

Health Scrutiny Panel – Meeting held on Thursday, 14th January, 2021.

Present:- Councillors A Sandhu (Chair), Smith (Vice-Chair), Ali, Begum, Matloob, Mohammad, Qaseem and Sarfraz

Also present:- Councillor Strutton

Apologies for Absence:- Councillor Rasib and Mr Pill (Healthwatch Representative)

PART I

43. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mohammad declared that she was a Practice Manager at a GP Surgery in Slough. She remained present for the duration of the meeting.

44. Minutes of the Last Meeting held on 26th November 2020

Resolved - That the minutes of the meeting held on 26th November 2020 be approved as a correct record.

45. Member Questions

None were received.

46. Situation Report - Verbal Update on Covid-19 Situation in Slough

The Service Lead Public Health gave a presentation to the Panel, providing an overview of the current situation of the Covid-19 pandemic in Slough.

The Panel noted the following:

- The number of daily positive cases in Slough remained above the South East average, with a positivity rate of 26.8.
- Two vaccination sites had been set up at Salt Hill Activity Centre and Langley Health Centre. Although uptake had been good, data analysis was being carried out on the presence of inequalities in uptake.
- A six week programme for community testing had begun on 12 January 2021. In the two days since the lateral flow testing had begun, 246 tests had been carried out and 7 positive cases identified.

Panel Members and Councillor Strutton, speaking under Rule 30, raised a number of points in the ensuing discussion, which are summarised as below:

- A Member asked about the new variant of Covid-19 that had been identified and whether this was more easily transmitted than the original strain. The Panel were informed that the new variant was easily transmitted and although it had initially been identified in the South-East, it had now spread across the country.

Health Scrutiny Panel - 14.01.21

- In response to the number of people in Slough who had been infected and those that had passed away from Covid-19, it was noted that there had been 10,315 cases and 170 deaths. Members were advised that information was available on the Berkshire Public Health website.
- Referring specifically to issues regarding vaccine supply the Service Lead, Public Health stated that the NHS was working to ensure that there was an adequate supply of vaccines.
- Concern was expressed relating to the impact Covid-19 had had upon the delivery of mental health services, with aspects of the service being offered online, when individuals often required or would benefit from a service in person. Whilst acknowledging that this could have had a detrimental impact on certain individuals, it was explained that there had been greater levels of participation in services offered online. However, services would continue to be offered to those who required in person meetings.

At the conclusion of the discussion the status report was noted.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

47. Disability Task and Finish Group Update

The Policy Insight Analyst introduced a report which detailed the progress of implementation of the recommendations of the disability Task and Finish Group.

The Team Leader for Parking updated the Panel on the changes in the High Street / High Street West in relation to disabled parking bays, explaining that larger accessible bays had been implemented and a time restriction imposed on the bays outside of Landmark Place. Additional disabled bays had been also been identified for Farnham Road and Upton Lea Parade. Referring specifically to reviewing recently installed crossing points to consider where double yellow lines might be effective, it was explained that all new junction improvements / modifications delivered in the last 18 months had been considered in relation to obstructions prior to implementation. It was brought to Members attention that a process was now in place to ensure that the parking team were consulted about any new locations.

A Member enquired whether the lifts in Herschel car park had been repaired and was informed that both the lifts in the car park that were now fully functioning.

The issue of parking on pavements and pavement obstruction was raised and whether this had been exacerbated with the current pandemic and a greater number of people working from home. The Team Leader, Parking stated that there had not been an increase in complaints specifically regarding pavement parking.

Health Scrutiny Panel - 14.01.21

Following discussion in relation to the process of acquiring a disabled bay and subsequent procedure in removing it when no longer required, it was agreed that the Team leader would provide information to the Member concerned following the meeting.

Speaking under Rule 30, Councillor Strutton raised a number of issues including concern about the ad hoc approach in relation to disabled bays in social and private housing developments. Officers agreed to raise the matter with the housing team with a view to advising them to adopt a more holistic approach on both social/ private housing developments regarding the installation of disabled bays.

Resolved – That the progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the disability task and finish group be noted.

48. **Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust Five Year Strategy Update**

Daniel Bailey of Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust gave a presentation that updated on the Trust's five-year strategy, Our future FHFT 2020-25.

The vision was “to be a leader in health and wellbeing, delivering exceptional services for our local communities.” The strategy had been published in October 2019 and detailed plans were expected to have been put in place at the beginning of 2020 with a view to the strategy being implemented from 1st April 2020. The six strategic ambitions were noted as:

- Improving quality for patients;
- Supporting our people;
- Collaborating with our partners;
- Transforming our services;
- Making our money work; and
- Advancing our digital capability.

Whilst the initial response to the Covid-19 pandemic had delayed some aspects of the strategy the Panel noted that key elements had been implemented and some areas accelerated ahead of schedule. Mr Bailey highlighted that the very significant Covid-19 pressures on the Trust since Christmas had led to a pause on implementation. The plan had been designed to be flexible and had been reviewed to take account of the learning from the pandemic. The original six strategic aims were still relevant and were central to the refreshed strategy which was now in place to deliver on the vision through to 2025.

Members asked a number of questions about the impact of Covid-19 on the strategy and it was responded that it had not effected the overall timeline but that the plans would be reviewed annually at a minimum. The appendix to the report set out the objectives, actions and measures through to 2022 and Mr Bailey updated on progress in a number of areas such as Electronic Patient Record System.

Health Scrutiny Panel - 14.01.21

A question was asked about the progress the Trust was making to integrate services with partners, on prevention and to support peoples care following discharge from hospital. Mr Bailey emphasised that the Trust was committed to collaborating with partners which was a key aim of the their strategy. He explained the significant amount of work undertaken to work with the Council and others such as weekly meetings and engagement with residents. In relation to prevention the Trust provided input into health education and worked closely with partners to develop pathways and triage patients issues so they received the most appropriate support. Work was constantly underway to improve online information and resources and it was planned to put more advice leaflets and information online.

The Panel asked how the Trust planned to meet the very different health and care needs and inequalities across the large Frimley area. Mr Bailey assured the Panel that the Trust had taken the different needs fully into account in developing the plan. Consultation had taken place with public health partners to understand the issues in communities across the Frimley footprint. Diabetes was the largest chronic condition in the areas and Mr Bailey described the work going on to address and prevent it, including helping individuals better monitor and manage their own conditions.

Speaking under Rule 30, Councillor Strutton referred to the long standing challenges of electronic patient records and handling data. He asked how the technical and data sharing challenges were being managed. Mr Bailey summarised the significant amount of work that had been taken on procurement, design and engagement with clinician and GPs. He confirmed that Epic had been chosen as the provider and they supplied a number of other authorities. Assurance was provided that this area was a priority, was led by an executive director and was appropriately resourced.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Chair thanked the Trust for the work they were doing and for the presentation to the Panel.

Resolved – That details of the update on Our future FHFT 2020-25 strategy be noted.

49. **Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust Strategy Update**

The Panel received a comprehensive presentation from representatives of Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust on their three-year strategy for 2021/22 to 2024/25. The update covered the key aspects of the strategy; the impact of Covid-19 on mental health; priorities for East Berkshire and Slough over the next year; and the 'Winter Offer' of integrated services.

The plan had three strategic objectives over the next three years:

- Make Berkshire Healthcare a great place to work for all our people;
- Improve access, quality and experience of care for all of our patients;
- and

Health Scrutiny Panel - 14.01.21

- Work with partners to improve the health outcomes of all of our populations.

The Mental Health Strategy was a key part of the NHS Long Term Plan supported by £3.2bn of additional funding nationally. The key aspects of the strategy were described and it was noted that the major initiatives for Slough and east Berkshire was implementation of the Community Mental Health Framework which the Panel had received a report on in November 2020. The impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on mental health were set out. There had been an initial drop in activity but it had increased since and models predicted significantly higher levels of demand for mental health services post-Covid peak. The cases that were presenting were more complex with increased acuity and there had also been more safeguarding referrals for domestic abuse.

The Panel discussed the priorities for the next year in terms of adults and children's services. There was increased access to digital and online delivery of services during the pandemic and a review would take place for community health services to establish the most effective way to deliver services in the future. The learning and innovation in the past year during Covid-19 would be embedded. Future estate planning would also take place to promote integration with community and primary care and the local authority. The Panel noted that the refurbishment of Upton Hospital site had been delayed due to Covid-19. The priorities for CAMHS in 2021/22 included embedded mental health support teams which had been launched in Slough in September 2020. The Trust had been successful in obtaining funds related to tackling eating disorders in children and the Panel asked to be provided with an update at a future meeting.

Members discussed the significant impacts that mental health issues could have on children and young people included on life expectancy. It was recognised the issue of severe mental illness in children was not new and the problem remained despite many initiatives focused on it over several years. The referral routes for school age children was raised and it was confirmed teachers could make referrals.

Speaking under Rule 30, Councillor Strutton asked about the issue of PTSD due to Covid-19, including amongst NHS workers. He also asked whether there had been any increase in the rate of suicide locally. In response Trust representatives stated that there was a predicted increase in demand for mental health services and the Trust was preparing for this scenario. In relation to the impact of the pandemic on the rate of suicide, it was considered to be too early to draw any conclusions based on the statistics to date.

At the conclusion of the discussion the Chair thanked representatives of the Trust for their presentation and for the work they were doing in challenging circumstances.

Resolved – That details of the update be noted.

Health Scrutiny Panel - 14.01.21

50. Forward Work Programme 2020/21

The Policy Insight Analyst summarised the Work Programme for the Panel's last meeting of the municipal year which was scheduled for 31 March 2021.

A Member commented that GP Provision be added to the work programme. It was noted that the matter had been considered at a previous meeting and that those details would be circulated to the Committee.

Resolved – That the work programme be agreed, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be agreed.

51. Members Attendance Record 2020/21

Resolved – That details of the Members Attendance Record 2020/21 be noted.

52. Date of Next Meeting - 31st March 2021

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 31st March 2021.

Chair

(Note: The Meeting opened at 6.30 pm and closed at 8.49 pm)