

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 9 June 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Community Nursing Service
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To provide feedback on issues discussed at the Health Policy and Performance Board in March 2015 following presentation of the Care at Home Scrutiny Review 2014/15, with respect to the Community Nursing services in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board:

- 1. Note the contents of the report; and**
- 2. Acknowledge the steps taken to ensure the community nursing service has capacity to provide a safe and efficient Community nursing service.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 As part of the Care and Home Scrutiny Review 2014/15 report that was presented to Board on 10th March 2015, the review took into account current Community Nursing Services and as part of the review Members received a presentation from the Clinical Manager of Halton Community Nursing and the Service Manager for Adult Community Nursing the Community Nursing services regarding the service that is currently delivered in Halton.

The presentation given as part of the review focused on such areas as current staffing levels, referrals, quality and safety aspects and patient feedback.

3.2 When the report was presented at Board in March, Members expressed concerns about a perceived lack of capacity within the Community Nursing service.

3.3 In order to provide Members with appropriate assurances, the following is an update on the posts affected and the actions taken to ensure a safe workforce is in place:-

- A Band 7 evening service District Nurse sister returned from long term sick leave week commencing 12th April 2015 on a 4 week phased rehabilitation return to work programme.
- A vacant 0.4 FTE Band 5 Community Nurse post has been recruited to and

a start date is expected to be confirmed imminently following the completion of recruitment checks.

- 2 x 0.4 Band 5 post interviews took place on 28th April 2015 and recruitment checks for the successful candidates have commenced.
- A Band 7 District Nurse sister left the Trust on the 26th April 2015; however she will be remaining on the nurse bank for night duties. The post is being advertised and, until it has been recruited to, the Trust has taken on a very experienced agency nurse working 2 to 3 nights per week who is interested in applying for the post.
- There are no capacity issues in the District Nursing Out of Hours Service. Staff within the service occasionally report issues when the evening staff have to hand over patients if they have been delayed with an end of life patient which impacts on their workload. This is because the community nursing service prioritises end of life patients and this has been discussed and agreed with staff.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None associated with this report.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None associated with this report.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None associated with this report.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None associated with this report.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

This report relates directly to the health and wellbeing of individuals who access care and support within the community.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None associated with this report.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None associated with this report.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified at this time.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None associated with this report.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.