

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 1 DECEMBER 2022**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR****System Pressures including Covid**Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care services continue to face high demand, which is presenting a challenging position for the Council; both in respect of the capacity of providers to meet increasing levels of need and the capacity of the Council to fund services.

Recruitment and retention remain a challenge for adult social care providers supporting people in Leicestershire. The Council and care providers have continued to maintain services to ensure flow through hospitals and provision for new community requests. The Department's Home Care for Leicestershire framework has been reopened. New agencies joined the framework on 1 November 2022, doubling to 87 the number of care providers that the Council can call upon to deliver home care services to ensure people can be supported at home. The number of people awaiting a home care service is the lowest it has been in recent years, with fewer than 10 people waiting for a service on average.

Our in-house service HART has been able to deliver increased reablement support to people over recent weeks and our Crisis Response Service continues to support in relation to the bridging of care to prevent admissions to hospital or to support discharge.

The Council continues to see people placed in temporary and interim care home placements. This is anticipated to be an added pressure over the winter months as UHL and other hospitals seek to maintain the flow of admissions and discharges.

Despite the best efforts of care home providers, in managing infection prevention and control and supporting their workers to take the COVID-19 vaccine and their boosters, outbreaks in care homes continue to occur with 7 out of 163 operational homes in Leicestershire experiencing an ongoing outbreak in late November. It is worth noting, however, that mortality rates have reduced and people showing symptoms have reported being less unwell. The Autumn COVID-19 booster programme has been delivered to eligible consenting people within care homes by GP-led or pharmacy-led teams to maximise take up and continue protection from vaccination; the take-up in late November amongst care home residents is 91.2%, with outstanding consenting individuals still able to access their booster through their GP.

A key element in the social care reforms announced in September 2021 relates to market sustainability and the fee paid by local authorities. The Council met the mid-October deadline for submission of the cost of care exercise and draft market sustainability plan and is beginning engagement with the relevant providers for the next stage of development, including the annual fee setting process for April 2023.

NHS

The Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) health and care system continues to work together to ensure patients are treated in the right place at the right time. Our services across health and care remain under significant pressure as we seek to balance demand on services and our capacity to

deliver. Pressures as a result of seasonal winter surge have begun in earnest, with sustained increases in demand for all levels of acuity, from 111 services to primary care to ambulance to acute services.

That said, the health and care partners across LLR have several priority actions in place to support delivery. This includes additional bedded and non-bedded services pre and post hospital, additional capacity in hospital and a particular focus on respiratory illness in adults and children. Partners continue to work together to support our vulnerable residents and families to cope with fuel poverty and cost of living increases. Vaccination for flu and COVID remains a significant priority for health and care with a number of sites now open across Leicestershire to increase convenience of access.

A new campaign has been launched across LLR to promote knowledge of where to seek health services – the campaign was launched in November and is aimed at supporting our residents to access the right service, at the right time, supporting both their experience of care and NHS services.

It is worth acknowledging the additional pressures currently being placed on all our services, from primary care to children's social care and safeguarding, to support the Home Office's decision to disperse migrant and asylum seekers across the country to reduce the numbers in detention centres. The health protection system for UKHSA and the NHS are working hard to ensure those seeking asylum, both currently in the UK and those waiting to arrive, are fully vaccinated against diphtheria.

Health & Wellbeing Partnership – draft strategy

The newly established Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Health and Wellbeing Partnership (HWBP) formally known as the LLR Health and Care Partnership or Integrated Care Partnership are in the process of drafting the Integrated Care Strategy. There will be a period of consultation and opportunities for discussions with each of the Health and Wellbeing Boards in the early part of 2023, before a final version is expected late Summer/early Autumn 2023.

Chair's Engagement

Young People

Mrs Richardson recently attended a Youth Conference at Blaby to engage with local young people and hear their views. A number of topics were discussed including the issue around vaping. Following a conversation with Leicestershire Police, Mrs Richardson arranged to meet the youth council again with Leicestershire Police to deliver an interactive discussion.

Leicestershire Police are currently working with Turning Point to engage with schools on all areas of substance misuse, with vaping one area of focus. It is still unclear of the true extent of the issue locally. A young people's survey has been developed to understand the local picture and shared with stakeholders to disseminate to young people aged 13-17. The survey is now closed, and over 1700 responses have been received. Work to collate and summarise the findings is underway, and an update on the findings will be provided at a later date.

Integrated Care System

Mrs Richardson continues to be involved in discussions with the Integrated Care Board (ICB) and contribute to the development of the ICB Strategy. Mrs Richardson is a member of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Health and Wellbeing Partnership (LLR HWP) and has attended several development sessions recently to set future priorities.

Mental Health

Back in March, Mrs Richardson was invited to chair the panel for the first round of applications for the 'Getting Help in the Neighbourhood' Adults Mental Health Fund.

Applications for round two opened this summer and Mrs Richardson was invited back to chair the panel again. Further details about the fund can be found here:

<https://www.llrcommunityfoundation.org.uk/getting-help-in-neighbourhoods-adult-mental-health-wellbeing-fund/>

Mrs Richardson attended the first shadow group of the mental health sub-group and has been invited to attend the LLR Mental Health Collaborative Group.

Cost of Living Crisis – Supporting Communities

As the effects of the cost of living can be seen impacting on many more communities; partners, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations are working harder together to offer support and advice. A number of funding schemes, programmes and services are running across the county and districts to help those that need it most.

According to the End Fuel Poverty Coalition, millions of households will be affected by fuel poverty this winter, with people with disabilities, the elderly, children, people from ethnic minorities, and low-income households amongst the most affected. The Warm Welcome Campaign <https://www.warmwelcome.uk/> exists to support organisations to “open their doors and provide a warm welcome for those struggling to heat their homes this winter.” The website is full of useful information and provides an opportunity for people to search for available ‘warm spaces’ where they live.

Local Government News

The number of children with mental health problems being seen by social workers has reached record levels, new analysis has revealed. The figures, published by the Local Government Association (LGA), found the number of children needing help with mental health issues has increased from 57,410 in 2018 to 87,750 in 2022. This is an increase of nearly 53% in the last five years. The LGA found councils spent over £10.5bn on children’s social care in 2020/21, nearly 25% more than the £8.5bn spent in 2016/17.

The LGA is calling on the Government to meet the £1.16bn cost pressure already in the system to stabilise the children’s social care system.

Cllr Louise Gittins, chair of the LGA's Children and Young People Board, said: 'These alarming figures show the huge challenges facing children's social care and the urgent need to ensure that young people get the support they need, as soon as they need it.'

'Councils are doing all they can but are buckling under significant funding pressures to ensure they can support children and their families.'

Mental Health is one of the cross-cutting themes of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and remains the focus right across System, Place and Neighbourhood.