

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 27th March 2019

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Adult Social Services
Halton Borough Council

PORTFOLIO: Children, Education & Social Care

SUBJECT: Executive Partnership Board - Update

WARD (S): Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report provides an update for the Health and Wellbeing Board on the key issues that the Executive Partnership Board (EPB) and the associated Operational Commissioning Committee (OCC) have been focused on progressing and monitoring over the past few months.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED: That the Board note the contents of the report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Executive Partnership Board (EPB)

- 3.1 The EPB (previously known as the Better Care Board) was originally established in 2013, to ensure that an integrated system was developed and appropriately managed thus ensuring that the resources available to both Health and Adult Social Care, including the Better Care Fund, are effectively used in the delivery of personalised, responsive and holistic care to those who are most in need within our community.

The EPB meets on a quarterly basis and the following paragraphs are intended to provide an overview to the Health and Wellbeing Board as to the work the Board have been progressing recently in support of its overall aim, as outlined above.

3.2 Pooled Budget – Projected Overspend & Financial Recovery Plans

The OCC has been closely monitoring the projected 2018/19 overspend on the pool, as a result of expenditure on community care and continuing health care funded packages of care.

The financial pressures are significant and present substantial challenge.

Work has been taking place within/across both Halton Borough Council (HBC) and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on reducing the levels of projected overspend; financial recovery actions plans are in place and work is progressing on

ensuring a balanced budget by year end.

3.3 **Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOCs)**

Due to continuing pressures across the health and social care economy, the management of DTOCs continues to present significant challenges.

In Halton, we work proactively with our partners, including the local trusts, to ensure that patient flow is managed as effectively as possible to minimise the number of DTOCs as far as possible.

In December 2018, we saw a significant reduction in the number of DTOCs (delayed days) of almost 50%, compared with November 2018. It should be noted that patient and family choice remains the number one reason for delays.

As well as working with St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust on the recruitment of NHS staff to work with HBC's Reablement Service, a new temporary service model has been developed and implemented on B3 at the Halton Hospital site to support expediting discharge for Halton residents. This service has seen enhanced therapy support on this unit which has achieved people being able to return home with reduced level of support following a period of Reablement. This model has had a positive impact on DTOCs at Warrington and although challenging, the aim is to transfer this approach to being able to be delivered within the community and work is continuing on the development and implementation of the associated model.

3.4 **Dispute Process**

Over the past few months, work has been presented to the OCC on the development of an Inter-Agency Disputes Process which is intended to ensure that inter-agency disputes between NHS Halton Clinical CCG and HBC regarding Continuing Health Care and jointly funded care are resolved as quickly as possible for the benefit of the individual concerned.

As the time of writing this report, there are a number of challenges/issues which still need to be resolved prior to the policy being able to be signed off by both organisations and implemented.

3.5 **Joint Working Agreement (JWA)**

The current Joint Working Agreement (JWA) between HBC and NHS Halton CCG took effect on 1st April 2016 and is due to expire 31st March 2019.

During 2018/19 work has taken place to update the JWA ready for the development of a new JWA from 1st April 2019. However a number of issues have meant that we have not been able to finalise the necessary revisions.

At the time of writing this report, the main issues that have yet been unable to be resolved are linked to the JWA's associated pooled budget arrangements, including associated financial contributions and dealing with current levels of overspend.

The current JWA is set to expire on the 31st March 2019 and by now, as previously done, work would have already commenced on the development of a new agreement.

The EPB agreed, in principal, to extending the current JWA for a 6 month period, on the same basis as the current JWA.

An extension to the JWA would then allow sufficient time for a full review of the JWA to be undertaken, assess the future of joint working arrangements between both parties and also provide sufficient time to ensure any necessary changes to the working arrangements are implemented.

At the time of writing this report the 6 months extension is going through the respective organisation's own governance processes for formal sign off.

3.6 Halton Borough Council - Winter Funding 2018/19

The OCC agreed how the extra funding being provided to councils this winter should be spent and a summary of the associated schemes which will be implemented in Halton.

£639k has been allocated to Halton and schemes include increasing capacity within Reablement, Domiciliary Care and Intermediate Care Services.

One of the main challenges associated with the schemes developed is that a number of them are dependent on the ability to recruit suitably qualified staff.

3.7 Halton Integrated Community Equipment Service (HICES)

In January 2019, the OCC received the outcomes on an internal Audit report conducted by HBC on HICES during September – October 2018. A total of five recommendations were made within the report which the OCC considered.

As a result of this report a Task and Finish Group will be established to undertake a review of the service and options for the future delivery of the service will be developed and then considered. It is anticipated that this review will commence from April 2019 for 3 months.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None associated with this report.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None associated with this report.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The Executive Partnership Board has a role to play in ensuring that there are effective arrangements for children's transition services are in place.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Executive Partnership Board has a significant role in driving forward the further integration of Health and Adult Social Care Services which will have a direct impact on improving the health of people living in Halton.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 None associated with this report.

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 associated with this report.