

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND ADULT SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEETING, 21ST JULY, 2021

Present – Councillors Pattison (Chairman), Haworth (Vice-Chairman), Dean, Donaghy, Finney (as deputy for Councillor Eckersley- Fallon), Grant, Khurram, McMulkin, Peel (as deputy for Councillor Ibrahim), Radcliffe, Rimmer, Sherrington and Taylor-Burke.

Lay Members

Ms. S. Hilton	-	Age UK (Bolton)
Ms. A. Schenk	-	Health Watch Bolton

Also in attendance

Councillor Morgan	-	Executive Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care
Councillor Baines	-	Executive Cabinet Member for Wellbeing
Ms. R. Tanner	-	DASS / Managing Director ICP
Dr. F. Noden	-	Chief Executive Bolton NHSFT
Mr. I. D. Mulholland	-	Deputy Democratic Services Manager

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Eckersley-Fallon, Ibrahim, Fletcher and Bagnall and Helen Lowey, Director of Public Health.

Councillor Pattison in the Chair.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31st March, 2021 were submitted, together with the minutes of the informal meeting held on 6th July, 2021.

Resolved – That the minutes be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2. THE COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME, 2021/22

The Committee received a report which set out details of the proposed work programme items for the ensuing Municipal Year.

Members also referred to the issue of a standing Covid item and it was explained that all items being presented would have a covid thread. Mention was made of having a specific Covid item as needed.

Resolved – That the work programme be approved and that two items be added to the list, viz –

- Update on meals on wheels service; and
- Matters around qualified nurses and the numbers staying in Bolton.

3. ACUTE CARE BUSINESS PRIORITIES – URGENT CARE AND ELECTIVE RECOVERY

Dr. Fiona Noden, Chief Executive of Bolton NHS Foundation Trust gave a presentation which focused on the effect of Covid 19 on acute care business priorities which included urgent care, cancer, surgery/elective care and planning for summer, autumn and winter.

Members were advised that attendance at urgent care was rising and in July, 2020 daily attendances of over 420 patients to the Emergency Department were recorded. Mention was also made of the age groups attending and the areas with the most attendances were located close to the hospital site. The increased numbers were not linked to covid but rather a change in culture and there was a similar position around the country.

The effects of this included overcrowding and longer waiting times.

F3

The proportion of attendances resulting in admission to a ward started to reduce and remained steady from mid-March at around 23%, with a further slight decrease since the start of June.

In terms of actions undertaken, the Committee was advised of:

Investment of over £12m capital –

- New minor injuries;
- Expanded resuscitation facilities;
- Expanded majors capacity;
- Ambulance drop off capacity; and
- New 19 trolley Same day Emergency Care facility.

Investment in staffing of over £2m –

- 5 new consultants;
- Increased GP support; and
- Increased nursing and AHP support.

In terms of Elective Services members were advised that even though referrals were 21% above pre-pandemic levels, cancer performance had been recovered.

Statistical information relating to the numbers of patients waiting – incomplete pathways - over 18 weeks was also provided, as was the detail of the numbers waiting for surgery.

Members were also informed that this winter it was expected that viral infection rates would soar:

- Covid will remain - with surges;
- Bronchiolitis season that impacted children in November already started – and was expected to be 20-100% worse than usual;
- Flu is expected to be worse; and
- Norovirus was likely to be worse than usual.

In terms of next steps, the Committee was informed by Fiona of the following -

Redesigned triage service, with senior decision maker at the front to stream patients away from Emergency Department GP (on site and their own with booked appointment):

- Mental Health;
- Same day emergency care;
- See and treat services;
- Recruitment across the board both substantive and temporary for all staff;
- Review Estate to increase infection control capacity; and
- Restrictions on visiting and enhanced infection control measures will stay in place for the foreseeable future.

Members in their discussions referred to:

- Staff workload, the fantastic work they did and looking after staff;
- Roll out of flu vaccines;
- Children and young people numbers to A&E;
- GP's and possible rise in consultations when things got more back to normal;
- Numbers of patients waiting for treatment;
- Access to services;
- Recruitment of staff;
- Pressures on Emergency Departments;
- Re-development of the hospital site;
- Resources;
- The offer in local areas;
- Delivery of a better NHS offer;
- Mental health investment;
- Support in place for staff;
- Thanks to the staff for their work; and
- Assessment of waiting lists.

Resolved – That Dr. Noden be thanked for her detailed and informative presentation and that the position be noted.

4. MEMBERS BUSINESS

The Committee received the extracts of minutes of other meetings of the Council relevant to the remit of this Committee:-

F5

- (a) Executive Cabinet Member Wellbeing held on 12th April, 4th May and 14th June, 2021; and
- (b) Executive Cabinet Member Adult Social Care held on 12th April and 14th June, 2021.

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting be noted.

(The meeting started at 6.00 p.m. and finished at 7.25 p.m.)

F6

NOTES