

Health Policy and Performance Board

Annual Report

April 2018 - March 2019



As Chair of the Health Policy and Performance Board I am very pleased to report on the work of the Board for 2018/19.

The remit of the Board is to scrutinise the Health and Social Care Services provided to the residents of the Borough; we also have a responsibility to scrutinise Hospital Services, including Mental Health Services.

We take our responsibilities very seriously and as such choose at least one Scrutiny topic to focus on each Municipal year.

This year we have scrutinised the future sustainability of Care Homes within the Borough. The Scrutiny Board looked closely at those providing that care, received reports from various sources and engaged with a number of friends and family members of residents living in Care Homes within the Borough.

During the course of the year the Board have also been actively involved and consulted on a range of issues from changes in service delivery and policy developments, through to being kept informed and offering views on many changes taking place locally as a result of national changes.

One area of work we have followed closely this year is the work taking place in Transforming Cancer Care across the Region and the proposals to develop an Eastern Cancer Sector Hub. At the time of writing this report, we haven't yet received the final proposals, but we anticipate receiving them shortly and as such, as a Board, we will be closely scrutinising these proposals during 2019/20.

I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their valued contribution to the Board's work over the last 12 months. I would particularly like to thank Cllr Sandra Baker, for her support as Vice Chair to the Board. I would also like to extend my thanks to all Member's, Officers and Partners for their time and contributions to the Scrutiny topic and for providing performance and update reports throughout the year.

As usual, 2018/19 has proved to have been a very busy, challenging and interesting time for us all.

Cllr Joan Lowe, Chair

Health Policy and Performance Board Membership and Responsibility

The Board:

Councillor Joan Lowe (Chair)
Councillor Sandra Baker (Vice Chair)
Councillor Mark Dennett
Councillor Margaret Horabin
Councillor Charlotte Gerrard
Councillor Marjorie Bradshaw
Councillor June Roberts
Councillor Lauren Cassidy
Councillor Pauline Sinnott
Councillor Chris Loftus

During 2018/19, David Wilson was Halton Healthwatch's co-opted representation on the Board and we would like to thank David for his valuable contribution.

The Lead Officer for the Board is Sue Wallace-Bonner, Director of Adult Social Services.

Responsibility:

The primary responsibility of the Board is to focus on the work of the Council and its Partners, in seeking to improve health in the Borough. This is achieved by scrutinising progress against the aims and objectives outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan in relation to the Health priority.

The Board have met four times in 2018/19. Minutes of the meetings can be found on the [Halton Borough Council website](#). It should also be noted that the Board, at each of their meetings, receive and scrutinise the minutes from Halton's Health and Wellbeing Board and monitors work/progress within this area.

This report summarises some of the key pieces of work the Board have been involved in during 2018/19.

GOVERNMENT POLICY- NHS AND SOCIAL CARE REFORM

Named Social Worker Pilot

The Board heard with interest the work which had been carried out in relation to the Named Social Worker Pilot (NSWP) in Halton. During 2017/18, Halton was one of six sites selected to take part in Phase 2 of the national NSWP scheme.

The NSWP had been initiated by the Department of Health in response to the 2015 consultation 'No voice unheard', no right ignored', which sought views on strengthening the rights of people with learning disabilities, autism and mental health conditions to enable them to live more independently.

The Board heard how the project had built up an understanding on how having a named social worker could contribute to individuals with learning disabilities achieving better outcomes; specifically that they and their family were in control of decisions about their own future; and were supported to live with dignity and independence. The pilot had been about trying something different, piloting new ideas and generating early and indicative evidence as to their impact. Members were also advised about how the pilot had contributed to the Halton model.

SERVICES

Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

In September 2018, the Board received a presentation from NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on a number of clinical concerns that had been identified during 2017/18 that had subsequently been raised with the Trust, specifically around leadership, workforce and sustainability. The Board heard how the CCG had been working with other commissioners in a collaborative commissioning forum to agree arrangements that would reinforce and continue to build upon the services provided by Bridgewater by addressing the issues associated with the health and well-being of the residents of Halton.

The Board received an update from the Chief Executive of the Trust in February 2019 and acknowledged the improvements made by the Trust.

Urgent Care Centres (UCCs)

During September 2018, the Board received details of the review of Halton's two UCCs and subsequent actions being taken by NHS Halton CCG to transform these centres into Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs), as part of the One Halton transformation of health provision in Halton.

The Board heard how the services at the UCCs were being re-specified to meet the national requirements of UTCs.

Details were shared with the Board in respect to the differences between the current UCC's and the proposed UTC; this being pre bookable appointments and the opportunity to have an integrated primary and secondary care model which enables patients to access same day urgent health care. The aim is for the UTCs to be the cornerstone of integrated urgent care delivery and ensure 24/7 community urgent care. The development of the UTC model will deliver a standardisation approach to urgent unplanned care and simplify access, as well as deliver improved patient care and increase the level of convenience as patients will no longer feel the need to travel and queue at A&E and or travel out of Borough.

A further update was provided to the Board in February 2019 regarding progress towards the development of UTCs within the Borough and the Board would be keeping developments under review as they progressed during 2019/20.

Safeguarding

The Board received a number of updates on Safeguarding during the year.

Updates included details on the Integrated Anti-Stalking Unit, the Halton Adult Safeguarding Board's provision of a free multi-agency training programme to all partners across Halton working or caring for adults, the Cheshire Anti-Slavery Network, Making Safeguarding Personal and the Mental Capacity (Amendment) Bill.

In February 2019, the Board also received the Halton Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2017/18. The Board were advised as to how an analysis of information gathered on Safeguarding issues had helped inform the work priorities of the Board for 2018-19 which were:-

- Quality Assurance;
- Learning and Professional Development; and
- Co-production and Engagement

NHS Halton CCG Consultation and Engagement

In June 2018, the Board received details of the NHS Halton CCG engagement and consultation exercise being conducted in respect to the GP practices of Appleton, Beeches and Upton Rocks, as follows:-

- 1) Appleton Village Surgery: requesting consideration of a new build;
- 2) Beeches Medical Centre: requesting being relocated to another site; and
- 3) Upton Rocks Practice: proposing the closure of Hale Village branch site.

In November 2019 the Board received an update on the consultation proposing a potential relocation of Beeches Medical Centre. The consultation was due to run until October 2018 but was stopped in August because NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was made aware of a number of issues and factual inaccuracies within the consultation material. The Board were informed that if there is a further proposal to re-locate Beeches Medical Centre, a fresh public consultation will commence and will be appropriately publicised.

Dementia

In November 2018, the Board welcomed a report and presentation relating to dementia and its impact on people's lives and the support provided to people in Halton.

It was reported that people in Halton with a diagnosis of dementia are supported by the Post Diagnosis Dementia Community Pathway and were advised about the work that the Alzheimer's Society undertake in Halton by providing a comprehensive dementia support service for patients who are referred into the service by Memory Assessment Centres.

Housing Services

The Board welcomed a presentation from Fortunatus Housing Solutions, regarding the work they undertake within the Borough.

Fortunatus are a North West based registered charity providing supported accommodation for vulnerable adults with mental health problems and/or learning disabilities who are unable to access social housing. At the time of the presentation (November 2018), Fortunatus were accommodating and supporting 41 people in tenancies in Halton.

The Board were provided details of the referral assessment process, with all referrals coming from health and social care services. The Board were pleased to hear how all tenants receive person centred support and weekly visits from their designated support worker.

Stroke Services

Following previous reports to Board, the Board received an update on the status of the realignment of Stroke Services across the Mid-Mersey health economy.

It was reported that Phase 1 of the reconfiguration had been implemented and all patients who were still within the window of opportunity for thrombolysis (within 4 hours of onset) were conveyed to St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust for treatment. Patients who were post 4 hours from onset and not suitable for thrombolysis, would be conveyed to their local hospital.

Members were advised that the Phase 2 element of the service reconfiguration had been delayed until capacity had been confirmed to ensure patients could be managed effectively.

The Board will continue to monitor developments closely.

Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)

In November 2018, the Board received an update from the NHS Halton CCG, on the status of the delivery and performance of NHS Halton IAPT Service/Think Wellbeing Service.

It was reported that there was considerable evidence for the use of psychological therapies as an effective treatment for many mental health problems. The Board noted that nationally there was a requirement to increase the numbers of people accessing IAPT compliant therapies year on year, to reach an eventual target of 25% of the eligible population in 2021; so one in four.

The Board would continue to monitor delivery and performance in this area.

POLICY

Everyone Early Help Strategy 2018-2021

In June 2018, the Board received details of the new Everyone Early Help Strategy that brought services for children, adults and public health together.

Members of the Board noted that services to support children, families and vulnerable adults were facing unprecedented challenges and that early help and prevention services need to make up the cornerstone of any delivery model. If low-level needs could be prevented from developing into more serious or acute needs, then this was advantageous to both the provider and service user. The Strategy supports undertaking a whole system review of the approach to early help and prevention, with a focus on increasing the resilience of communities and their potential to help themselves, supported by a planned prioritisation of resources, integration, collaboration and understanding the benefits that early help could have on a wide range of longer term outcomes for everyone involved.

Board members were keen to understand how the success of the Strategy would be measured and the importance of communities, schools, public health, the voluntary sector organisations and community organisations all being involved and brought together to ensure the success of the Strategy.

Procedures for Lower Clinical Priority

Following the previous report made to the Board during 2017/18 regarding the work taking place across a number of CCGs in parts of Cheshire and Merseyside regarding the development of a core set of Procedures of Lower Clinical Priority (PLCP), in June 2018 the Board received an update.

The Board were informed that the final set of policies had been prepared and presented to each of the CCG's governing bodies in January 2018 (except NHS Knowsley CCG when it was March 2018). Following this all the CCG Governing bodies approved the review and the proposed policies and these were adopted from April 2018.

Halton's Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024

Under the Homelessness Act 2002, it is a requirement for each local authority area to produce a 5 year strategy and in February 2019 the Board received and commented on Halton's Draft Homelessness Strategy 2019-2024, which include an associated Strategy Delivery Plan. This new Strategy and Delivery Plan supersedes the Homelessness Strategy 2013-2018.

SCRUTINY REVIEWS

Care Homes in Halton

The scrutiny review identified seven recommendations which will now go forward to Executive Board for approval, however it was clear from the review that there is already much work being covered by the Care Home Development Project in terms of the future sustainability of the care home sector in Halton and the Scrutiny Topic work group fully endorses the work of the project group.

It should be noted that the topic work group recognised the current challenges that Halton are facing with the demand on the care home sector, which is a national trend, and feel that further funding into this sector from central government is vital. The anticipation of the green paper on older peoples' services is paramount, although delays in its publication has been frustrating.

PERFORMANCE

The Health Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring and scrutinising the performance of the Council in delivering outcomes against its key health priorities. Therefore, in line with the Council's performance framework, during the year the Board has been provided with thematic reports which have included information on progress against key performance indicators, milestones and targets relating to Health.

The Board also received reports through the year on key issues with respect to the quality of Domiciliary Care and Care Homes in the Borough.

INFORMATION BRIEFING

During 2018/19 the Board continued to receive an Information Briefing Bulletin in advance of each of the Board meetings.

The Information Briefing is a way of trying to manage the size of the agendas of the Board meetings better. Including information on topics which were previously presented to Board as reports only for the Board's information now into the Information Briefing bulletin allows the Board to focus more on areas where decisions etc. are needed.

Example of areas that have been included in the Information Briefing over the last 12 months have included:-

- Adult Safeguarding Update (including Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards)
- Adult Social Care Complaints and Freedom of Information Annual Report 2017/18
- Halton Hospital and Wellbeing Campus
- One Halton
- Seasonal Flu Plan 2018/19
- Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs) : Consultation and Engagement Plan
- Transforming Cancer Care

WORK TOPICS FOR 2019/20:

At the Board's meeting in February 2019, a number of topics were considered for scrutiny.

Following discussion it was agreed that the topic for 2019/20 would be on the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) NB. DoLS are part of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The safeguards aim to make sure that people in care homes and hospitals are looked after in a way that does not inappropriately restrict their freedom.

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