

## Health & Wellbeing Board – 5th December 2024

### Chair's Position Statement

#### Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care services continue to face high demand with increasingly complex presentations, however, the numbers of people awaiting an assessment continues to fall.

Recruitment and retention remain a challenge for many adult social care providers but is mitigated in part by international workers carrying out social care work through the sponsorship scheme, supported by a regional team. The Council and care providers have maintained 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 HART service continues to deliver reablement to people supporting both increasing numbers of people in the community and to facilitate hospital discharges.

Limited capacity of older adults nursing care placements persists, alongside low numbers of people assessed as being eligible for Fast Track Continuing Health Care and Funded Nursing Care.

The eligible cohorts for the COVID-19 autumn/winter vaccination programme include people aged 65 and older, and those who live in a care home for older adults. Eligible cohorts for flu vaccination are similar. The campaigns have now begun. Frontline health and social care workers and staff working in care homes for older adults are also eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations, and NHS flu vaccines where their employer does not run their own vaccination scheme. A programme of one-off vaccinations for a major respiratory virus (RSV), is underway for those aged 75-79, which is a year-round offer delivered by GPs. As with previous campaigns, a health and social care team promotes and monitors uptake throughout the programme period. A free transport offer for people accessing vaccination sites is being offered locally, as well as a roving vaccination unit in operation in Leicestershire.

#### NHS

Our local NHS and care system remains under pressure as winter begins to impact. This year, our winter plan was written and approved by all NHS Boards in May 2024. This modelled a growth in both demand for non-acute care (such as virtual wards, GP appointments, increase in social care capacity etc) and acute care (such as hospital and ambulance based services). Each of these plans has largely delivered what each set out to deliver; however, we have noted a higher than planned level of demand on every health and care service. This spans the entire

pathway, from our citizens awaiting care in their homes to patients calling for 111 or 999 support to patients requiring support to leave bedded services. This has meant patient experience has deteriorated and our colleagues – regardless of which NHS or care badge they wear – are also under severe pressure.

The growth we have noted is particularly apparent through 999 and acute services. In late November, our ambulance services saw the highest call volume ever recorded in one day – over 3,000 calls across East Midlands Ambulance Services and over 1,000 people attending our Emergency Department in one day. Our General Practices have provided the highest numbers of appointments this month at over 600,000 appointments for our population. Given this pressure, further support has been agreed and due to commence on Dec 1<sup>st</sup>. This includes further GP appointments, strengthened staffing in the acute trust and further support capacity such as transport services for discharge. Whilst these additional services have been put in, it is clear that it will be a difficult time of year for all health and care services, and our population.

We would ask our citizens to support us by accessing all support available to them; ensuring their vaccinations for flu, COVID and RSV are up to date, immunisations for children and young people are completed on time, residents are aware of their care plans and how to access support in a crisis, and to use all alternatives to 999 and the emergency departments when safe to do so. There is also support from local government available on the council websites. We thank our residents for the continued support provided to help us provide safe services over this pressured period.

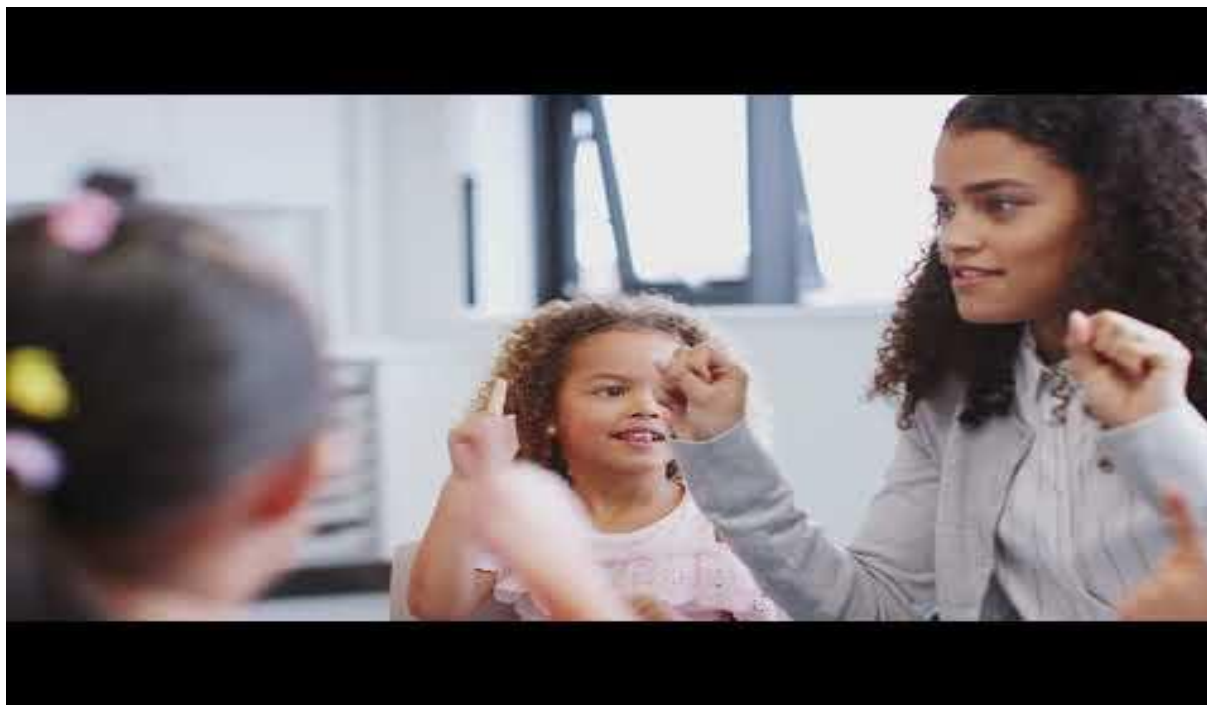
#### **UPDATE - HWB Annual Report 2023-24**

The HWB Annual Report 2023-24 has been published on the HWB website and both the Full Report and Executive Summary can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/leicestershire-health-and-wellbeing-board/about-the-health-and-wellbeing-board>

The Annual Report highlights the joint commitment and hard work of all our partners to improve the health and wellbeing of our Leicestershire residents. Thank you to our partners within the ICB, LPT, UHL, Police, VCS, Healthwatch OPCC, districts and our colleagues within the county council – children and families and adult social care.

A video summarising the Annual Report to make it more accessible to all has just been produced. The video can be viewed here: [https://youtu.be/pWpr\\_LKpkyl](https://youtu.be/pWpr_LKpkyl)



An article promoting the work of the Board and the Annual Report can also be found in the Winter'24 edition of Leicestershire Matters.

### **Chair's Engagement**

I value the opportunity to attend both partnership and community engagement events to celebrate the work happening across Leicestershire to improve health and wellbeing.

An active member of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership (also known as ICP), I recently attended the ICP forum and a cross-government departments' discussion on the ICS child strategy, which includes child poverty.

I also recently took part in the stakeholder sessions for the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) post within the ICB as part of the interview process.

Over the last month I have been fortunate to visit both The Simulator Company, in Coalville, who are pioneers in advanced circulatory therapy simulators, and the launch of the Renal Dialysis unit in Wigston.

The unit is a highly modern space, offering dialysis to a number of users with the opportunity to increase capacity, supporting more patients, going forward. I was able to speak to both patients and nursing staff and was impressed to see they also have a training unit for those wishing to do dialysis at home. Talking to one of the professionals, the common reasons for

kidney failure for those using the unit are diabetes, being overweight, heart problems, all issues we try to prevent through Public Health and early intervention.

The J23 Truck Stop is a collaborative project with Public Health & LPT colleagues and was established to address the heightened risk of suicide on that section of the motorway. One of our key aims is to support the truck stop to become a Mental Health Friendly Place. Through hosting this type of event partners have been able to engage directly with truck drivers, gaining insight into the gaps in support they experience and understanding what resources they feel are most needed within their community. These events have also provided an opportunity for partners to raise awareness about local support services.

#### **UPDATE - Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4): Sept'24 HWB Agenda Item**

The HWB members welcomed the opportunity to have our planning partners present to update on the LTP4 at the last HWB meeting in September 2024. It highlights the strengthening relationships that have been forged over recent months, helping to raise the profile of the impacts of wider determinants on health and the need to factor in health considerations in environment and transport plans.

Going forward the planning team wish to continue engaging with the HWB and intend to provide further updates as the next phases develop.

Post meeting update: following a question at the September meeting around the engagement on LTP4 with the UHL's an action was taken away by the UHL Board member to follow up. As a result, useful feedback and comments have since been received from the UHL's as part of the wider consultation via the consultation survey.