

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board
DATE: 5th July 2017
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Adult Social Services
PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Halton Rapid Clinical Assessment Team
WARD(S): Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To receive a presentation from Damian Nolan, Divisional Manager for Urgent Care on the development of Halton's Rapid Clinical Assessment Team (RCAT).

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board the contents of the report and associated presentation be noted.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Older people become unwell for a variety of complex reasons and sometimes require hospital attendance / admission for consultant led diagnostics and assessment.

3.2 Moving older people out of their home environment to hospital, particularly frail older people aged 75+, poses a number of significant issues and risks to their health and well-being including disorientation, confusion, falls, functional decline and risk of hospital acquired infection. Finding clinically suitable alternatives to hospital admission is important for this group.

3.3 The development of the RCAT service arose from an approach by a Care of the Elderly Consultant, Professor Bhowmick, to the medical team at Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (WHHFT). Professor Bhowmick had developed, in 2 locations in Wales, a rapid assessment model for older people in the community who otherwise would be admitted to hospital for consultant assessment, diagnostics and review of non-life threatening illness.

From August 2015 to April 2016 a model was developed drawing on nursing resources in the Rapid Access and Rehabilitation Service (RARS) and Community Matrons.

3.4 The RCAT service commenced on the 4th April 2016.

GP led Primary Care Teams have the opportunity to refer to RCAT for an enhanced Rapid Clinical Assessment, including access to associated/necessary diagnostics, providing appropriate treatment to patients in their own home thus

helping to prevent hospital admissions in the frail/elderly population of Halton.

The referral criteria is as follows:-

- Age 75+. However the team are flexible and if a GP feels that a patient would benefit from an intervention irrespective of age, then they can contact the team to discuss this; and
- Not critically ill (e.g. Myocardial Infraction, stroke or severe sepsis etc.).

The service accepts referrals Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm and the aim is for the service to undertake an initial assessment within 2 hours

Access to rapid diagnostics runs through the existing access in the Urgent Care Centres (UCCs) and the departments at Halton, Warrington and Whiston hospitals.

3.5 From 4th April 2016 – 31st March 2017, 194 referrals have been made to the Service.

Of those referrals made, a total of 165 admissions were avoided during 2016/17.

For NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group, the average cost of an emergency attendance and admission via ambulance in 2015/16 was £2,786 (Age 75+).

Based on this figure, a total saving of £459,690 was made in hospital avoidance.

If this saving is then offset against the annual cost of the RCAT service, which is circa. £350k, then in 2016/17 a total saving of £109,690 was made.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Funding for the service is within the existing Pooled Budget between Halton Borough Council and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The Service delivers improved access to healthcare for older adults within the community.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**
None identified

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The sustainability of the model moving forward remains a challenge and work is ongoing with the local Acute Trusts to explore options for securing the delivery of the service for the Borough.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no identified equality and diversity issues

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.