

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)
4th January 2022

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Paul Cummins	Adult Social Care	October/November 2021

1. Care Homes - Vaccination

The vaccination rate is positive for Sefton care homes. There is a 95.76% rate for residents, and 96.43% for staff overall (dose 2 statistics). The rollout of the booster process is progressing well.

Where staff vaccination rates are reported as being below 100%, our contracts team are currently working with care homes to understand the figures, such as whether the number is below 100% because the national Capacity Tracker system has not been updated, or because some staff are on long-term sick leave. We are also seeking assurance from Providers that if their services have been impacted by staff leaving, that the service can continue to operate in a safe and effective manner. We also continue to discuss these issues on our strategic calls with Providers.

Work continues to provide full vaccinations to learning disability services. Domiciliary care workers vaccination rate is now at 82.4%, overall this is the highest rate in the Liverpool City Region.

There are no issues in relation to sustainable PPE supply, and we 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 for Adult Social Care in October was a potential underspend of £0.78M and cautious income forecasts may increase this underspend as the year progresses. Whilst costs relating to care packages have increased, the increased income is mitigating this at present. The ongoing impact of Covid on services and income is difficult to forecast. but will be kept under review. Adult Social Care continues with its transformation programme, 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 – From June 2020/21 the Government (DHSC) have provided financial support in Infection Control, Rapid Test funding and Workforce Capacity grants. To-date these grants have totalled over £18M, with a requirement to passport to providers. The current round of grants for the period October 2021 – March 2022 include Infection Control, Testing, Vaccine and a Workforce Recruitment and Retention grant.

3. Sefton's Adults Safeguarding Board

Board meeting dates for 2022 have been set and all subgroup meeting dates circulated for the coming year. Subgroups have all met and have agreed their Terms of Reference and priority tasks.

The position of Independent Chair remains out to advert, hopefully to secure appointment early in 2022. Interviews for the Board Support Officer position are to be scheduled shortly, with a strong field of candidates. The Board has received funding from all statutory partners and is looking at various options for the creation of an independent website early in the New Year.

4. Mental Health Services

4.1 Alternatives to Crisis

The Council has recently been notified that Year 2 funding has been approved following our bid submission to the STP, which means Sefton CVS can now plan mobilisation of a second Crisis Café to be located in the South of the Borough.

Sefton CVS are currently identifying suitable premises and will recruit a further 2 posts to deliver an effective service model across Sefton.

Sefton's Mental Health Recovery Team has also had permission to recruit a further 1 x full time Mental Health Recovery Support Worker post which will create further capacity within the team from April 2022.

4.2 Brain in Hand App

35 licences have now been purchased and will be utilised across north and south Sefton, all cohorts have been identified following consultation with the Community Mental Health Task and Finish Group and the allocation of licences will be co-ordinated by the Council.

5. Sensory Services

A review of all sensory provision has commenced, and a Task and Finish group made up of key stakeholders will be established from December 2021. The purpose of the group will be to determine the current service model, identify any perceived gaps within the pathway and explore opportunities to commission an integrated service model with future commissioning intentions being defined by May 2022.

6. Performance

Sefton's most recent Safeguarding Performance Dashboard has highlighted the following: -

Sefton has seen in this reporting period a significant reduction in the number of contacts received from providers, down 11% from the previous month. Open contacts at month end, steadily falling since July, are now at their lowest level for 12 months. This is the result of a focussed resource on this area of work over the past 4 weeks. 90% of contacts have been resolved within 7 days, which in comparison to Q2 stood at 84%.

The volume of s42 commenced during the month has increased by 13% over the month and safeguarding concerns have doubled from the previous month. This reflects the “smarter” practices recently adopted in the management of contacts and concerns and allows for a more accurate picture within comparison tables.

Abuse occurring in care homes is up 41% in October and reduced in own home to 39%-together these make up over three quarters of abuse locations. Care Workers, family and friends continue to constitute three quarters of listed alleged perpetrators of abuse. The most common form of abuse remains to be neglect and acts of omission, followed by physical and psychological abuse, although this month there is a small rise in the number of concerns raised around financial abuse.

7. Integrated Care Teams (ICTs) Updates

The ICT Delivery Group established to explore the wider aspects of ICT working have now met on two occasions and continue to explore how to progress this area of work and next steps needed. Work is underway to explore estate opportunities and links to ICT working, including how the Bootle ICT can evolve as plans for the Bootle Strand progress in relation to the Primary Care Network relocating here.

Weekly multi-disciplinary team (MDT) meetings continue to be held across the ICT sites to discuss individual need and how needs can be best met with a person-centred approach. Work also continues to ensure a life course approach for those with complex lives can be considered from the onset, and how to ensure this work aligns with the locality working that is also in place.

8. Complaints Update

Quarter 2 data reflected an increase in the number of complaints received this quarter compared to last quarter with a small decrease in the number of MP/Councillor contacts received. Almost half of the complaints which were upheld had an element of poor or insufficient communication between the Council and families/service users. Similarly, of the complaints that were upheld, four had an element of delay which was fault on the part of the Council. To ensure that these issues are addressed, a representative from the Complaints Team will share key messages and lessons learned from complaints with senior Adult Social Care Managers and Social Work Team Managers so we can reflect on the information received via complaints and compliments. The Complaints Team will also liaise with the Principal Social Worker to ensure that key messages and lessons learned are communicated to staff effectively. This has previously been completed via the Practice Forum sessions.