

**MINUTES OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING -
THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Present:

Councillor Burdess (in the Chair)

Councillors

D Coleman
Hunter

Hutton
Matthews

O'Hara
D Scott

Mrs Scott
Wing

In Attendance:

Ms Kate Aldridge, Head of Commissioning Blackpool Council

Mr David Bonson, Chief Executive, Fylde Coast Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

Mr Roy Fisher, Chairman, Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group

Dr Jim Gardner, Medical Director, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (BTH)

Ms Jo Bark, Deputy Director of Operations for Unscheduled Care, BTH

Ms Kate Newton, Performance and Quality Manager, Fylde Coast CCGs

Mrs Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager, Blackpool Council

Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2020

The minutes of the last meeting held on 6 February 2020, were signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

3 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no requests from members of public to speak on this occasion.

4 FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the Forward Plan, September 2020 to December 2020 and invited Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health to provide an update on the development of the Alcohol and Drug Strategies. She advised that the Alcohol Strategy was awaiting consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Board prior to being submitted to the Executive. It was noted that the Health and Wellbeing Board had not been meeting due to the pandemic. In relation to the Drug Strategy, Councillor Farrell advised that as the new portfolio holder she had requested that some amendments be made to the draft strategy to ensure that it fully explained how the aims of the strategy would be achieved.

Members noted that they had previously considered and contributed to the draft Drug

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and Alcohol Strategies and considered it important to further review the Drug Strategy following completion of the explained changes to that draft strategy.

The Committee agreed to receive the Drug Strategy following its revision for further comment.

5 ADULT SERVICES OVERVIEW

Ms Kate Aldridge, Head of Commissioning introduced the Adult Services Overview report to the Committee and highlighted the effort made by services in order to support people and the incredible partnership working across the health and social care sector during the pandemic.

The Committee expressed its thanks to whole of the Adult Social Care Team for their exceptional work during the most difficult of times.

The reopening of the Keats Day Service was queried, in response, Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health advised that day services had not yet reopened, with services looking towards October 2020 for potential reopening. She added that there had been short term increases in other services to meet demand.

Members queried what lessons had been learned from the response to the pandemic which could be taken forward. Councillor Farrell advised that the strong partnership between the health and social care sector and providers had been a real asset. Ms Aldridge added that the relationship had ensured that discharges had been approached collaboratively and that there was a joint clarity across the system which had enabled provision of the best possible support to the community.

In relation to challenges and concerns moving forward, Ms Aldridge highlighted the national challenge in regards to testing. Councillor Farrell noted that the service was continuing to work in the best possible way to support the community and follow all guidelines issued by the Government.

In response to further questioning, Ms Aldridge agreed that the financial implications of the pandemic were a significant challenge and that Blackpool, along with all other local authorities, was continuing to make representations to the Government regarding the costs incurred during the pandemic. The Council was also working to ensure that providers continued to receive the support they needed and supporting individuals to maintain personal resilience for the winter months ahead.

6 BLACKPOOL TEACHING HOSPITALS NHS TRUST CARE QUALITY COMMISSION INSPECTION UPDATE AND IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC

Dr Jim Gardner, Medical Director, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (BTH) re-emphasised the importance of the strong relationship between the health and social care system during the pandemic. He went on to highlight that the Trust was continuing to address the 249 actions identified by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in their most recent inspection of the Trust. He referred to the hospital mortality indicator, SHMI, noting that progress had been made and over the previous five months the Trust

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had achieved a statistically normal figure which was a material improvement.

Dr Gardner also highlighted the additional funding received from Government during the pandemic which had allowed the Trust to put certain measures in place including the temporary move of the Urgent Treatment Centre to Whitegate Drive in order to increase space at the hospital. Furthermore he noted the new trial taking in place in Blackpool to pre-triage attendees to the Emergency Department, with all patients being requested to call 111 unless an ambulance was required.

In response to questions, Dr Gardner advised that testing had revealed that 18% of the approximately 6,000 employees of the Trust had been known to have had Covid-19 and a recent exercise that tested all staff over a one week period had resulted in seven positive tests. The results of the test had changed national policy as a return of seven positives was seen as a low return on the investment of testing so many staff in a short amount of time.

Members referred to the 249 actions identified in the CQC inspection and noted that the actions consisted of 32 'must dos' and 86 'should dos' and that it was not clear from the report how many actions within each of the categories were outstanding. Dr Gardner advised that 183 of the actions had been completed and progress was regularly reviewed by the CQC. All mission critical actions relating to patient safety had been signed off and actions had been addressed in priority order.

In reference to parking at the hospital, it was noted that as per national guidance parking was currently free of charge. Members expressed the opinion that free parking should continue and Dr Gardner advised that it would do so until Government guidance changed. He added that as the car parks at the hospital were getting busier, permit parking for staff was being restored. Members further commented that free parking for staff would be a boost for morale if it could continue, alongside all the other additional support mechanisms put in place since the start of the pandemic.

Dr Gardner reported that additional support had been provided during the pandemic such as the 'wobble room'. However, there were barriers to continued provision of the additional support provided such as physical capacity on site and financial implications. It was a continual challenge to balance the Trust's books. He added that the Trust would continue to review and determine the support that could be provided for staff.

Members noted that Blackpool Victoria Hospital (BVH) had again introduced rules preventing visitors and queried what the current situation was regarding the number of cases which had led to the decision. Dr Gardner advised that there were, at the time of the meeting, six Covid positive patients at the Trust, five on the general wards at BVH and one at Clifton Hospital. However, there had appeared to be a surge of positive cases over the previous weekend and it was unclear at the time of imposing the restrictions whether the number of cases would continue to escalate. Ms Jo Bark, Deputy Director of Operations for Unscheduled Care added that visiting had remained open for maternity, paediatrics and end of life care and that the decision would be reviewed on Monday 21 September 2020, as it was understood how traumatic it could be to keep families apart during these difficult times.

The Committee expressed its thanks to the whole of the Trust and all staff for their

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dedication and hard work during the pandemic.

The Committee requested, and Dr Gardner agreed, that progress regarding the outstanding CQC inspection actions would be shared with the Committee prior to the end of December 2020 when it was expected that all actions would be completed.

7 BLACKPOOL CCG PERFORMANCE AND IMPACT OF PANDEMIC

Mr David Bonson, Chief Executive, Fylde Coast Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) echoed the importance of true partnership working during the pandemic and praised the joined up approach of organisations within Blackpool. He highlighted that there had been a huge impact on waiting lists including diagnostics due the pandemic and it would take time to clear the backlog.

Ms Kate Newton, Performance and Quality Manager, Fylde Coast CCGs presented the yearly performance report to the Committee noting the significant changes to treatment and diagnostics in the previous six months. She noted that where significant waiting lists existed, patients were being seen in priority order with priority given to clinically urgent cases. Despite many services resuming, there was a reluctance of some patients to attend appointments evident with up to 30% of patients still choosing to not attend an appointment at the hospital.

It was reported that the number of 12 hour breaches at the Emergency Department had reduced, despite the number of attendances at the department returning to pre-Covid levels and that mental health patients were being directed towards appropriate support and treatment at an earlier stage.

Members noted the percentage of patients being seen within the two week wait for breast cancer diagnosis and noted that at the end of the financial year 2019/2020, performance remained significantly below target and that this was an ongoing issue. In response, Ms Newton advised that the measures put in place to address performance in this area had started to have an impact and performance had improved to 98% in August 2020, and that good performance had continued into September 2020.

In relation to a question regarding whether there had been any policy changes during the pandemic which would result in changes to procedures and treatments offered in Blackpool, Mr Bonson confirmed that there had been no policy or threshold changes to date.

The Committee raised concerns regarding the potential for a second spike of infections over the winter period, during a time when services were already usually stretched and queried how confident representatives were that health services locally would be in a position to respond quickly and effectively to such a second outbreak. Mr Bonson noted that the challenges being faced were unknown, as was the potential impact. He advised that various scenarios had been modelled to aid planning and that a robust Winter Plan had been prepared. It would also be a challenge to reduce waiting lists over the winter period.

Mr Roy Fisher, Chairman, Blackpool CCG added that regional meetings had been held and

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plans put in place including the identification of hubs for any potential vaccine to be distributed. He highlighted the hard work and resilience of all staff during the pandemic.

The Committee expressed its thanks to all staff in the health service for the support and help provided to residents during this difficult time.

8 WHOLE SYSTEM TRANSFERS OF CARE FINAL PROGRESS REPORT AND IMPACT ANALYSIS

The Committee received an update report on the outstanding recommendations of the Whole System Transfers of Care Scrutiny Review and a brief impact analysis of the recommendations of the review. With regards to the recommendation relating to discharge delays as a result of the pharmacy, Members raised concerns that the issues had not yet been resolved and cited examples of more recent delays. Dr Jim Gardner, Medical Director, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust advised that there was significant complexity around the discharge of patients from hospital, in particular, those who attended for unscheduled care. He highlighted the imminent move to electronic prescribing which it was hoped would have a positive impact.

Dr Gardner advised that the pandemic had not stopped progress around implementing improvements in relation to discharge processes. It was known that once medical issues had been resolved, hospital became a dangerous place and that the quicker a patient could be safely and appropriately discharged the better. Ms Jo Bark, Deputy Director of Operations for Unscheduled Care, BTH added that there was an understanding of the causes for delays and trials were ongoing in two wards for unscheduled care currently in order to expedite discharges. She advised that the data from the initial findings of the trials could be shared when completed.

Members also noted the separate issue of avoidable readmissions and requested an additional report on the subject at a future meeting for review. Dr Gardner suggested that readmissions and avoidable readmissions could be considered as two separate complex issues. He added that the report would need to be provided by the whole health and social care system.

The Committee agreed to sign off the Scrutiny Review as completed, however, wished to revisit the issue of delayed discharges in approximately 12 months in order to ensure improvement had continued.

9 SCRUTINY WORKPLAN

The Committee considered its workplan for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2020/2021 and approved it subject to the inclusion of the items identified during the course of the meeting.

Members also approved the recommendations identified during the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services review meeting which took place in conjunction with Members of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee and noted the updated implementation of recommendations table.

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10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The date and time of the next ordinary meeting of the Committee was noted as Thursday, 26 November 2020, commencing at 6.00pm. Members also noted the date and time of the Special meeting of the Committee on Monday, 19 October 2020, commencing at 6.00pm.

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.40 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:

Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager

Tel: 01253 477213

E-mail: sharon.davis@blackpool.gov.uk