

Minutes of: HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting: 2 July 2020

Present: Councillor S Smith (in the Chair)
Councillors J Grimshaw, D Gunther, M Hayes, T Holt,
B Mortenson, C Tegolo, R Walker and S Walmsley

Also in attendance:

Public Attendance: No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor K Hussain

HSC.49 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence submitted from Councillor K Hussain.

HSC.50 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gunther declared a personal interest as she was a patient at Garden City Medical Practice in Bury.

HSC.51 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no pre submitted questions from members of the public.

HSC.52 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2020 were submitted for approval.

It was agreed:

That the minutes be approved as a correct record.

HSC.53 MENTAL HEALTH - UPDATE ON SERVICE PROVISION IN LIGHT OF COVID-19

A presentation was made at the meeting by Karen Whitehead (Strategic Lead Inclusion & Partnerships) and Jemma Billing (Senior Children's Commissioner CCG) to give an update on children's mental health services during the Covid outbreak and the recovery plans.

An introduction was made to Members that in response to the current pandemic Bury OCO had worked in partnership with all providers to design a graduated approach to support schools and parents to access the right support at the right time.

Currently referrals into all mental health services have significantly reduced. As a consequence of this they currently had no waiting times and were in a position to respond to the changing needs the pandemic will bring.

Details were presented on the Multi-Agency Graduated Response.

Bury Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (Healthy Young Minds – previously CAMHS) offered specialist services to children and young people who were experiencing mental health difficulties. The service was delivered by Pennine Care Foundation Trust and is the core Children and Young People (CYP) mental health service in Bury.

Figures were also given on Mental Health Access Standards, Waiting Time Standard's and information on the CCG Assurance / Recovery Planning phase.

Data would be reviewed at GM level post Covid and it was expected there would be around a 20% increase on pre Covid levels. Members asked if there were the resources and funding to cope with the anticipated extra demand on the service.

Councillors commented and supported the Bury Youth Cabinet together with Bury Grammar school inviting children and young people to write letters to people in communities that are isolated during the covid-19 pandemic.

The Chair stated that not all schools had returned and was there anything extra being offered between now and the end of the academic term.

The Multi-Agency Graduated Response provided a number of support mechanisms to schools and this included an anxiety course which had been developed by HYM's. Places would be available for schools and they had been encourage to book places to upskill their staff in supporting their students.

Julie Gonda, Director of Community Commissioning also presented update information to the committee about Mental Health services for adults.

An overview was detailed on the Bury Mental Health Snapshot Pre-Covid along with a performance report for May 2020.

The presentation provided a summary on:

- Delayed Transfers of Care
- High risk groups for mental health issues from the impact of Covid
- Mental Health revised services
- PCFT changes to their services
- New mental health services in response to covid19
- Community Support
- New Bury Voluntary Sector Mental Health Service from Earlybreak
- Bury Digital Services
- Communications work
- Voluntary Community Support
- Mental Health Recovery Work

The Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership (GMHSCP) requested support from Health Innovation Manchester (HInM) to develop and carry out a quick snapshot review to help inform the Greater Manchester (GM) Mental Health (MH) recovery planning and prioritisation process.

The following themes have emerged from stakeholder engagement across the system.

- More people experiencing mental health issues in the general population who do not meet clinical thresholds
- COVID-19 has exacerbated existing inequalities
- Organisations and communities have worked together in response to COVID-19 and there is a desire to further build on this
- The response to COVID-19 has accelerated innovation particularly in the digital field

Next steps of the process included:-

- Establish the Bury MH Recovery Group
- Desktop review of MH Support/Need in Covid Recovery Phase over the coming months
- Refresh of MH THRIVE project plans and milestones based on MH Covid needs analysis review
- Work with LCO and Bury People to influence recovery plans
- Review BAME needs and support
- Review MH homeless support

Members asked about older people shielding who were becoming isolated and lonely. Whilst they may not be diagnosed with any mental health issues was there some form of service available such as phone call or buddy scheme and were these cases being recorded in the system.

It was reported that the community hubs had worked closely with clinical services and the approach had been positive although Councillors should refer any concerns for individuals to the service. More research would be conducted to investigate if further outreach support could be provided.

A Member commented that churches had closed and these used to be a good meeting point for people to talk at coffee mornings.

Another Councillor on the committee enquired how people with learning disabilities had been coping. It was confirmed that services were in place to check that people have contact with a key care worker.

A Councillor enquired what measures were in place for homeless people.

It was reported that homeless people were classed as one of the at risk groups and further information on this subject including the statistics would be sent to the Councillor directly.

The Chair thanked all the Officers involved for their attendance at the meeting and the detailed information they had provided in the presentations.

It was agreed:

That the report and presentations be noted and that further details could be presented at a future meeting to explain how all customer groups had been catered for.

HSC.54 UPDATE ON COVID RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PLANNING INCLUDING TEST & TRACE

Geoff Little, Chief Executive and Accountable Officer delivered a presentation on Bury's Health and Care Recovery plan.

The latest infection figures and cases in the local population were detailed along with the total numbers of deaths.

The risk of a second wave and infections increasing if restrictions were not followed was detailed.

Information was provided on how lifting the lockdown safely would be conducted which included the hospitality sector from the 4th July.

The presentation provided a summary on:

- National NHS Position and Challenges
- Resuming activity
- Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities
- Recap on Recovery Phasing
- Recovery Principles
- Work so far
- Recovery Themes and Priority Programmes

A Councillor had been to shop in Bury and commented that some parts of the town centre were not social distancing.

It was advised that a one way system was in place with a number of stewards to help and advise people on their behaviours to social distance although there were no enforcement powers.

A Member stated that with pubs reopening could the health service cope with the extra demands and can PPE be cleaned so it could be used more than once.

Accident and Emergency departments had concerns for the upcoming weekend and executives at Bury North Care Alliance had planned provision similar to a bank holiday weekend.

PPE guidance would continue to be monitored with changes made in the past from 20 minutes to a single session. Simon Featherstone added that there was no risk of running out of PPE supplies.

The Chair had seen a news report of an outbreak at a food processing plant and asked if certain industries were at a higher risk of infection.

Lesley Jones, Director of Public Health stated it could be a case that these factories were more at risk with overcrowding of employees and lower temperatures in the workplace. There were none of these in Bury although businesses would be identified that may be at a higher risk and work would be conducted with environmental health colleagues.

A Member commented that if come winter time would the risk of infection be twice as high in the refrigeration industry.

A question was posed on how you define local boundaries when neighbouring districts had higher figures.

The Director of Public Health then provided a presentation to Members on the Local Outbreak Plan.

Background information was communicated that all upper tier authorities were required to publish COVID-19 Local Outbreak Plans by 30th June.

These plans were to be led by a Covid-19 Health Protection Board chaired by the Director of Public Health and overseen by a member led board. In Bury, this would be the Council Cabinet.

The Covid-19 Outbreak Plan was circulated to Members for information and had been developed in accordance with national guidance and outlines our local approach to preventing and managing outbreaks in the borough as part of the National Test, Trace, Contain and Enable Programme.

The plan was approved on the 29th June under Emergency Powers rules.

Members of the committee asked how many staff would be working in the trace and testing department and it was reported that there were 3 at present with planned recruitment to make a total of 8 staff.

It was agreed:

That the report, presentations and Bury Covid-19 outbreak control plan be noted.

HSC.55 CARE UPDATE (INCLUDING IMPACT OF COVID IN RELATION TO WINTER PRESSURES IN 19/20 AND PLANNING FOR 20/21)

The Director of Community Commissioning presented information to the committee on winter planning for 2020-2021.

A summary of the key points of the presentation included:

- System wide winter planning will be co-ordinated through the Bury UC Delivery Group.
- Closer links to the established to Bury Urgent Care Recovery Group
- The Bury System will review the learning from Winter 2019-20, with support from the Utilisation Management Team, to inform plans for 2020-21.
- Specific for winter Panning 2020-21 will be the ongoing COVID pandemic status and associated national and regional guidance.
- Predictive modelling will be used for planning assumptions.
- The Bury system will engage at a NES and GM level on winter planning as required.

It was reported that Fairfield General Hospital 4 hour performance was the best in GM for 2019-20 (excluding Royal Manchester Children's Hospital who have lower numbers and only deal with children).

For Quarter 1, 2020-21 (April/May up to June 15th) FGH is currently the second best performing site in GM

Other data and figures communicated to the committee included the total users of Adult Social Care and users of Home Care & Direct Payments.

HSC.56 URGENT BUSINESS

No urgent business was reported at the meeting.

COUNCILLOR S SMITH
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 7pm and ended at 9.02pm)