

# Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee was held on Tuesday, 11th December, 2018.

**Present:** Cllr John Tennant (Chair) (HBC);

Cllr Wendy Newall (DBC), Cllr Eddie Heslop (DBC), Cllr Rachel Osbaldeston (DBC), Cllr. Evaline Cunningham (SBC), Ian Jeffrey (RCBC)

**Officers:** Peter Mennear, Michael Henderson (SBC), Joan Stevens (HBC), Katie Bannister (MBC), Caroline Breheny (MBC) Alison Pearson (RCBC), Rachel Osbaldeston (DBC)

**Also in attendance:** Jo Heaney, Louise Staener (CCG), Paul Liversidge (NEAS), Mark Cotton (NEAS), Julie Daneshyar (PHE)

**Apologies:** Cllr Lisa Grainge (SBC), Cllr Lynn Hall (SBC), Cllr Shamal Biswas, Cllr Lorraine Tostevin, Cllr Jan Taylor, Cllr Norah Cooney, Cllr Julie McGee

## **1 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **2 Minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 September 2018 were confirmed as a correct record with the addition of Cllr Cunningham to the Apologies.

## **3 Recommissioning of Increasing Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT)**

Members considered a report that provided an update on the current IAPT programme delivery and the commissioning process.

Members were reminded that the Committee had received a report on the re-commissioning of IAPT in September 2018 and, at that meeting, the CCG had agreed to take advice on what information it could pass to the Committee in terms of details of the bidders, involved in the procurement process.

The Committee was informed that, advice around the contract, indicated that information about the identity of bidders was commercially sensitive and could not be provided.

It was suggested that, if companies were bidding for public services, the process should be open and transparent. Members agreed that consideration should be given to submitting a Freedom of Information request for the information. Prior to this, it was agreed further information would be sought from the CCG's procurement team.

RESOLVED that:

1. the report be noted.
2. further clarification be sought from the CCG Procurement Team, and if necessary consideration be given to submitting a Freedom of Information request, to acquire details of the bidders in the IAPT commissioning process.

#### 4 Tees and Darlington Suicide Prevention Plans

Consideration was given to presentations, relating to suicide prevention, in the Tees Valley.

Members were provided with:

- the Tees Suicide Prevention Strategic Plan and Action Plan 2016 - 2021.
- Darlington Suicide Prevention Plan 2017 - 2022.
- Suicide Prevention Scrutiny Guidance, issued by the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

Members noted that the Strategic Plan's Vision was to reduce suicides, within Teesside by 10% by 2021. The Plan covered arrangements across Middlesbrough, Hartlepool, Stockton and Redcar and Cleveland (Darlington had its own stand-alone Action Plan) and was based on the six key areas for action, set nationally:

- Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups
- Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups.
- reduce access to the means of suicide.
- provide better information and support to those bereaved, or affected by Suicide.
- support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour.
- support research data collection and monitoring.

The Action Plan included an additional priority, relating to sustaining current funding.

Issue raised and discussion:-

- the local STP had the highest rate of suicide in the country.
- Suicide prevention was a high priority in the Mental Health Five Year Forward View.
- A bid had been made for funding £400k across the STP footprint. This would provide funding for two years and enhance current work. Possible uses of the funding included audit and analysis, Early Warning Systems in Primary Care, self harm pathways, and support for men under 'Team Talk'.
- reference was made to austerity and Universal credit and it was suggested that this had had an impact on suicide rates. It was noted that nationally the Mental Health First Aid course had been provided to all Job Centre Plus staff,

with 2000 staff trained to a higher level.

- members queried the suicide rate in the prison system. It was noted that work was on going in this area and information could be provided to the Committee.

- the Tees Suicide Prevention Taskforce was developing a Communication Strategy.

- There was improved data collection in place with the Coroner. Members noted the 8 week wait for toxicology reports to be concluded and the impact this could have on families. It was explained that this timescale could not be reduced, given the processes involved. Members were informed that families could receive support through the Cruse bereavement service and the Coroner's bereavement support service.

- it was noted that self-harm was a high risk factor in suicides and there would be a greater focus on this, in the refreshed plan.

- it was noted that GPs had access to suicide prevention training and audit data, around high risk groups.

- frontline staff, in organizations, could access training via the training hub. Some organizations had their own Mental Health e.g. DWP, where staff were trained to recognize signs and symptoms of distress.

- the Time to change campaign worked to reduce the stigma around Mental Health and was promoted locally and nationally.

At this point the Committee was provided with a presentation on the Darlington Suicide Prevention Plan 2017 - 2022. Like the Tees Plan, it was based on the 6 national key areas.

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### Discussion

- Darlington had real time surveillance already in place. Data collection included the details of 'near misses' and this inform what prevention measures worked best.

- Darlington had seen 36 suicides over the past 3 years. In a third of these cases the individuals had accessed their GP less than 3 months before the suicide. The total numbers were higher than national averages but there was no concern regarding increasing numbers.

- strengthening communities attitude and understanding of mental health issues was an important way of preventing suicide.

- Cruse support services were decommissioned as part of the IAPT review. Local voluntary support was available in Darlington.

- Suicide data by ward was not currently available.
- it was suggested that the Committee could continue consideration of suicide prevention at a future meeting and this could include input from the Police and the Criminal Justice System e.g. prisons
- Poster work with young people in Darlington had taken place and this had been a positive piece of work. It was agreed to share the images with the Committee.
- mental Health support was provided within drugs and alcohol services and data on this could be provided to the Committee.
- suicide amongst veterans was difficult to accurately record, so there was little reliable data available but national data suggested a higher level amongst this group.

RESOLVED that:

1. the updates and discussion be noted.
2. Suicide and the criminal justice system be considered, as a future work programme item for the Committee.
3. Details of the work with young people be shared with the Committee.

## **5 North East Ambulance Service Update**

Consideration was given to a presentation provided by North East Ambulance Service relating to resources and service performance. Performance data for Tees Valley CCGs was also circulated.

Discussion;-

- it was queried if there was an issue around retaining paramedics, once trained , as there seemed to be a shortfall. It was noted that paramedics were still coming through, however, there was an issue for the NHS in general, with regard to health professionals, so paramedics were going to other settings, like primary care and urgent care centers. This was being countered by trying to implement a rotation system for paramedics. This was beneficial to staff and patients, as skills were broadened. It was suggested that it would also help with stress levels.
- it was noted that third party ambulance providers were still used as a consequence of gaps in the workforce. However, they were only used for low priority situations. It was envisaged that, from April 2019, the service would rely solely on its own staff for all work.
- The potential impact on the Tees valley of the results of the ambulance service's resources review had been modelled and was outlined to the Committee. There was a focus on increasing the number of dual crewed ambulances available to meet the new national response times.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

## **6 Roseberry Park Task and Finish Group**

Members were provided with an update, on a review, relating to Roseberry Park that had been undertaken by a Task and Finish Group, established by the Joint Committee.

The Chair of the Group explained that the Task and Finish Group had considered a comprehensive final report that was now the subject of accuracy and legal checks. The report would come back to this Committee, in the New Year.

It was explained that the report was very positive and the Task and Finish Group members had been particularly impressed by the dedication of the staff involved. Generally, patients, families and staff had been satisfied with the level of care that they had received, given the circumstances.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

## **7 Committee Work Programme**

Members considered its work programme and agreed it subject to the meeting, scheduled for 21st March being brought forward, as it was likely to fall into the purdah period.