

Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee

Overview Meeting 2022

15 February 2022

Adults and Health

Context

Members are reminded of the Council's Vision that supports decision-making:

A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm

- This means the Borough will be a place where:
 - People live in cohesive and safe communities
 - People are supported and protected from harm
 - People live healthy lives

A place that is clean, vibrant and attractive

- This means we will enjoy:
 - Great places to live and visit
 - Clean and green spaces
 - Rich cultural experiences

A place with a thriving economy where everyone has opportunities to succeed

- This means that the Borough will have:
 - A growing economy
 - Improved education and skills development
 - Job creation and increased employment

The Council plays its part in making sure this is achieved by being a Council that is ambitious, effective and proud to serve.

- This means that we will make sure that we provide:
 - Financial sustainability and value for money
 - Dedicated and resourceful employees
 - Strong leadership and governance

Performance Reporting

Performance across the Council Plan was reported on a six-monthly basis to Executive Scrutiny Committee. Please see the link:

<http://www.egenda.stockton.gov.uk/aksstockton/users/public/admin/kab71.pl?cmte=SCR>

ADULTS AND HEALTH

Director – Ann Workman

Relevant services include:

- Adult Services
- Adult Operational Services
- Public Health
- Environmental Health Unit

COUNCIL PLAN 2021-2024

The Council Plan sets out the aims and objectives for all services and is refreshed on an annual basis.

The key 2021-2022 priorities for Adults and Health are attached at Appendix 1.

INTRODUCTION

This overview report covers Adult Social Care and Public Health, it reflects on the ongoing response to the Covid 19 Pandemic and identifies challenges we are experiencing and opportunities for the coming year. The work being undertaken in Adult Social Care has continued to raise the profile of the skill, compassion and dedication of not only the Stockton on Tees Borough Council staff but also the wider Social Care Workforce across local Care Homes, Care at Home support, Independent and Supported Living, Extra Care, Day Options, Personal Assistants, Carers Services etc. Our Public Health and Environmental Health teams have also continued to work with great commitment, care and resilience. Public Health has provided exemplary Covid management to the Council, providers of social care, work places and education settings and supporting and working with our vulnerable communities. The team has continued to deliver a range of ongoing health and wellbeing work throughout the pandemic, including domestic abuse, substance misuse, sexual health, tobacco control and alcohol. Environmental Health has also continued to provide its core services over the past year, covering animal welfare, food safety, pest control, health at work and environmental protection. This is in addition to the highly valued support they have played to the Covid management effort, particularly the support to our care sector.

ADULT SERVICES – CHALLENGES

Government Guidance – We have continued to respond quickly and flexibly to all Government Guidance, in ASC this relates to numerous areas but in particular to the following;

- Care Sector
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Testing
- Care Home Visiting
- Designated Settings
- Infection, Prevention and Control
- Mandatory Vaccination

Workforce

Staff have adapted extremely well to significant changes in the way that they work and the way services are provided. Some staff adapted to working from home, returned to the office on a flexible working pilot and then again worked from home. Staff in our provider services have utilised technology to ensure that those people who are unable to access services in person can continue to stay connected with staff and friends.

- Social Work Assessment
- Occupational Therapy Assessment
- Care Homes – Support
- Care at Home
- Day Options
- Carers
- Independent Living
- Hospital
- Integrated Discharge Arrangements
- Reablement
- Designated Setting
- Safeguarding Adults
- Mental Health
- Learning Disability

Care Sector

- Support to local providers
- Provider Forums
- Newsletters
- Infection, Prevention and Control – North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust/Environmental Health/Public Health/SBC
- Covid Safety
- Public Health
- Support re Government Guidance
- PPE
- Psychological Support – Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust

NHS Partnership Working

- Integration across Intermediate Care Services
- Reablement
- Occupational Therapy
- Equipment
- Single Point
- Hospital Discharge
- Support in the Community

Safeguarding Adults

Under Sections 42-45 of the Care Act 2014, Adult Safeguarding continues to be the responsibility of the Local Authority and local Statutory Partners to keep Adults safe from abuse or neglect with a clear view in avoiding any breach of Human Rights. All Safeguarding Work is continuing through the pandemic:

- Face to Face visits although restricted – circumstances considered
- Mental Health and Substance Misuse

- Domestic Abuse
- Rise in fraud/scams
- E-Learning
- Use of digital solutions/zoom/teams

As part of its social care reform agenda, the Government published ['Build Back Better: Our Plan for Health and Social Care'](#) in September 2021.

ADULT SERVICES – OPPORTUNITIES

Following wide consultation, we have published a new Adult Social Care Strategy 2021-2025, this has been received extremely well with feedback being that it is an interesting and easy read and clear to see what our priorities are.

Our vision for Adult Social Care in Stockton-on-Tees is that people can get the right level and type of support at the right time to help, prevent, reduce or delay the need for ongoing support and maximise their independence

To achieve our vision we will be focussing on the following priorities:

- To provide support to people to prevent, reduce or delay the need for ongoing support and maximise their independence.
- To ensure people can get the right level and type of support at the right time
- To develop and support our staff and to support providers of social care services to develop and support their staff
- To work with, and within, communities.

In the coming year we will be continuing to adapt and develop and build on the great work that is already taking place.

Good leadership is key to the provision of good quality care. We will be continuing to develop the leadership skills within our own teams and in the care sector workforce across the borough, Our Well Led programme has helped 47 people gain confidence and develop their leadership skills. We are now in the fourth cohort with another 18 leaders attending.

We will be focussing on how we can improve our engagement and involvement with people who are supported by our services, their carers and families and the communities we serve. We receive great feedback about how we support people on an individual basis and we want to develop this further by establishing solid foundations for people to be involved in the co-production of the services we offer.

We want to work with providers to increase the offer of service provision within the borough to reduce the number of placements that are out of borough and consider whether there are additional services we want to provide ourselves. In the last year we have brought two services in-house; Shared Lives, which is a form of residential care provided within a family home, and a Home Improvement Service, which support people to live independently.

We want to improve recruitment and retention in the social care workforce and will be piloting a Care Academy.

We have established good partnership working with the NHS and we will be continuing to working with them to respond collectively to the on-going pandemic.

We will also be preparing to respond to the Department of Health & Social Care White Paper: People at the Heart of Care.

PUBLIC HEALTH – CHALLENGES

Covid-19 outbreak management and response

Public Health has continued to lead the approach Covid management for the Borough, working closely with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA – previously Public Health England) regional health protection team and neighbouring local authorities. This has involved support and close working with a wide range of settings and direct working with vulnerable people across the Borough, to provide infection control advice, risk assessment support, interpreting national guidance, management of outbreaks and management of Covid-19 cases and their contacts. The team has provided strategic direction and oversight, working into CMT and closely with the Lead Member for Health, Leisure and Culture as well as sighting the Leader and wider Elected Members and partners on the local picture and approach to outbreak management. Public Health has been well supported in its reactive Covid response work and contact tracing, through support from across the Adults and Health directorate and wider support from other areas of the Council. The team has had very positive feedback from a range of partners and settings such as schools, on the service they have provided. We have also worked very closely with national and regional colleagues to ensure a robust local testing offer; and with NHS partners to improve access to and promote the Covid vaccination.

Wider core Public Health work

The Public Health team has worked with great flexibility throughout the pandemic, working long and varied hours, taking on a range of new roles and carrying significant responsibilities around protecting the health of our local population. Alongside Covid management, the team has continued to deliver on a range of key work areas (including our statutory responsibilities) to ensure ongoing support to improving the health of our local communities protecting the most vulnerable and leading on addressing health inequalities. This has included working with our services to adapt to providing support in different ways such as remote discussions and online support as well as ongoing face-to-face provision for the most vulnerable. Key work areas included:

- Support to families and children through the 0-19 service (health visiting and public health school nursing), including to the most vulnerable families linking closely with safeguarding colleagues and other services
- Substance misuse
- Domestic abuse including the provision of additional related support around housing and around children using the dedicated Government grant to local authorities
- Alcohol misuse including the commissioning of inpatient detox and public health communications work on alcohol harms and cancer
- Tobacco control
- Sexual health
- Mental wellbeing – including additional bereavement support to care home staff
- Holiday enrichment fund programme and working on the health schools programme together with children's services colleagues
- Analysis and interpretation of population health intelligence to inform strategic planning and action plans e.g. health needs assessment on speech, language and communication
- Supporting the healthy place agenda and working across the Council and wider system on the physical activity and health weight agenda e.g. active hospitals, active travel,

development of the physical activity framework and community-based activity such as walking resources

We have continued to service and support the Health and Wellbeing Board in its work across partners; as well as leading and / or supporting other key strategic forums e.g. domestic abuse, community safety / violence prevention, Tees Safeguarding Adults Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH – OPPORTUNITIES

As we move through the next stages of the pandemic, we will continue to provide direction, support and delivery locally to keeping our communities as safe as possible. As the national policy context continues to develop, we will be working with our regional colleagues and other partners to ensure we have a resilient local health protection system for the future, helping us to cope with further waves / variants of Covid and with other health protection challenges such as flu and maintaining our good local childhood immunisation rates.

We are very keen to integrate the learning from the past two years, into our everyday practice, including different ways for the local community to access our services. Locally we have also commissioned the Covid community champions programme and have worked very closely with them to understand perceptions of Covid, testing, the vaccine etc. in the community and to seek to remove barriers that prevent local communities from being protected. This presents us with a great opportunity for future working, to build further on this model around Covid recovery, given the medium and longer term impact the pandemic will have on our local people, particularly those with existing disadvantage or health and wellbeing needs. Public Health are developing and implementing a programme of activity around this together with the champions, which we are looking forward to progressing further e.g. around mental wellbeing support and supporting the community to access preventative measures to improve their wellbeing such as health checks.

We also look forward to progressing further our key areas of public health work beyond Covid-19, building on our good relationships across the Council and with local businesses, education settings and the care sector. This includes the further development of our work on 'healthy place' as part of our efforts to address health inequalities and continuing to progress the Better Health at Work Award programme to support general population wellbeing and impact on the local economy and business continuity.

As the Integrated Care System continues to evolve across the North East and more locally, we will continue to work across the Council and all key partners as the lead on health inequalities, to define strategic priorities for addressing health inequalities and to provide strategic direction on how to address these. We are developing an updated approach to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to support this, in liaison with Tees Valley colleagues and the NHS and reporting in to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This will support the refresh of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy in the context of the ICS system, defining local priorities and measures of impact for the borough. We have established local multi-agency intelligence meetings reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board, to enable joint analysis and interpretation of our collective intelligence around specific key issues across the health and wellbeing system. The aim is to produce or shape recommendations for action e.g. repeat need for social care / hospital admission / A&E attendance; and support to people with multiple vulnerabilities particularly domestic abuse, mental health needs and substance misuse. The renewed duty and focus for health partners regarding health inequalities provides a good opportunity for further joint working on the complex problems that impact on all organisations working to support people's health and wellbeing.

Locally we are also working closely with our NHS trust partners (NTHFT and TEWV), the CCG and primary care networks to agree priorities around prevention and health inequalities

across the system. The wider development of the ICS system also provides the opportunity for further joined up working across health, social care and public health, building on our existing strong working relationships.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – CHALLENGES

We have played a key role in supporting Public Health in the Covid response, providing additional capacity to the response team who have been supporting key settings with the management of outbreaks and response to cases; and with contact tracing to advise contacts of cases to isolate and to ensure they have access to the support they need. An important part of the team's role has been working closely with adult services and public health colleagues on the response to care homes. They have also lead the Care Home Protection Group – a multi-agency group ensuring coordinated information and support to care homes throughout the pandemic, which has been highly valued given the plethora of government guidance, quick changes in policy and pressures on care homes around issues such as staffing and PPE. The team has also supported by visiting care homes together with the public health team – both proactively and in response to outbreaks – to provide support and advice on infection prevention and control.

Balancing the ongoing Covid-related work with wider core Environmental Health work has been a challenge that the team has risen to very successfully and they have continued to deliver across their service areas to an excellent standard. The animal welfare team was again awarded the RSCPA Gold PawPrint award in 2021, recognising their exemplary work in going the extra mile to ensure higher animal welfare standards working with stray dogs.

The food safety team was one of the best performing teams in the region in its work with food premises, so helping to protect the health of our local communities. Their approach is to work closely with businesses to support them to achieve high standards, with a programme of inspection that recognises this and takes more robust action only when needed.

The pandemic has served to highlight inequalities nationally and locally and has proved especially challenging for many of those with mental and physical health needs. Among its other work, the public protection team follows up filthy and verminous premises where the causes or contributing factors are often mental ill health, social isolation and sometimes physical health needs. The team has continued to link closely with adult social care colleagues to help ensure the needs of these individuals are met.

It will remain important to ensure we have the appropriate trained capacity in both Environmental Health and Public Health locally given the national challenges in recruitment for these areas of work, to help ensure we continue to protect and improve the health of our local population.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – OPPORTUNITIES

We are looking forward to continuing building the close links across Environmental Health, Public Health and Adult Services over the coming year, particularly the synergies with social care and the work to future-proof our local health protection system.

In addition, the service will be continuing its programme of training which includes food safety training as well as food nutrition, linking to school catering and Public Health. A key area of further work is around air quality, which will be progressed further this year as the support to the Covid response work changes. Environmental Health leads the Air Quality working group, which will be looking further at opportunities around education of children and

families on air quality based on learning from elsewhere, linking with schools and wider Council partners. There are also opportunities to link this to the broader Public Health and wider Council work around active travel and health places.

We are very keen to maintain the significant benefits brought by the Care Home Protection Group arrangements through the pandemic, and the group has recently been expanded to cover the broader care sector. Environmental Health will work closely with Public Health, adult services, providers and partners to reinforce and develop the support in place around home care as well as continuing the support to care homes, in relation to infection prevention and control and Covid-19. This also includes broader messaging around wellbeing in Winter, particularly around other infections such as flu and with ongoing links to the hospital trust.

SUMMARY

Overall, it has again been a busy year with many challenges that our staff have responded to exceptionally well. I am immensely proud of all staff across Adult Social Care, Public Health and Environmental Health, for their commitment, hard work, innovation and focus on the local people of Stockton-on-Tees Borough.

POTENTIAL AREAS FOR IN-DEPTH REVIEW

Members are reminded that topics are being sought for the Scrutiny Work Programme 2022-2023. Using the information provided as part of the performance updates and this Overview meeting, the Committee is invited to identify potential topics for review within this theme.

Proposed topic suggestion to be considered at Executive Scrutiny Committee on 22 March 2022.

- In light of the imminent start of a review of 'Care at Home' by the Adult Social Care and Health Select Committee (which is likely to run well into the 2022-2023 municipal year), no further topics are proposed at this time.

APPENDIX 1: COUNCIL PLAN – KEY PRIORITIES 2021-2022 (ADULTS AND HEALTH)

Making the Borough a place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm means creating a place where:

- People live in cohesive and safe communities
- People are supported and protected from harm
- People live healthy lives

We have identified these key priorities for 2021-22 to help us achieve this vision. This year we will:

- Improve the support we give to families to help them stay together where they can and to provide more capacity in the Borough to support children where this isn't possible.
- Develop more services to help people to remain safely and independently in their homes for as long as possible and to make sure that they are not lonely.
- Improve the quality of care within adults' residential homes in the Borough and to support them as they continue to adapt to dealing with the challenges arising from COVID-19.
- Review out of area placements and day options provision for adults to ensure as many services as possible are provided within the Borough.
- Continue to lead the public health response to COVID-19 and support the approach to recovery, working with partners in the Health and Wellbeing Board
- Work with the NHS on the proposals as outlined in the 'Integration and Innovation' White Paper and the forthcoming Health and Care Bill.
- Develop a new approach to tackling inequality in the Borough and to ensure that we deliver targeted support and help to those currently living in poverty to improve their outcomes, including around health inequalities and emotional health and wellbeing.