

Joint Working/Integration between Health Services and Halton Borough Council (Adult Services): Examples

Examples include the Rapid Access Rehabilitation Service (RARS). This team undertake specialist assessments and interventions, within a community setting and within Intermediate Care Beds. The team is made of professionals from three organisations (HBC, Bridgewater and Warrington & Halton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust) working under HBC management direction. In addition, it supports the falls service, providing specialist therapy and nursing and has an assessment function. RARS also operates a crisis intervention or rapid response element of service provision. RARS is also the 'single point of access', for all Intermediate Care Services in the Borough. Anyone can be referred to the RARS Team, by a Health or Social Care Professional or Practitioner, by the Voluntary Sector or by the Patient themselves or their Relative(s).

Within Halton, although the NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is both responsible and accountable for urgent care services for the local population and anyone present in Halton, NHS Halton CCG recognises that urgent care cannot be commissioned in isolation of social care and therefore works in partnership with HBC and neighbouring CCGs and Local Authorities to discharge their statutory responsibilities with regards to urgent care. The Director of Adult Social Services is the Chair of Halton's System Resilience Group and the Director of Transformation, HBC and CCG is Vice Chair, whilst the Operational lead for Urgent Care within Halton, working across both HBC and CCG is the Divisional Manager, Urgent Care, HBC. The System Resilience Team includes other representatives from the CCG and HBC in addition to the Clinical Lead for Urgent Care from the CCG. The team proactively provide leadership, operational input/support, ensure appropriate communication and direct resources into the Urgent Care System to respond to particular pressures in the system on an ongoing basis. One area of work that has been key for the Team over the past 18 months has been the development of the two new Urgent Care Centres within Halton which provide new and expanded diagnostic services, medical and nursing capacity for the management of ambulatory and sub-acute conditions and minor illness and injury.

Another example is that of HBC and NHS Halton CCG entering into a 3 year Joint Working Agreement (hosted by HBC) from April 2013 (Section 75) for the commissioning of services for people with Complex Care needs. This Agreement provides the legal framework in which HBC and NHS Halton CCG work together in order to achieve their strategic objectives of commissioning and providing cost effective, personalised, quality services to the people of Halton. As part of the Joint Working Agreement, HBC and NHS Halton CCG entered into a Pooled Budget arrangement, totalling just under £33 million. This pool contained the expenditure on delivering care and support services for adults with complex needs. During 2014, partners within Halton worked collaboratively, within the national guidance and framework to develop Halton's BCF. It was agreed that the BCF should be incorporated into the existing Pooled Budget arrangements between HBC and NHS Halton CCG; the pool now stands at £42 million.

This Joint Working Agreement has led to changes to the delivery model, including the transfer of Continuing Health Care (CHC) Nurse Assessors from the North West Commissioning Support Unit to the Social Care Complex Care Teams. Since the transfer of the CHC Assessors to HBC in July 2014, review rates for CHC packages have improved. Other examples include the development of a Joint Direct Payments Policy and Procedure between HBC and the CCG for dealing with Personal

Budgets, the development of a Joint Contract for the provision of day, residential and nursing home care and the development of the Integrated Adults Safeguarding Unit to improve the delivery of a flexible and responsive multi-agency service, with a focus on the more complex cases within institutional settings.

Halton's Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan outlines in detail the vision for health and social care services within Halton up to 2018/19. The plan outlines the changes that will need to be delivered over the next 5 years and how services will need to be reconfigured in order to deliver on this vision, in addition to what difference these changes will make to patient and service user outcomes.

Halton's BCF Plan outlines that choice, partnership and control will continue to be developed based on integrated approaches to needs assessment and utilising the diversity of mechanisms that enable individuals and communities to self-direct agreed health, social care and community resources.

The aim is to ensure that the numerous schemes outlined within the BCF Plan will:

- Improve outcomes;
- Improve health and wellbeing of individuals in our community;
- Support independence;
- Manage complex care and provide care closer to home;
- Integrate our approach to commissioning;
- Improve quality of care; and
- Intervene at an earlier stage to support people with mental health problems in the community.