

HEALTH POLICY AND PERFORMANCE BOARD

At a meeting of the Health Policy and Performance Board held on Tuesday, 11 August 2020 via remote access

Present: Councillors J. Lowe (Chair), Baker (Vice-Chair), Cassidy, Dennett, Dourley, P. Hignett, C. Loftus, Ratcliffe and Zygadlo

Apologies for Absence: Councillors June Roberts, Sinnott and D. Wilson

Absence declared on Council business: None

Officers present: S. Wallace-Bonner, A. Jones, D. Nolan, L Wilson, H. Moir and P. Preston

Also in attendance: Councillor R. Hignett (in accordance with Standing Order Number 33), L. Thompson – NHS CCG and one member of the press

ITEMS DEALT WITH UNDER DUTIES EXERCISABLE BY THE BOARD

| | | <i>Action</i> |
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| HEA1 | MINUTES | |
| | The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2020 having been circulated were signed as a correct record. | |
| HEA2 | PUBLIC QUESTION TIME | |
| | It was confirmed that no public questions had been received. | |
| HEA3 | HEALTH AND WELLBEING MINUTES | |
| | The minutes from the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 15 January 2020 were provided for the information of the Board. | |
| | RESOLVED: That the minutes be noted. | |
| HEA4 | HOMELESSNESS SERVICES UPDATE | |
| | The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – People, which provided an update of the homelessness service provision and its robust activity during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chair welcomed Councillor R. Hignett to the meeting, Portfolio Holder for Housing | |

Strategy and Homelessness.

It was reported that on 26 March 2020, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) issued guidance to all local authorities, designed to ensure that everyone known to be rough sleeping, or those deemed to be at imminent risk of rough sleeping, would be offered accommodation. The purpose of the guidance therefore was to protect vulnerable clients from the risk of contracting COVID-19 with additional funding made available to support the response, where Halton was allocated £6,000.

It was noted that in line with the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, local authorities had a statutory obligation to provide temporary accommodation to those in 'priority need' of housing. It was highlighted that the new COVID-19 guidance required local authorities to accommodate all clients, regardless of 'priority need' status. Members were advised that as no further guidance had been issued since by the MHCLG on when to revert to the statutory homelessness legislation, it was likely that the decision on when to do this would remain with the Local Authority.

The report discussed Halton's response to homelessness during the Pandemic and outlined future service development, agency engagement and continued activity towards reducing homelessness within the Borough.

The following information was also provided in response to Members questions:

- All hostels including the refuge were full to capacity and there had been transitions from these into long term accommodation via Halton Housing Trust, using vacant properties. They also hoped to secure further housing units for domestic abuse clients;
- The homelessness service team held weekly update meetings with partner agencies and providers;
- The work of partner agencies with the homelessness service during the pandemic had been exemplary;
- The service had been successful with a number of funding bids, which it was hoped would offset the costs incurred during the pandemic;
- A new funding bid would be submitted on 20 August and it was hoped that this would offset some of the budget deficit;
- There would always be clients who refused help offered to them and were unwilling to move onto permanent housing;

- It was hoped that the precedent set over the past few months would continue and homeless people would be able to settle into their own homes and move on; and
- Presently there were no known rough sleepers in the Borough and no clients were currently being accommodated in hotels.

Councillor Hignett conveyed his thanks to all staff in the homelessness service; partner agencies and hostels for their hard work and commitment during this unprecedented time.

RESOLVED: That the report is noted.

HEA5 HEALTH POLICY & PERFORMANCE BOARD ANNUAL REPORT - 2019/20

The Board received the Health Policy and Performance Board's Annual Report for April 2019 to March 2020.

The Chair conveyed her thanks to all Members of the Health Policy and Performance Board and supporting Officers, for their commitment and hard work throughout the year which had contributed to the Board's success.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Report for April 2019 to March 2020 be noted and recommended to full Council.

HEA6 HALTON HAVEN HOSPICE

The Board considered a report from the Chief Commissioner – Halton: NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The report informed of the actions taken by NHS Halton CCG following the Governing Body and Urgent Issues recommendations on 27 April, to suspend the Halton Haven Hospice Specialist consultant Palliative Care Service specification, and commence with a Nurse Led Palliative Care model, for 6 months with immediate effect.

Attached with the report were the following documents:

- A 'Service Suspension Notice' from the Chief Commissioner NHS Halton CCG dated 9 April; and
- *Halton Haven Hospice – change to services with immediate effect*, formal communications circulated to relevant parties.

Members noted the details in the report and in particular the temporary suspension notice and change to the service specification for Halton Haven Hospice, from specialist Consultant Palliative Care Led Service to a Nurse Led Service, for a period of 6 months commencing 8 April 2020. It was also noted that the suspension notice would be continuously reviewed and monitored through the contractual governance arrangements.

RESOLVED: That the report and associated appendices be noted.

HEA7 ADULT CARE HOME RESILIENCE PLAN

The Board received a report from the Strategic Director – People, that presented Halton’s Adult Care Home Resilience Plan, which had been developed in light of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

It was reported that the COVID-19 Pandemic had presented an unprecedented challenge for Adult Social Care and there had been an extraordinary amount of work undertaken throughout the Country between local authorities and care providers at the forefront, working in partnership with the NHS.

A letter was sent to local authority leaders from Helen Whately MP, Minister of State for Care, requesting that they review or put in place a care home support plan. By the time the letter was sent on 14 May, extensive work had already taken place across the health and social care sector in Halton to ensure the response to the crisis was robust and effective. In respect of the Care Home sector, this work had already been collated into Halton’s overarching Adult Care Home Resilience Plan, this plan was therefore reviewed and updated in light of the letter received. Members were referred to the Plan at appendix one of the report – *Adult Care Homes Resilience Plan: Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic*, which was a working document.

The report discussed the areas addressed in the Resilience Plan and outlined the support that was in place, presenting some examples for Members information.

Members raised concern over the under occupancy of care homes since the pandemic and the fact that this raised its own challenges with regards to funding. It was understood that confidence levels in the community were low since Covid-19 and some people were choosing to nurse and support relatives at home. It was reported that

some financial support had been provided to the Council led care homes and a request for funding from Government would be made for care homes across the board.

RESOLVED: That the Board notes the report and associated Adult Care Homes Resilience Plan.

HEA8 QUALITY ASSURANCE IN CARE HOMES

The Board was presented with a report from the Strategic Director – People, that highlighted key issues with respect to Quality Assurance in Care Homes and Domiciliary Care.

It was noted that a key priority for Halton was to ensure the provision of a range of good quality services to support adults requiring commissioned care in the Borough. Additionally the Care Act 2014 had put this on a statutory footing requiring a choice of diverse high quality services that promoted wellbeing. In Halton there were 25 registered care homes providing 771 beds, operated by 14 different providers. It was reported that the Local Authority was now the largest provider of older people's care beds in the Borough, supporting 163 beds.

Members discussed the information provided as well as the care home and domiciliary care ratings given in accordance with the CQC and Halton's Quality Assurance Team. It was noted that Halton performed above the sub regional average for care homes in the categories of good and outstanding when rated in July 2020 and there were no inadequate care homes in the Borough at that time. It was commented that Ryan Care Residential Home was closing on Friday and all residents had been rehoused.

RESOLVED: That the report be noted.

HEA9 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS, QUARTER 4 2019/20

The Board received the Performance Management Reports for quarter 4 of 2019-20.

Members were advised that the report introduced, through the submission of a structured thematic performance report, the progress of key performance indicators, milestones and targets relating to Health in quarter 4 of 2019-20. This included a description of factors, which were affecting the service.

The Board was requested to consider the progress and performance information and raise any questions or points for clarification; and highlight any areas of interest or concern for reporting at future meetings of the Board.

It was commented that there were no areas of concern for this quarter and some of the metrics had ceased to be collected since March, due to the pandemic.

RESOLVED: That the Performance Management Reports for quarter 4 be received.

Meeting ended at 7.20 p.m.