

Minutes of a meeting of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 14 March 2024 in Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 4.35 pm
Concluded 8.30 pm

Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE
Godwin Humphreys Jamil Kauser Wood	Coates Nunns

NON VOTING CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Susan Crowe	Bradford District Assembly Health and Wellbeing Forum
Trevor Ramsay	i2i patient involvement Network, Bradford District NHS Foundation Care Trust
Helen Rushworth	Healthwatch Bradford and District

Apologies: Councillor J Clarke

Also in attendance: Councillor Ferriby

Councillor Jamil in the Chair

58. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures for interest.

59. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

60. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

There were no referrals to the committee.

61. COMMISSIONING UPDATE AND INTENTIONS - ADULT SOCIAL CARE 2024

The report of the Strategic Director of Adult Social Care (**Document “Z”**) provided an update on delivery against the Commissioning Strategy for 2022-2027 and set out the commissioning intentions for 2024/25.

Following a synopsis of the report a question session ensued to which the following answers were given:

- Throughout the year 2023/24, the service had dedicated a considerable effort to commissioning various services. This included the revamping of the home support model in Bradford for Older People, Physical Disability, and Sensory Impairment services, the evaluation of Extra Care services in Bradford, the introduction of the Local Friendship Grants initiative, the establishment and execution of the innovative joint Dementia and Advice Contract, and the assessment of the Independent Equipment Service;
- The process of implementing changes were fairly intricate. There were more significant changes needed than initially anticipated, partly due to some existing providers opting out or failing to secure bids. Additionally, actions taken by certain providers during the implementation phase led to significant complications. It was recognised that these issues caused disruptions for many individuals, resulting in a high volume of complaints. Collaboration across the Department aimed to swiftly address these issues and complaints. After 3 months of the new contracts being in effect, services had largely stabilised in most areas, and the service remained dedicated to the goals of transforming services to provide high-quality, sustainable care that will continue to innovate in the coming years; and,
- It was priority to provide services that were centred on meeting the specific goals for individuals for their care and assistance. The goal was to offer individuals the freedom to choose how they received support. The service currently assisted our partners in the Adults with Disabilities department in exploring the concept of Small Supports. Small Supports were tailor-made care packages provided by small organisations, catering to only 3-5 individuals at a time. This model primarily catered to individuals with Learning Disabilities and Autism who were transitioning from a hospital setting to community living and required a unique form of support. The Small Supports Initiative also involved the implementation of Individual Service Funds as part of the project.

Resolved:-

That the report be noted and that an update report be presented in 12 months.

To be actioned by: Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health

62. RESPIRATORY HEALTH IN BRADFORD DISTRICT

The Report of the Director of Public Health (**Document “AA”**) provided an overview of respiratory health in Bradford District and outlines what partners were

doing to improve outcomes for people in the District.

The Head of Public Health was in attendance and at the invitation of the Chair gave a detailed outline of the report. He stated that respiratory illnesses were a significant contributor to poor health and premature death in Bradford District. In comparison to other regions in England, the District's performance in this area was subpar. Acknowledging this disparity, various stakeholders within the District, such as the local government and the NHS, had made respiratory health a top priority in order to enhance health outcomes and reduce disparities. This document served as a comprehensive overview of respiratory health in Bradford District and highlighted the collaborative efforts of partners to enhance outcomes for individuals in the area. The key focus areas included air quality, extreme weather conditions, tobacco use, respiratory infections, and chronic respiratory diseases. This report built upon previous discussions in reports from February 2023 on respiratory health and November 2022 on COVID-19, providing updates on these critical topics.

Respiratory illnesses encompassed a range of health conditions that impacted the airways and lungs, leading to difficulties in breathing. This category included both sudden infections such as the flu, COVID-19, and pneumonia, as well as ongoing diseases like asthma and COPD. Genetics and metabolism played a role in respiratory health, for example, obesity could contribute to the development of asthma. Infections from pathogens like viruses (such as COVID-19), lifestyle choices like smoking, and exposure to environmental pollutants could also affect respiratory well-being. Chronic respiratory diseases were part of a group of conditions that accounted for a significant portion of premature deaths and years lived with poor health. These are the health issues that had been identified as a top priority in the new NHS major conditions strategy.

Respiratory illnesses affected a significant portion of the population in the United Kingdom, with statistics showing that one in every five individuals was impacted by such conditions. These diseases ranked as the third leading cause of death in the country. Despite advancements in medical treatment and research, the improvement in health outcomes for respiratory diseases had not been as significant as that seen in other areas such as cardiovascular disease and cancer over the past decade.

Hospital admissions related to respiratory issues played a crucial role in the strain faced by the National Health Service, especially during the winter months. The impact of these admissions was not limited to the healthcare sector, as it also affected the broader economy due to the loss of productivity from missed workdays. Historically, lung cancer, pneumonia, and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) had been the primary contributors to mortality from respiratory diseases, with an average of 500 deaths recorded annually in the Bradford district alone.

However, since the year 2020, the landscape of respiratory health had been dramatically altered by the emergence of COVID-19. This novel virus had quickly become a major cause of both hospital admissions and fatalities, further exacerbating the challenges faced within the healthcare system.

The Chair thanked the presenting officer in the detailed report.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the report be noted and officers be thanked for the comprehensive information provided, and;
- (2) That items on smoking / vaping and vaccinations be added to the Committee's 2024/25 programme of work.

To be actioned by: Overview and Scrutiny Lead

63. UPDATE ON PROGRESS AND OUTCOMES - ADULT AUTISM PATHWAY AND ASSESSMENT AND DIAGNOSIS OF AUTISM IN ADULTS SERVICE, BRADFORD DISTRICT AND CRAVEN

The Bradford and Airedale Neurodevelopment Service (BANDS) was commissioned in 2015 to provide triage, assessment and diagnosis for both ASD and ADHD for adults (over 18) in Bradford, Airedale, Wharfedale and Craven.

The report of the Bradford and Craven Health and Care Partnership (**Document "AB"**). This briefing and appendices related to Adult Autism services only, there was no reference to similar services for children.

Commissioners and providers were pleased to share evidence and data, within this report, to evidence that all outcomes and objectives for the Adult Autism Pathway had been met or were well on the way to being met.

A brief overview of the report was provided to the committee.

In response to calrifications sought by the committee, it was explained that:

- The Bradford and Airedale Neurodevelopment Service (BANDS) was established in 2015 with the purpose of offering triage, evaluation, and diagnosis for both Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) in adults over the age of 18 residing in Bradford, Airedale, Wharfedale, and Craven. This briefing and its annexes pertained solely to services catering to adults with Autism, with no mention of services for children. Following criticisms from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and complaints from patients regarding the service's structure, cost-effectiveness, excessive waitlists, and lengthy waiting times, a thorough review was conducted. As a result, an Action Plan was devised and approved by the Mental Health (MH), Learning Disability (LD), and Neurodevelopmental (ND) Partnership Board to address these issues and introduce a new service structure.
- After numerous unsuccessful efforts to improve the current BANDS service model, it became clear that a fresh and creative strategy was necessary to bridge the widening disparity between the need for adult autism assessment and support and the available capacity. A key component of this new approach was to establish a collaborative relationship between the BANDS service and the more effective SWYPFT service. Furthermore, a significant boost in funding was approved by Bd&C Health and Care Partnership, increasing from £65,000 per annum to

£352,000 per annum.

Resolved:-

- (1) That the report be welcomed and officers be commended for the progress made, and**
- (2) That a further progress update be presented in 12 months.**

To be actioned by: Bradford and Craven Health and Care Partnership

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER