

TEES VALLEY JOINT HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

20 November 2020

The meeting commenced at 10:00 am via Microsoft Teams.

Present:

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council: Councillors Sandra Smith (Chair) and B Clarke.

Darlington Borough Council: Councillors B Donoghue and W Newall.

Hartlepool Borough Council: Councillor B Harrison.

Middlesbrough Borough Council: Councillors A Hellaoui, E Polano and J Rathmell.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council: Councillors E Cunningham, C Gamble and L Hall.

Also Present: Angela Armstrong, Hartlepool Borough Council
Caroline Breheny, Middlesbrough Borough Council
Hannah Fay, Darlington Borough Council
Gary Woods, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Mark Adams, Director of Public Health
Dominic Gardner, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust

Officers: D Boville, RCBC Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer

9. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted for Councillors I Bell (Darlington Borough Council), G Hall and B Loynes (Hartlepool Borough Council) and D Rees (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council).

10. Declarations of Interest

None.

11. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2020

The minutes were approved.

12. Local Covid Response

The Director of Public Health (South Tees) gave a presentation on the Tees Valley response to the Covid 19 pandemic. Major public health support

packages were being focused on the following areas:

- Localised, regionally coordinated Test, Trace and Isolate programme. This would allow a local voice to engage with a potential covid contact at first instance to establish a more helpful dialogue.
- Behavioural Insights programme to support compliance. Residents were mainly suffering from frustration, boredom and irritation due to the restrictions and so work needed to be undertaken within communities to frame appropriate messages.
- Roll-out of targeted frequent, rapid, ‘Lateral Flow’ testing for:
 - Designated visitors for care home residents.
 - Peripatetic domiciliary care staff.
 - Daily testing of care home staff.
- Protection of vulnerable individuals in the community.
- Preparation for rapid implementation of a vaccine programme. It was expected that the vaccination would be rolled out to care home staff and residents at the beginning of December 2020.

As part of the ensuing discussion, the following points were made:

- The setting up of a testing station at Belmont House, Guisborough was being considered.
- A staggered approach to children returning to school may help to lessen any potential resulting increases in the infection rate, but this would be a Government decision.
- The vaccine would be rolled out through the NHS, local authorities would need to work with their communities to encourage take up.
- Lateral flow tests were very accurate at determining if a person did not have the covid virus in their system. These should be available for care homes before Christmas.
- It was important that residents who did not have access to digital services also received accurate public health information:-**NOTED**

13. Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust Updates

The Director of Operations – Teesside for the Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust (TEWV) presented an update on a number of issues that had been raised previously by the Committee.

West Lane Hospital – Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

- NHS England had decided to restore CAMHS inpatient services to the West Lane Hospital site, with Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust Foundation Trust (CNTW) being appointed as the interim provider.
- TEWV would continue to provide outpatient and community CAMHS services from West Lane Hospital.
- TEWV would work closely with CNTW to ensure a joined-up approach between the CAMHS inpatient and community services.
- TEWV was supporting the cost of travel and accommodation for young people receiving treatment outside of the Tees Valley if they would have been admitted to West Lane Hospital.
- The CAMHS inpatient service would be staffed by CNTW but based at West Lane Hospital.
- Young people from Darlington were currently accessing the service at Prudhoe.

Roseberry Park Hospital Remedial Works

- Delays to the completion dates of the remedial works had occurred as a result of unplanned work required within the blocks and this had been exacerbated by the pandemic.
- Mental Health Services for Older People demonstrated an average patient satisfaction rate (excellent or good) of 94% for the period January -October 2020 compared to 100% for the same period in 2019. The change can be attributed to the behaviour of a particular patient and some of the changes that had to be made to visiting and leave arrangements as a result of covid. No negative comments had been received regarding the location of the service.
- Mental Health Services for Older People demonstrated an average carer experience rate of 86% for the period January -October 2020 compared to 93% for the same period in 2019. A review of carer comments had identified the location of the unit as a difficulty along with negative comments associated with communication with carers potentially impacted by covid and restricted visiting.
- There had been a drop in occupancy levels as the public perception at the start of the pandemic was that the NHS was not to be used. Following a big publicity push, occupancy was now back at pre-covid levels.

- It was expected that Mental Health Services for Older People would move back into Roseberry Park by mid-summer.
- Almost all of the staff had moved with their patients which was a real positive for service users but had resulted in longer days for the staff. Sandwell was a nice unit which felt quite homely.
- The associated court case was expected to continue for some time but TEWV felt it had a strong case. TEWV was still committed to investing in Teesside.

Teesside Rehabilitation Services Development

- Kirkdale Ward at Roseberry Park Hospital had closed at the end of January 2020. The 2 remaining inpatients had been transferred to Lustrum Vale, Stockton and had since been discharged.
- The community rehabilitation service had been expanded and its hours of operation extended to 08:00-22:00hrs over 7 days.
- There was now increased capacity for referrals and more intensive support for recovery programmes.
- Staffing at Lustrum Vale had been changed to better reflect service user need.
- From April-September 2020 there was a 0% re-referral rate to rehabilitation services.
- TEWV was working to complete the evaluation of the impact new working model.
- TEWV was currently working on ways to combat the mental health issues arising out of the covid pandemic and initial plans had been drawn up for crisis intervention. Call centres had been set up across the Tees Valley and similar services had been established for Durham and Darlington.
- A whole system approach had been taken to ensure the most effective service was being provided. Staffing had been reallocated based on where they would be most effective but there had been no redundancies.

14. Work Programme and Future Meetings

The Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer presented the work programme for the coming municipal year and advised that this would be updated following comments from today's meeting:-**NOTED**

15. Any other business

The Chair advised that each authority's Health Scrutiny Committee would have been provided an update from NHS England on procurement arrangements for specialist orthodontist services. Redcar & Cleveland Borough Councillors had been invited to comment directly if they so wished:-**NOTED**