

Health Policy and Performance Board

Annual Report

April 2022 - March 2023



This year has been my second as Chair of the Health Policy and Performance Board and the Health and Social Care agenda we have been dealing with, as a Board, has been as busy as ever!

We continue to take our scrutiny responsibilities very seriously and during the past 12 months the Board has had the opportunity to comment on a number of proposals and developments, as outlined in this report, along with undertaking a specific scrutiny topic exploring issues associated with the Adult Social Care Workforce in Halton.

On 1st July 2022, we saw the Health & Care Act coming into force. This resulted in a significant change to the landscape of NHS commissioning arrangements and saw NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups ceasing to exist from 30th June 2022 and from the 1st July 2022, the formalisation of Integrated Care Systems (ICS) into new statutory bodies; Integrated Care Boards (ICBs).

As part of these developments we have seen the establishment of a Cheshire and Merseyside ICS Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, where each of the nine Authorities covered by the Cheshire & Merseyside area are able to collectively oversee and scrutinise the operation of the ICS at a Cheshire and Merseyside Level.

We also welcomed Tony Leo, Place Director for Halton, NHS Cheshire & Merseyside on the 1st July 2022 and are working with him and his Senior Leadership Team on understanding the impact of these changes on Halton and its residents.

I would just like to take this opportunity to pass the Board's sincere thanks onto all the dedicated staff and volunteers we have working across the health and social care system in Halton, both from the statutory and non-statutory sector, over what has continued to be a challenging time.

Finally, I would also like to thank all the members of the Board for their valued contribution to the Board's work over the last 12 months. I would particularly like to thank Cllr Sandra Baker, for her support as Vice Chair to the Board. I would also like to extend my thanks to all Member's, Officers and Partners for their time and contributions to the Scrutiny topic and for providing performance and update reports throughout the year.

Cllr Peter Lloyd Jones, Chair

Health Policy and Performance Board Membership and Responsibility

The Board:

Councillor Peter Lloyd Jones (Chair)
Councillor Sandra Baker (Vice Chair)
Councillor Angela Ball
Councillor Laura Bevan
Councillor John Bradshaw
Councillor Dave Cargill
Councillor Eddie Dourley
Councillor Louise Goodall
Councillor Rosie Leck
Councillor Tony McDermott
Councillor Louise Nolan

During 2022/23, David Wilson was Halton Healthwatch's co-opted representation on the Board and we would like to thank David for his valuable contribution.

Up until December 2022, the Lead Officer for the Board was Sue Wallace-Bonner, Director of Adult Social Services/Executive Director for Adults, this role has now been taken by Damian Nolan, Operational Director, Commissioning & Provision.

Responsibility:

The primary responsibility of the Board is to focus on the work of the Council and its Partners, in seeking to improve health in the Borough. This is achieved by scrutinising progress against the aims and objectives outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan in relation to the Health priority.

The Board have met three times in 2022/23. Minutes of the meetings can be found on the [Halton Borough Council website](#). It should also be noted that the Board, at each of their meetings, receive and scrutinise the minutes from Halton's Health and Wellbeing Board and monitors work/progress within this area.

This report summarises some of the key pieces of work the Board have been involved in during 2022/23.

GOVERNMENT POLICY- NHS AND SOCIAL CARE REFORM

Marmot Report: All Together Fairer

The Board received details of the launch of the *Marmot Report: All Together Fairer* written by Professor Sir Michael Marmot on health inequalities.

The report was written by Sir Michael and his team of researchers in partnership with Cheshire and Merseyside's local authorities. It set out measurable actions for each area, as well as the sub region as a whole, to create a fairer, equitable society.

The Board heard about the implications of the findings for Halton and how the Borough compared with neighbouring authorities across Cheshire and Merseyside. The report outlined actions still required and the Board were given some examples of actions already taking place, following the publication of the report.

The Board discussed issues associated with the cost of living crisis and the impact that health inequalities had in respect to life expectancy locally and across Cheshire and Merseyside.

Primary Care Networks (PCNs) – Additional Roles

The creation of PCNs builds on the core of current primary care services and enables a greater provision of proactive, personalised and more integrated health and social care. To support PCNs, nationally, the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) provides funding for 26,000 additional roles to create bespoke multi-disciplinary teams.

The Board received details of how the national scheme is being implemented locally. It was noted however that whilst the scheme would facilitate a greater range of staff available to care for patients in the GP setting, there were several challenges that would affect the ability to implement the scheme such as the availability of staff to fill positions. Members were provided with information on how these challenges would and are being addressed by the PCNs.

One Halton Place-Based Partnership (PBP)

In September 2022, the Board received an update in respect to the continued development of the One Halton PBP, as a result of the NHS reforms launched in 2021 and welcomed to the Board meeting the new Place Director for Halton, Mr Anthony Leo.

A further update was presented to the Board in November, which focused on how the NHS Cheshire & Merseyside Integrated Care Board was supporting the vision of One Halton.

In February 2023, the Board received a report, which provided a summary on progress to date on the integration of Health and Adults Social Care services across One Halton.

SERVICES

Reconfiguration of Breast Services provided to the Boroughs of Halton, Knowsley, St. Helens & Warrington (Phase 2)

In September 2022, the Board received an update on the proposal to consolidate and expand Breast Screening Services at Bath Street, Warrington, and the impact the proposed service change would have on service users from Halton. This update included the outcomes of the public consultation for the second and final phase of the proposals. As Halton residents have access to a local facility at the Captain Sir Tom Moore Building, which was now fully operational offering breast care services, the Board welcomed the proposals to cease services at the Kendrick Wing of Warrington Hospital, especially taking into consideration the aging facility, and move them to Bath Street.

Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism

The Board received a report and presentation from Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, which provided information on Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust's internal organisational developments, local services and current performance measures.

Services highlighted to the Board included the 24/7 mental health crisis response services, local ADHD Services, Autism Assessment and Diagnostic Service, Learning Disabilities Services and introduced the Think Wellbeing Service (IAPT).

As a result of the presentation, it was agreed that a dedicated information briefing session would be held with Board members on local Mental Health services available within the Borough.

Halton Housing: Support to an Ageing Population

In November 2022, the Board received a report from Halton Housing Trust (HHT) outlining the services in place and the types of housing specifically available for the older population in the Borough.

The Board noted that HHT manage and maintain 7,500 homes predominantly within the Borough of Halton; most were available for social rent, with 220 available for shared ownership. Information was shared with the Board on the profile of the ages of customers; the types of accommodation they lived in; the numbers of older customers assisted over the past 6 months; and details of the work and support provided by the HHT Independent Living Team. The Board welcomed the work done on the development of extra care schemes (Barkla Fields, Naughton Fields and Hazelhurst). These provided customers with care and support services, personal care and domestic services, emergency alarms and 24-hour help lines, as well as communal facilities such as lounges and bistros.

Respite Provision

The Board received an updated position in relation to respite care provision within the Borough, in particular shared care vouchers.

In 2019 a report was presented to the Board providing information on respite provision, specifically the shared care voucher process and outlined areas identified for improvement. The Board noted that as a result of the pandemic, soon after the

previous report was presented, this had affected the level of progress that could be made with the improvements required. However, since the easing of the pandemic the Board heard how the respite offer had been revisited to ensure that the necessary improvements were made and there were options available that met people's needs.

The Board welcomed the improvements that had been made to ensure that appropriate respite provision could be accessed.

Runcorn & Widnes Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs)

In February 2023, representatives from both Warrington & Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, respective providers of the UTCs in Halton, attended the Board to provide an update in respect to the current service offer available at both centres.

The Board received details in respect to current workforce levels, how services could be accessed, performance and activity, partnerships and collaborations and were provided with details of recent examples of communications and promotions taking place to promote the use of the centres to the local population. The Board welcomed the information provided and the opportunity given to raise a number of issues and these to be addressed by the providers.

The Standards for Employers of Social Workers and the Social Work Health Check (Adult Social Care)

Information was presented to the Board in relation to the Standards for Employers of Social Workers in England, which was published by the Local Government Association (LGA).

The report detailed the eight standards in place and it was stated that under each standard, there was a list of things that employers should do in order to meet those standards.

It was also reported that the Health Check survey for 2021 was co-ordinated at a national level with national, regional and local reports being produced. Halton's Social Workers took part in the survey between November 2021 and January 2022. The report gave details of questions asked and responses, as well as examples of statements made and the scores given. The report also presented the Framework and Improvement Plan, which addressed some of the main issues highlighted by the results from the 2021 Health Check.

Outcomes of further surveys would be presented to the Board.

POLICY

Dementia Friendly – Halton Borough Council (HBC)

The Board received details about the Dementia Friendly HBC Plan.

Dementia Friendly Communities was a Programme from the national Alzheimer's Society that encourages everyone to share responsibility for ensuring that people with dementia felt understood, valued and able to contribute to their community. The

Programme focussed on improving inclusion and quality of life for people with dementia and encouraged organisations to develop and implement local action plans.

It was reported that Executive Board gave approval in June 2022 for the development of a dementia friendly cross Council approach and the Board received details of the actions and how implementation of the plan would be monitored.

SCRUTINY REVIEWS

At the Board's meeting in February 2022, it was agreed that the 2022/23 work topic would examine the Adult Social Care Workforce in Halton.

It was agreed that the Board would explore both Council staffing structures and those in the provider sector to consider how the Council supports workforce planning and development. The Board were apprised of innovative projects and initiatives being undertaken to promote a sustainable and skilled workforce. It considered the impact of external forces on the labour market for Adult Social Care and examined local and regional activity, partnership working and contractual arrangements aimed at supporting services to recruit, develop and retain staff.

At the time of writing this report, the outcome from the scrutiny review is due to be presented to the Council's Executive Board.

PERFORMANCE

The Health Policy and Performance Board has a key role in monitoring and scrutinising the performance of the Council in delivering outcomes against its key health priorities. Therefore, in line with the Council's performance framework, during the year the Board has been provided with thematic reports which have included information on progress against key performance indicators, milestones and targets relating to Health.

INFORMATION BRIEFING

During 2022/23, the Board continued to receive an Information Briefing Bulletin in advance of each of the Board meetings.

The Information Briefing is a way of trying to manage the size of the agendas of the Board meetings better. Including information on topics which were previously presented to Board as reports only for the Board's information now into the Information Briefing bulletin allows the Board to focus more on areas where decisions etc. are needed.

Example of areas that have been included in the Information Briefing over the last 12 months have included:-

- Local Account: Adult Social Care Annual Report 2020/21
- Adult Social Care: Customer Care Report 2021/22

- Halton Safeguarding Adults Board : Annual Report 2021/22
- Halton Intermediate Care & Frailty Service
- Cheshire & Merseyside Elective Restoration

WORK TOPICS FOR 2023/24:

At the meeting of the Board in February 2023, it was agreed that the focus of Scrutiny topic for 2023/24 would be on Health inequalities across Halton and approaches to reducing them.

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