

## **Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Sub-Committee**

**Wednesday, 26 January 2022**

Present: Councillor J Montague (Chair)  
Councillors L Arkley, M Hall, T Mulvenna, P Richardson  
and J Shaw

Apologies: Councillors J Kirwin and J Cassidy

### **ASCH32/21 Appointment of Substitute Members**

There were no substitute members.

### **ASCH33/21 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor M Hall declared the following personal interests in relation to Item 5:

- That she is the local authority appointed member of the Board of Governors of Northumbria Healthcare Trust
- That her daughter is involved in the establishment of a new care facility in North Tyneside.

### **ASCH34/21 Minutes**

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2021 be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

### **ASCH35/21 Covid-19 Update: Public Health and Adult Social Care**

The Sub-committee received a Covid-19 update covering Public Health and Adult Social Care.

It was noted that Covid rates in the North East are currently higher than the England average due to a delay in the spread of Omicron cases to the North East. NHS pressures are reducing nationally but are still significant in the North East due to workforce absences and demand issues.

In North Tyneside rates are declining across all ages. In previous weeks rates in the under 9s had been increasing following the return to school but these now look to be dropping. This has impacted on primary school staff and pupils. There have been less issues in secondary schools due to the impact of the vaccine in the over 12 age groups.

Rates in North Tyneside are currently below the North East average. It was noted that a change would be made to the published national data on covid infections from Monday to include re-infections outside of a 90 day period. This is likely to lead to an increase in the numbers of positive cases recorded from Monday.

It was noted that a pop-up vaccine centre had been held at Shiremoor School as a way of targeting an area which has a lower take up of the vaccine and booster. Councillor Mulvenna stated that the pop-up centre had been advertised in local shops and venues but turn out had been a bit disappointing. However, it was noted that all additional vaccines given is a positive step and further initiatives will be taken forward to increase take up in areas with lower vaccine rates.

In relation to Adult Social Care, it was noted that 23 out of 31 care homes currently were in an outbreak situation, and although this is high it has reduced over the last few weeks.

Demand for home care continues to be high with a large number of people on the brokerage list, with more people going onto the list than coming off. Some people have been moved into short term care placements as home care is not currently available.

There was some discussion about the Social Care Academy which is an initiative working with the Employment Support Team in the Council and Job Centre Plus to increase employment in the adult social care sector. Work is underway to publicise the Social Care Academy and also to work with local providers to post information about existing job vacancies. It was noted that this was currently being funded through the Council's Employment Support Team and with Covid recruitment and retention funding.

There was some discussion about the initiative from Northumbria Healthcare Trust to employ home care staff which had recently appeared in the press and whether this was part of the home care pilot with the Council. It was noted that this was separate from the pilot. The Council is currently working with the Trust to ensure the initiative does not de-stabilise the market by taking staff from existing providers. There is a need to bring new staff into the sector. There was also some discussion about intermediary care and the proposals by Northumbria to provide some care home provision to support hospital discharge. It was noted that there is currently pressure throughout the whole system and the Council continues to work with the Trust to ensure the partnership works and to support the current care market.

**Agreed:**

That the update be noted.

**ASCH36/21 Better Care Fund**

The Sub-committee considered the report which provided an update on the Better Care Fund (BCF).

The BCF is a component of government policy to improve integration between health and social care and has been in place for 6 years.

The arrangements for the BCF and its component parts are set out annually by the NHS in its BCF Planning Guidance. Given the on-going pressures in the system there are minimal changes to the BCF from 2020/21 to 2021/22.

The current arrangements and BCF planning framework operates to 31 March 2022. Operational planning guidance for 2022/23 has not been issued yet by NHS England,

though it is understood there is a continued commitment towards the BCF beyond the end of this financial year.

There was some discussion about the implications from the change to CCGs once the ICS is in place. It was noted that it is not expected the BCF will come to an end as the BDF is arranged on an annual basis. The arrangements going forward are not yet clear.

**Agreed:**

That the report be noted.

**ASCH37/21    Update from the recent Joint OSC for the NE&NC ICS and North and Central ICPs**

Councillor Mulvenna provided an update from the regional health scrutiny meeting which was held as an informal remote meeting on 24 January 2022.

It was noted that there had been two presentations at the meeting. The first covered Clinical winter pressures. The second set out plans for the membership of the Integrated Care Board and of the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP).

Cllr Muvenna highlighted concerns about the extent of local authority and Member involvement in the ICS and how local areas would be represented, given that the ICS will cover 13 local authority areas. It was likely there would be 4 local authority representatives on the overall ICS Board, and one representative from each authority on the ICP. Although there will also be a sub-regional ICP covering North of Tyne and Gateshead which would meet on a more regular basis.

**Agreed:**

That copies of the presentations from the meeting be circulated to members of the sub-committee.