

# Health & Wellbeing Board

A meeting of Health & Wellbeing Board was held on Wednesday 25 October 2023.

**Present:** Cllr Bob Cook (Chair), Cllr Lisa Evans (Vice Chair), Cllr Dan Fagan, Cllr Kevin Faulks, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Cllr Steve Nelson, Cllr David Reynard, Cllr Tony Riordan (sub for Cllr Diane Clarke OBE), Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Carolyn Nice, Jane Smith (sub for Elaine Redding), Sarah Bowman Abouna, Fiona Adamson, Lucy Owens (sub for Jon Carling), Peter Smith

**Officers:** Tanja Braun, Judy Trainer

**Also in attendance:** James Bromiley, Ruth Dalton (NTHFT), Kamini Shah (NHS England), Pauline Fletcher (NENC ICB)

**Apologies:** Cllr Diane Clarke OBE, Cllr Stephen Richardson, Elaine Redding, Jon Carling, Dominic Gardner, Alex Sinclair, Mary Bewley.

## 1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 2 Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2023 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

## 3 Health Protection – Winter Planning Update

The Health and Wellbeing Board considered an update from the health protection collaborative on ongoing work on winter planning.

Winter 2022/23 presented significant challenges to communities and the health and wellbeing being system with cost of living pressures, ongoing Covid circulation, flu and other respiratory infections.

The picture for this winter was not yet known but planning was underway to monitor and mitigate the impacts as well as prevent escalation where possible.

The update covered surveillance systems, Covid and flu vaccinations, work with settings and communities and the local health protection response.

Key issues discussed were as follows:

- With regard to attendance at work places, Covid infections were now treated the same as other infection and there was no longer a testing requirement. However, where staff worked with vulnerable people, access to tests and local protocols on attendance should be in place
- Administering the Covid vaccine was not as straightforward as the flu vaccine and required additional staff training as well as particular requirements for mixing and storage. As a result, not all GP practices offered both vaccines
- Take up of the flu vaccine amongst Council employees appeared to be good and a further update could be provided by NHS colleagues at the end

of the season

RESOLVED that the update be noted and key messages to staff supported on winter wellness, including vaccinations.

#### **4 Oral Health Update**

This Board received a presentation from Kamimi Shah (NHS England) on oral health. The presentation covered:

- Oral Health Needs Assessment and recommendations
- The impact of poor dental health
- The evidence base for prevention programmes
- Existing work around oral health promotion
- Dental decay prevalence decrease in Teesside 2007/08 to 2016/17
- Community Water Fluoridation

Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:

- Although there had been improvements in dental health, there remained significant oral health inequalities
- Fluoridation helped to level out oral health inequalities
- Supervised tooth brushing schemes were taking place in Stockton schools as part of the Healthy Schools Programme. A small number of schools were not taking part in the programme, however, this was not due to an unwillingness to participate and Council officers were working with schools to provide support for their involvement

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

#### **5 NHS Dentistry Provision**

This Board received a presentation from Pauline Fletcher (NENC ICB) on NHS Dentistry Provision and the Primary Care Dental Access Recovery Plan. The presentation covered:

- The role of the ICB in commissioning dental services
- Overview of NHS dentistry regulations and contracts
- The challenges to people accessing dentistry in the North East and Cumbria
- Action to tackle the challenges in three stages
  - Immediate actions to stabilise services
  - A more strategic approach to workforce and service delivery
  - Developing an oral health strategy to improve oral health and reduce the pressure on dentistry
- Further actions and next steps
- Advice/ signposting for patients
- Advice for patients with an urgent dental need
- Oral health improvement initiatives

Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:

- Immediate action had included £3.8m non recurrent investment for 2023/24, a local recommissioning process to re-provide (where possible) activity when contracts were handed back and support for employment of overseas dentists
- Patients were not registered with dentists in the same way as GP practices and therefore a patient could contact any NHS dental practice to access care. Dental practices were being encouraged to prioritise patients for treatment based on clinical need and urgency. However, some practices were operating waiting lists to manage those patients requesting routine NHS dental care
- Board Members vocalised concerns that older and vulnerable people who could not afford private dentistry were still having problems accessing NHS care and asked for a further update in 12 months

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted and a further update be provided to the Board in 12 months.

## **6 Update on Group Development Work Between North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust and South Tees NHS Foundation Trust**

This Board received a presentation from James Bromiley (Associate Director of Group Development) on the Group Model and Partnership Agreement. The presentation covered:

- Drivers for the collaboration
- Group model development
- The purpose of the Partnership Agreement
- The Group Operating Model
- Partnership Management and Governance
- Clinical Strategy
- Timeline

Key issues highlighted and discussed were as follows:

- A key driver for the change was creating a stronger single and coherent voice for the health needs of the community
- The Group Model built on years of collaborative working
- The Partnership Agreement would set out at high level how the Group Model would operate
- The Model would adopt a “patient first” principle and a joint clinical strategy
- The Partnership Agreement was due to be considered by boards in late November with a view to implementation in Quarter 1 of 2024/25
- There was an acknowledged need for improvement in record sharing and forming the Group would provide a stronger business case for funding for digital investment
- Merger was not on the agenda at the present time. The Trusts would continue to submit their own accounts and the proposed arrangements

would not be to the financial detriment of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS FT Trust

- No adverse impact on travelling time was anticipated as a result of the changes and there were plans to roll out more services into the community

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

**7 Healthwatch Annual Report**

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Board.

**8 Member Updates**

There were no Member Updates.

**9 Forward Plan**

It was agreed that an item would be included on the next Board agenda regarding the recent Government Announcement on Smoking.

RESOLVED that the forward plan be noted.