linked to increased awareness and diagnosis, with more children diagnosed earlier in life.

Members raised a question about whether there were any statistics around children and young people with autism and the criminal justice system. It was noted that local information did not cover this, although there is an element of this as part of the national strategy. It was acknowledged that this is a valid point for consideration.

Members thanked officers for the informative presentation.

ASCH49/19 Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Commissioning Intentions 2020/21

Members noted that a joint meeting had been held earlier in the day with members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider joint information from the Council and the CCG on the Health, Wellbeing and Social Care Commissioning Intentions for 2020/21.

Members noted the report asked Members to consider any formal comments or recommendations that the sub-committee may wish to make in relation to the plans presented at the joint meeting.

The Sub-committee did not make any formal comments or recommendations.