

## Minutes of a meeting of the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on Thursday, 16 December 2021 in Council Chamber - City Hall, Bradford

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Commenced 1640  
Concluded 1850

### Present – Councillors

LABOUR	CONSERVATIVE	LIBERAL DEMOCRAT
Berry Greenwood Humphreys Godwin Berry Iqbal	Glentworth Clarke	Griffiths

### 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

### COUNCILLOR GREENWOOD IN THE CHAIR

#### 33. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

#### 34. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

No requests were received to remove the restriction on a report or background paper.

#### 35. REFERRALS TO THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

No referrals were received.

## 36. CARERS SERVICES CONTRACT IN BRADFORD DISTRICT & CRAVEN

The report of the Strategic Director, Health and Wellbeing (**Document “N”**) provided an update on the Council and CCG’s jointly commissioned Carer Service within Bradford District and Craven.

The Strategic Director, Health and Wellbeing accompanied by the Strategic Director, Keeping Well and the Commissioning Manager were in attendance and with the invitation of the Chair, officers gave a detailed narrative of the report, as follows, on 17 of November 2020 the Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an update on the Council and CCG’s jointly commissioned Carer Service within Bradford District and Craven.

The latter included information on the emerging needs of unpaid carers as a result of COVID-19 impacts. It was then committee then resolved that a further update report on the Carers Service was to be submitted to the Committee in 2021.

This report provides a further update on the jointly commissioned Carers Service focusing particularly on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on service delivery and the further emerging impacts of COVID-19 on unpaid carers.

Following introduction, a question and answer session ensued:

- How was the public in need of vital support made aware of availability of services?
  - Such challenges, the Carer Navigator service had promoted the use of a website with a promotional video, actively promoted on local and community radio broadcasts. Stepped up efforts to maintain contact with ward staff and social work departments to maintain a flow of referrals and reinforce positive relationships. Provided support to carers referred to the Carer Navigator provision by telephone, text, email and Zoom; and,
- In terms of supporting 168 parent carers, 149 of these being female and 19 being male and 57 belonging to the BAME community. Was this data contained in the report accurate.
  - Yes, however, the two statistics may not have probably detailed enough in terms of local statistics nevertheless the service could probably put some more work into getting the true global picture of statistics.

The following comments were made by the committee:

- It was paramount for protection safety issues be included in line with processes for accountability for the purpose of coming across situations where an individual who needs support but care resources are under pressure;
- As well as analysis of data on unpaid carers support throughout the Bradford District, it was equally paramount to evaluate whether the Council and CCG’s jointly commissioned Carer Service within Bradford District and Craven gave same emphasis to LGBT people. Information on whether the services were being used and what attitudes towards these services among their users were appropriate. There was vast information about LGBT people’s experiences of using the health system on the internet and

therefore service needs to be equally focused on LGBT communities with their day-to-day interaction with health and social care services across the board rather than only addressing problems that exist with specific services. There was much work still to do to improve carer service provisions with LGBT communities as such aspects are an important part of the approach to equality and diversity of the Council and CCGs;

- In response to comment, officers will report on observations made by the committee in the next report that will focus on identifying specific gaps.
- There was a continuing need for support for communities consisting of families that had a diverse intergenerational makeup but found it extremely difficult getting help due to lack of information on knowing how to navigate within service provisions.

The Chair thanks officers for the detailed content within the report.

**Resolved:-**

**That an update report, including information on safeguarding and LGBTQ issues, be presented as part the Committee's 2022/23 programme of work.**

***Action: Strategic Director, Health and Wellbeing***

**37. UPDATE ON THE OCTOBER 2020 REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE MENTAL WELLBEING OF PEOPLE IN BRADFORD DISTRICT**

The report of the Director of Public Health and Director of Keeping Well (**Document "O"**) provided an update of the current situation in mental health and mental health services for adults and gave an overview of the work that had taken place over the last year to both prevent mental illness, and to support those with mental ill-health, including those that had been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The two Directors were present and were requested by the Chair to make representations to the committee. In October 2020, the CCG and the Public Health department of CBMDC brought a paper to this committee highlighting the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the mental health of Bradford districts' residents. This paper considered the insight and evidence from a Covid-19 mental health needs assessment published in July of that year. The needs assessment highlighted the increased risk of mental illness – notably depression, anxiety, and suicide – in the wake of the covid-19 pandemic. All communities in Bradford were potentially affected. However, some communities were thought to be at greater risk than others of mental illness. The needs assessment was used to develop plans and identify areas of need for future spending on mental health across the system.

This report aimed to describe how this has been used to target work and investments, with the overarching aims of improving mental health, preventing mental health decline, reducing inequalities, and improving services for those who need them. In response to the findings of the needs assessment, the service restated its strategic ambitions for improving mental wellbeing and reducing

inequalities in mental health across Bradford District and Craven within a refreshed local mental wellbeing strategy. In turn, key programmes of work were established to drive forward improvements required across our community mental health provision and crisis, liaison, and acute mental health services. These programmes were facilitated under the governance of our Act as One partnership.

Following presentation of the report, a PowerPoint was provided to the committee that gave a narrative of work functions undertaken, as following:

- Overview
  - A rapid Mental Health Needs Assessment in July 2020 highlighted the increased risk of mental illness as a result of the covid-19 pandemic;
  - The needs assessment was used to develop plans and identify areas of need for future spending on mental health across the system;
  - Represented system approach to mental health for adults, and demonstrates the close partnership working which is vital to our efforts; Set out the challenges faced in the coming months and years.
- Partnership Work and Governance
- Local Needs
- Reducing inequalities
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Community Mental Health Transformation
- Crisis and Liaison Acute Mental Health Services
- Challenges
- Successes
- Next Steps

A question and answer session ensued:

- Unfortunately, a number of support services had temporarily paused due to lockdown restrictions and therefore unable to maintain a safe continuity of crucial services with a view to ensuring people could stay well or get well and be able to access timely crisis support when needed. So what action has been taken to make people aware of services being revived?
  - All projects were set up to ensure that they were accessible and culturally competent to the diverse communities across Bradford. A needs assessment has been used to develop plans and identify areas of need for future spending on mental health across the system, amongst many –
    - Efforts had been invested towards a digital portal known as The Healthy Minds Site which has been developed in partnership with VSC, statutory providers and leading technology partners, provides information to all mental health services across Bradford and Craven. This website was under continued development to ensure it evolved to meet the emerging needs of the community. It held a comprehensive directory of services and a Wellbeing Assistant that could help people identify and find the support they may find useful based on how they were feeling rather than requiring a diagnosis. The management information

gathered also helped the service to understand what people were looking for and so adds to the data to inform service developments;

- There was ongoing excellent work of the Community Champions project, started as a response to Covid, had been realigned following consultations with the Champions identifying their priorities, to take a focus on mental health. This project was taking advantage of the interest, enthusiasm and connections of approximately 250 community volunteers, supported by local VCS organisations, to start discussions and links within their communities about mental health; and,
  - Small Grants further funding was also provided to local VCS organisations in the form of a small grants programme, which has to date funded a broad range of organisations for diverse target groups and a broad range of interventions. These interventions would help communities to get through the difficult winter period and reduce the need for crisis services.
- Was there a user and carer involvement service being offered?
    - Yes, there was a large group of service user involvement and carers of patients in practice that were involved in most aspects of services. The group was very diverse with many young people including carers of other over the age spectrum;
  - Officers were well acquainted with the operational aspects of the voluntary sector but how will companies that have been awarded contracts be audited and accountable on the use of public funds?
    - This area function would come under the directives, regulations, policies and guidance relating to the procurement of supplies, services and works on behalf of the council;
  - In reference to paragraph 3.1.8 in the report, had the forecast of modelling for future demand of secondary care services communication also focus on BAME include access for older people?
    - The service had ensured that the language and content during communication was tailored for connecting with the elderly of the BAME community in order to reduce loneliness and increase mental wellbeing amongst ethnic minority communities; and,
  - What inequality factors were being addressed in order to widen public access to psychological therapy?
    - A needs assessment had highlighted an increased impact on Black and Minority Ethnic communities, people with a high level of poor wellbeing and mental health conditions, older people and other vulnerable groups. South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and the Centre for Mental Health had produced modelling tools to consider new demand for Psychological Therapy. The model indicated a higher demand for mild to moderate anxiety and moderate depressions for primary care focussing on Improving Access to Psychological Therapy.

**Resolved:-**

**That an update, including information on the reviews of IAPT (Improving Access to Psychological Therapies) and older adults, be presented in 12**

months.

***Action: Director of Public Health / Director of Living Well***

**38. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22**

The report of the City Solicitor (**Document “P”**) presented the work programme 2021/22.

**No resolution was passed on this item.**

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