

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 26 MAY 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 to the capacity of providers to meet increasing levels of need and the capacity of the Council to fund services.

Adult social care providers, like all sectors, continue with significant absence levels due to a range of issues, and recruitment remains a challenge. The Council and care providers have continued to maintain services to ensure flow through hospitals and provision for new community requests. The Department has re-opened its Home Care for Leicestershire framework with a view to increasing the number of care providers it can call upon to deliver home care services to ensure people can be supported at home. The contract is due to be awarded in June 2022. 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, although at a reducing level.

Despite the best efforts of care home providers in managing infection prevention and control and supporting their workers to take the COVID-19 vaccine, there remain a number of outbreaks in care homes with 10 homes out of 167 operational homes in Leicestershire experiencing an ongoing outbreak in mid-May. It is worth noting however that mortality rates have reduced and people showing symptoms have reported being less unwell. Spring COVID-19 boosters are being 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 increased outbreak level is the result of many factors including high levels of community transmission as a result of the ending of COVID-19 restrictions within the community.

Working together, the local authority and local NHS partners have funded workforce retention schemes including a local winter retention payment for staff in CQC registered services, as well as bringing forward the rise in National Living Wage from April to January for participating providers in order to support the social care workforce. 87% of providers agreed that the package improved morale and 70% of providers agreed that the package improved staff retention for the winter period

Some Community Life Choices (CLC) services have been impacted due to increased transmission rates, with some providers restricting services due to reduced staff numbers or outbreaks.

A key element in the social care reforms announced in September 2021 relates to market sustainability and the fee paid by local authorities. Local authorities are required to undertake cost of care exercise in the home care and residential care markets and to publish those reports; and develop a market sustainability plan which explains how the gap between the current fees and the fair cost of care will be bridged between 2023/24 and 2024/25, and produce a spend report, setting out the financial implications. The Council has begun analysis and market engagement to progress this work.

NHS

The LLR health and care system continues to work together to ensure our 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. Our longest waiting patients for elective care have benefitted from additional capacity being opened and delivered via our Vanguard theatres and this is being complemented by further work with our independent sector providers and partner NHS Trusts across the region.

Emergency care also remains under pressure, although we are seeing an increasing number of patients being seen and treated in their own homes, rather than via an ambulance conveyance and then admission to hospital. Primary care services are open and delivering in most cases, significantly more capacity than pre-pandemic, with a focus on our patients with multiple long-term conditions and those who are frail.

Despite challenges, NHS England has noted some innovative service delivery models across Leicestershire including after school children's clinics in general practice, local mental health crisis cafes in local areas and enhanced access to mental health services for children via a range of access points designed by our local children and young people.

Chair's Engagement

'Getting Help in Neighbourhood' Adults Mental Health Fund

There is a commitment across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland to increase opportunities for people to stay healthy and well with a particular focus on adult mental health and wellbeing.

In partnership with the NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups, the LLR Community Foundation's 'Getting help in Neighbourhoods' mental health grant fund is one element of a wider mental health transformation programme. It has been set up because the NHS LLR want to enable and increase local charitable, voluntary, community organisations to provide local activities for people aged 18+ to build resilience, provide opportunities and reduce health inequalities

On 9th March Mrs Richardson was invited to Chair the panel for Round#1 of the grant's application process. There were several successful applications from across

the county and Rutland which will further help provide mental health support and opportunities for adults locally. Applications for Round#2 are expected to open late spring/summer.

Further details about the grants process can be found here:

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

Health Watch Update

Healthwatch Leicester and Healthwatch Leicestershire (HWLL) are the independent voice for the public in health and social care services in Leicester and Leicestershire.

From 6 July to 15 September 2021 HWLL gathered the public's views and experiences of accessing their GP Practice. A copy of the full 'You are next in the queue' GP Access Report can be found here: <https://healthwatchll.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/HWLL-GP-Access-Report-February-2022.pdf>

In November 2021 HWLL carried out a piece of work to understand the experience of carers in relation to accessing Social Care Services. The full report can be found here: https://healthwatchll.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/HWLL_Carers_Insight_Report_March22.pdf

Chai, Coffee and Chat Event

Exclusion continues to impact on some communities leading to access issues, negative experience and more importantly, higher prevalence of health inequalities.

Healthwatch's aim is to develop a platform for marginalised voices to be heard and empower people through regular and ongoing engagement and involvement. This intervention aims to influence and inform services providers via a credible platform developed in co-production with marginalised people and Healthwatch Leicester and Healthwatch Leicestershire whilst also supporting the developing Integrated Care Systems agenda.

A 'Chai, coffee and chat' event was held at the Peepul Centre on 22 March 2022 with invites being extended to those communities that have engaged with Healthwatch over the last year. 50 people attended the event and key themes covered access to GPs, funding for Dementia services, hospitals and language barriers.

Leicestershire's 2045 Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan

Leicestershire County Council have declared a climate emergency and are committed to working with others across Leicestershire to become a net zero County by 2045.

Tackling the climate emergency is too big for one organisation working alone, it needs a joint effort - in the Strategy and Action Plan you'll find out how the County

Council is facing the challenge by encouraging residents, partners and businesses to help shape a greener future for the County, and for generations to come.

Your voice is crucial throughout this process. The Council seeking feedback from stakeholders across Leicestershire to hear their views on the draft Strategy and Action Plan. There will be a twelve-week public consultation period from May until July 2022 for you to 'Have your Say'.

Collectively, we can make a big difference!

[Click here to Have Your Say on Leicestershire's 2045 Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan.](#)

Local Government News

Fit for the Future

A new report by the District Councils' Network, entitled 'Fit for the Future', found that prescribing local leisure services to one million inactive people over the next decade could avoid nearly 50,000 preventable diseases and save the NHS more than £300m.

The full article 'Council leaders urge GPs to prescribe leisure centre trips' can be found here: <https://www.localgov.co.uk/Council-leaders-urge-GPs-to-prescribe-leisure-centre-trips/54197>

In the same week the report was published, Charnwood Borough Council launched its new 8-week initiative to encourage and support users of their community hubs to try out the facilities at the Loughborough Leisure Centre. The offer includes a subsidised membership throughout the 8-weeks. So far uptake has been positive.

Gypsy Roma and Traveller community face 'shocking' levels of discrimination

The House of Lords Public Committee have written to Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Secretary Michael Gove, following evidence regarding poor access to public services this year, to ask why the government and councils have failed to provide sufficient authorised sites for Gypsies and Travellers, including permanent sites and negotiated stopping sites.

The life expectancy of GRT people is also said to be 10-25 years less than the general population.

The full article '*Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people's experiences of public services including housing, health and education are marred by discrimination*' can be found here: <https://bit.ly/3ln7rl2>