

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 3 November 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People & Economy
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Rapid Clinical Assessment
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the Board of a clinical service development.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the contents of the report be noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 As part of the wider Health and Wellbeing agenda the local statutory and independent sector organisations are committed to developing more services in the Borough which support clinical diagnostics and assessment in or closer to people's homes. The development of the Urgent Care Centres are a key example of how this intention is delivered in practice bringing together a range of health and social care organisations.

3.2 Older people become unwell for a variety of complex reasons and sometimes require hospital attendance / admission for consultant led diagnostics and assessment.

3.3 Moving older people out of their home environment to hospital, particularly frail older people aged 75+, poses a number of significant issues and risks to their health and well being including disorientation, confusion, falls, functional decline and risk of hospital acquired infection. Finding clinically suitable alternatives to hospital admission is important for this group.

3.4 The Rapid Access and Rehabilitation Service has operated in the borough for over 13 years. The team comprises non-medical professionals from health and social care and works with adults and older people who require assessment, treatment, care and support with the aim of preventing hospital admission and reducing the length of hospital stay. The service works with people in their own homes and also within dedicated intermediate care beds located within the Borough.

3.5 In collaboration with Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust the service is enhancing it's model of care with the addition of a Care of the Elderly consultant.

3.6 The new model is being designed to deliver rapid, higher level, diagnostics and assessment for referrals from the primary care team Monday – Friday. The service will utilise the Urgent Care Centre's diagnostic capabilities (x-ray, ultra sound, pathology) and also access CT and MRI scanning from existing provision (Warrington and Whiston Hospitals).

3.7 The new model is currently in development with a plan to accept referrals from November / December 2015.

3.8 The service will be evaluated to understand what benefits have been gained in relation to improved quality of care and outcomes for both the people who use the service and the wider health and social care economy.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Funding for the service is within the existing Pooled Budget between Halton Borough Council and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group.

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

6.1 **A Healthy Halton**

The model will test new ways of delivering improved access to healthcare for older adults within the community.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The model will reduce the risks associated with the admission of older people into acute hospital settings. No other risks are identified and a full risk assessment is not required.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no identified equality and diversity issues.

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

None.