

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 31ST OCTOBER 2023**POSITION STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIRMAN****Adult Social Care**

Adult Social Care services continue to face high demand, which is presenting a challenging position for the Council, to meet statutory requirements for assessment and review alongside funding pressures. However, positive inroads have been made into numbers of people awaiting an assessment.

Recruitment and retention remain a challenge for many adult social care providers supporting people in Leicestershire. A recent report from Skills for Care shows that the external staff turnover rate for the last financial year is static from the previous year, at 34%. The Council and care providers have continued to maintain services to ensure flow through hospitals and provision for new community requests. The number of people awaiting a home care service remains very low due to good capacity in the market, and the in-house service HART has been able to deliver increased reablement support to people over recent weeks.

Limited capacity of older adults nursing care placements persists, and plans are being developed across health and social care in LLR to address the shortage of nursing care home beds.

Despite the best efforts of care home providers in managing infection prevention and control, outbreaks of disease in care homes do occur. As of 2 October 2023, there were three homes in Leicestershire with a COVID-19 outbreak, an increase of two since August.

The autumn COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccination programme began in September, with eligible cohorts including operational adult social care workers, informal carers, and most people receiving adult social care services. As of 18 October, 78% of eligible care home residents had received a COVID-19 booster, and 74% a flu booster.

Two streams of the national Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund have been made available, with £7.7m allocated to Leicestershire for this financial year. The Council has used the funding for measures including enhancing fee rates paid to care home providers, and in reducing waiting times.

NHS

The LLR health and care system continues to work collaboratively to provide efficient and effective services to the people of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Significant improvement has been noted in areas previously noted as areas of concern; areas such as ambulance handover delays have improved and been sustained, the mean category two ambulance response times have been met and

the longest waits for elective care (those over 104 weeks) have been negated with the 72 and 62 week waiting lists on track to recover by year-end.

These improvements have been sustained despite all service areas being put under significant strain as a result of industrial action. However, negative impacts have been modelled for the next few months of winter if industrial action continues. Mitigations have been put into place as best possible through continued partnership working but the recovery time from each period of industrial action is expected to increase as winter pressures are felt.

Whilst health and care remain committed to working in partnership, the financial position of each organisation across the public sector remains under significant strain. The system will continue to work together to mitigate these pressures as best it can and any impacts noted, either on people or system partners will be fed through to the HWB and individual partners as required.

Whilst the improvements outlined are of great significance to our population, we must acknowledge that delivering these services remains a challenge for all colleagues across health and care and the experience of all our patients is not the same. We will continue to work in partnership to address these challenges.

Development Session – 6th July 2023

In July the Health & Wellbeing Board held a development session for members and key leads within each subgroup. The aim of the session was to look at how and where the Board can add value over and above the work already being delivered across Leicestershire. This included continuing to build trusting relationships with all partners and being creative when it comes to joined up working to deliver the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategic priorities. Members highlighted the benefits of having regular development sessions to allow for more informal discussions to take place and drive the work of the Board forward.

Further development sessions will be planned in over the course of the next 12 months. Each session will be themed on the life course, focussing specifically on understanding what the challenges and opportunities at both system-wide and neighbourhood level are, and how these impact on Leicestershire. The role of the Health & Wellbeing Board as a place-based leader will be vital as we move in to 2024.

Recognising the challenges residents face and continuing to bring the community voice to the Board needs to be at the heart of the work being delivered. To strengthen this commitment, members will be asked to approve the addition of including representation from Voluntary Action Leicestershire on the Board, which is one of the items on today's agenda.

Intermediate Minor Oral Surgery Procurement

Early in September I was approached by members of the Leicestershire Dental Committee (LDC) in relation to some concerns they had with the procurement of the Intermediate Minor Oral Surgery. The LDC was hoping that the Health & Wellbeing Board would be able to facilitate a conversation to look at the process around the recent IMOS procurement. Due to the nature of the topic, I felt that it was better suited to go to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) for discussion.

The HOSC is due to meet tomorrow (1 November) and this will be one of the items on the agenda. The meeting can be viewed online via the County Council's YouTube Channel - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWFpwBLs6MnUzG0WjqrQtQ>

Engagement events

Since May I have attended several community events in and around Leicestershire to support a number of health and wellbeing initiatives. These include the launch of the 'Healthy Workplaces' at Birstall Fire Station – a programme designed to support organisations to better understand the health and wellbeing needs of its employees – and presenting several schools with bronze and silver Food Awards.

As an advocate for mental health awareness, I regularly contribute to a number of key network meetings that focus on mental health, including chairing the HWB Mental Health subgroup. Recently, as part of this year's mental health awareness day, I attended two community events in Syston and Thurmaston and was also present at the launch of the 'Mental Health Friendly Places' at John Storer House in Loughborough.

Earlier in the month I also attended the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Women's Health Summit. The summit was an opportunity to bring together key partners and stakeholders, primarily focussing on the challenges facing women's health and the need to better understand what is available, identifying any gaps in service provision and accessibility.

I continue to seek opportunities to strengthen relationships with partner organisations and understand how the Health and Wellbeing Board can play its part within the Integrated Care System (ICS). As a result, I have recently taken on the role of co-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership (also known as the Integrated Care Partnership or ICP in other areas) and have been asked to be a speaker on the panel at the ICS Network Conference to discuss '*What is the future of ICPs?*'.

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