

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)
19th October 2021**

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Paul Cummins	Adult Social Care	August/September 2021

1. Care Homes - Vaccination

The vaccination rate is positive for Sefton care homes. There is a 96.6% rate for residents, and 92.8% for staff overall, this is the second highest rate in the Liverpool City Region. There will be a rollout of the booster process, with a view to this being completed by the 1st November 2021.

Our contracts team are currently working with care homes who have non-vaccinated staff to ensure service continuity post 11th November 2021 when the statutory requirement takes effect for double vaccinations to be in place. Currently, we are working with 19 care homes that may be impacted when the statutory requirements come into force. This means that staff who are not vaccinated will not be able to work in care homes. We continue to discuss these issues on our strategic calls with Providers, and are also continuing to hold vaccination Q&A sessions for staff which are facilitated by a local GP.

Work continues to provide full vaccinations to learning disability services. Domiciliary care workers vaccination rate is now at 78.8% overall.

There are no issues in relation to sustainable PPE supply, and have confirmation that PPE supplies will be available to care homes at no cost until March 2022 through the Government portal.

2. Adult Social Care Budget

The reported position to Cabinet for Adult Social Care in June was a balanced position, however, early indications show further areas where positive variances against budget are forecast. Budgets relating to cost of packages are more difficult to forecast owing to the ongoing impact of Covid on services and income. Adult Social Care continues to transform areas, such as strategic commissioning, and is developing innovative approaches to offset demand for services. This transformation introduced in 2020/21 continues to produce results in the current financial year.

External grants - the 2020/21 year saw financial support from the Government (DHSC) in Infection Control, Rapid Test funding and Workforce Capacity grants. These grants totalled over £11m with a requirement to passport to providers.

Infection Control grants and testing support to care providers have continued for April - September with allocations of circa £4.5M.

3. Sefton's Adults Safeguarding Board

Partner organisations have shown enthusiasm at re-kindling the links of working together at Board level, to have the assurance that adults with care and support needs across Sefton receive a quality service. Developments have been made around strengthening links into securing the voice of the service user, with conversations underway with Healthwatch as to how best this can be achieved. Subgroups have now been established that sit under the Board, although their inaugural meetings are still to take place.

Sefton's Board website is under development, along with exploration of how we can best use other social media platforms of communications, to encourage engagement in safeguarding activities both internally, and with our partners' organisations.

4. Mental Health Services

4.1 Sefton Mental Health Review

The second phase of the Sefton Mental Health Review has commenced, and a Community Transformation Fund Task and Finish Group has been established to:

- ensure the model of care is co-designed with partners to achieve its intended outcomes of improving patient experience, having holistic care and enables patients to participate in achieving personalised care;
- assist Partners to agree with the approach - both in terms of the model itself, and the implementation plan;
- ensure there is sufficient connectivity with the wider strategic mental health review and other relevant programmes of work across Sefton;
- create appropriate communication and engagement across the system;
- develop a new, inclusive community-based offer based on redesigning mental health services around Primary Care Networks that integrates primary and secondary care, voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) and local authority services.

4.2 Brain in Hand App

NHS Digital have approved a bid for £55k submitted by Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups and the Council's Commissioning Team to pilot the Brain in Hand mobile phone application, which is a mobile application that provides self-help, on line support including a phone service that aims to support people with mental health conditions to live independently. The application will be targeted at people aged 16-25 and the licences will be co-ordinated by the Council.

5. Performance

Sefton's Safeguarding performance report has highlighted the following: -

Sefton has a high rate of Safeguarding Concerns and when broken down by abuse type Sefton's profile reflects that of other North West authorities. The most common form of abuse is neglect and acts of omission, this is followed by physical and psychological abuse. The

Safeguarding Board will be focussing on plans to address this pattern and work with both providers and Sefton residents to raise the profile of prevention from abuse.

Sefton's performance in Making Safeguarding Personal compares well compared to other North West authorities.

6. Integration and National Policy Update

As previously reported, work continues to ensure readiness for Sefton's Integrated Care Partnership to take effect from 1st April 2022. Detailed guidance recently released on 'Thriving Places' detailing local requirements, and further guidance on the interaction with the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System is currently being worked through with Sefton receiving a positive assessment of maturity in respect of this. A detailed report is due to Cabinet on the 4th November 2021 which will provide more information on form and function.

6.1 Integrated Care Teams (ICTs) Updates

An ICT Delivery Group has been established to explore the wider aspects of ICT working and the next steps to take this forward. This group will consider referral pathways in place between ICTs and others, and work is already underway with ICT leads in relation to the recently launched portal for referrals into Sefton Adult Social Care.

Both North and South area teams continue to work on an ICT footprint, attending weekly multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings held to discuss individual need and how need can be best met with a person-centred approach.

The ICT Delivery Group is also exploring how the work undertaken across the ICTs, as well as within the locality MDT's held, can be enhanced further to meet needs of the local communities, and explore potential gaps in the community offer that may need to be taken forward. Work is also underway to ensure a life course approach for those with complex lives can be considered from the onset.

7. Complaints Update

We have received the Ombudsman annual report and we are now considering the findings contained within this and how this will impact our practice. We are still receiving a high number of compliments within Adult Social Care, although we are receiving an increase in the number of complaints received also, and full details of this will be provided in the quarter two report.