

**8 November 2021**

**Agenda Item: 5**

## **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE 1 APRIL 2021 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To enable Members to scrutinise the performance and quality of services commissioned by Public Health (PH)

#### **Information**

2. This report provides the Committee with an overview of performance for Public Health commissioned services funded either in whole or in part by PH grant, in April to September 2021 against key performance indicators related to Public Health priorities, outcomes and actions within:
  - a). the Public Health Service Plan 2020-2021;
  - b). the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Nottinghamshire 2017-21; and
  - c). the Authority's 12 Commitments as set out in the Council Plan 2017-21.
3. A summary of the key performance measures is set out on the first page of **Appendix A**.
4. Appendix A also provides a description of each of the services and it provides a breakdown of some commissioned services at District level.
5. England was moving through the steps of the COVID roadmap in the first half of the year, still subject to some restrictions initially albeit less than those of full lockdown a year earlier and moving out of restrictions on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021.
6. The Public Health team continued to monitor performance and where any issues were identified, officers worked in partnership with providers and wider stakeholders to find solutions to mitigate against the issues. Public health continued to review the challenges on a regular basis across the County, identifying the pressure points and working collaboratively to support provision of the commissioned services to our residents.

7. Public health officers maintained a close dialogue with providers to ensure that the Authority continued to be assured of the best performance in the circumstances and safe practices and that services were being provided in line with emerging and changing guidance. Discussions also began on how providers were going to plan their full recovery out of lockdown.

### **NHS Health Checks (GPs)**

8. The aim of this programme is to help prevent heart disease, diabetes, stroke, kidney disease and certain types of preventable dementia by offering a check once every five years to everyone between the ages of 40 and 74 who has not already been diagnosed with one of these conditions.
9. The first half of the year continued to be a pressured time for GP practices and a national shortage of blood vials led to strict prioritisation of blood testing. Activity on this preventative programme therefore remained at a very reduced level. The numbers of patients offered and receiving health checks is slowly increasing, but the programme is not anticipated to re-start in earnest until Covid-related backlog pressures on primary care ease after the winter.
10. Payment continued on actual activity delivered in these quarters.

### **Integrated Sexual Health Services (ISHS) (Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH), Sherwood Forest Hospital Foundation Trust (SFHFT) and Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals (DBH))**

11. The ISHS is provided by the three NHS Trusts in Nottinghamshire.
12. Emergency and essential sexual health and contraception services including sexually transmitted infection responses (genital warts/molluscum contagiosum) and insertion and removal of long acting reversible contraception (IUD/S and Implants) continued. Clinics began re-opening in the community spokes as well as the hospital hubs albeit appointment bookings were low.
13. PrEP medication taken by HIV-negative people to prevent infection continued to be supplied to service users (predominantly men who have sex with men) having previously only been available to those on the PrEP trial, however this is now routinely available to residents via all three NHS Trusts.
14. Numbers of service users accessing sexual health services are beginning to rise and the provision of services is almost restored toward normal service delivery.
15. The County sexual health services have active social media profiles on Facebook and Instagram. A wide range of sexual health promotion and education messages as well as information on sexual health, self-help and other health education are regularly posted.

### **Young People's Sexual Health Service- C Card (In-house)**

16. The C-card scheme is a free and confidential advice and condom service for young people living in Nottinghamshire.
17. The service is popular with young people and the officer was able to resume more provision.

18. The Authority officer continued to work with pharmacies in Nottinghamshire, providing advice about managing possible increases in demand, possible delays in receiving supplies and minimising contact by preparing bags of condoms in advance. The officer produced weekly on-line guidance and resources for youth workers to enable them to distribute condoms safely in their areas. The website was updated to inform young people how they could access condoms during the pandemic. Furthermore, training was moved on-line and both registration and refresher training sessions have been provided.
19. The officer continued working with our sexual health providers to streamline the provision of condoms by post.

**All Age Alcohol and Drug Misuse Services (Change Grow Live) (Jointly funded with the PCC)**

20. The service has continued to see more service users than had originally been anticipated when the Council went out to tender. Pressures on the provider continue to be monitored closely.
21. The Provider has been utilising their outreach van to deliver several needle exchange pop ups in various locations where pharmacies are no longer able to provide these services including Eastwood and Harworth.
22. The young people's service is forming valuable community partnerships including targeted outreach sessions at the Garibaldi Youth Centre in Mansfield for young people identified as at risk of cannabis and potential familial use. Service information and resources including a drug awareness session were provided.
23. The service is also planning introductory meetings with the Authority's Court team and District child protection teams.
24. CGL sub-contracts Hetty's to provide a range of services to families and carers affected by a relative's substance misuse. Hetty's continue to liaise with family members when they have been concerned about a service user and signpost to universal services where the family require additional support. The young person specialists are utilising What's App video conferencing to link in with children and their parents/carers which is proving to be beneficial.
25. Hetty's have also been providing bereavement counselling through a specialist counsellor, this support has been provided to individuals who have lost a loved one due to substance misuse.

**Integrated Wellbeing Service (ABL - Your Health Your Way (YHYW))**

26. Your Health Your Way provides an integrated wellbeing service to support individuals to lose weight, increase physical activity, stop smoking, reduce alcohol consumption, all of which is underpinned by supporting mental wellbeing

27. The provider is moving towards a hybrid delivery model, including face to face services, delivering in local communities where take up is increasing. The service now operates six days per week including evenings.
28. Examples of community engagement have included innovative partnership programmes, for example:
- Work with Newark College, Newark and Sherwood District Council and Morrison's to engage students in nutrition and healthy eating including learning how to cook a healthy recipe
  - Attendance at an all-day wellbeing event organized with Farnsfield Parish Council for the local community.
  - Delivery of a 12 week cook and eat event at Portland College for residential students with learning disabilities and physical disabilities and their Care Staff to introduce a wider variety of foods and healthy eating.
29. Face-to-face meetings with GP surgeries have commenced. The purpose is to undertake active case finding for smokers and weight management clients, resulting in a significant increase in referrals from Primary Care during the period.
30. The provider has set out a detailed action plan outlining how and when targets will be met in the course of this financial year. By quarter three, the provider hopes to be reaching the targets for that quarter and it is anticipated that by quarter four all targets will be met in that quarter. Public Health officers will be working with the provider and monitoring the progress of this plan.

### **Illicit Tobacco Services (In-house)**

31. Officers resumed visits to make test purchases at premises about which intelligence had been received on the sale of illicit tobacco products.
32. A recent example of the benefits of the service includes the seizure of 34 packets of cigarettes and 27 pouches of tobacco at Andrews News and Booze in Sutton in Ashfield amounted to a value of £880.

### **Domestic Abuse Services (Notts Women's Aid, JUNO Women's Aid and Equation) (Jointly commissioned with the Police and Crime Commissioner)**

33. The Domestic Abuse service continues to be challenged by the complexity and numbers of cases as further detailed below.
34. Together with the higher volume of calls, the calls themselves are getting longer as the complexity of need increases. There has also been an increase in service users with English as a second language. Providers are holding survivors in their services for longer, which means that waiting lists are growing and staff are overwhelmed and exhausted. The situation has not been helped by delays in the court system. Waiting lists have increased and plans have been put in place to address these in the coming months.
35. The prevention promotion and training service continued on-line to improve the domestic abuse information available for professionals and young people across the County.

36. The services have started to move back to some face to face meetings in community settings albeit home visits are only made in exceptional circumstances.
37. The Domestic Abuse Act (April 2021) allocated further funding (£1.54m) to the Council to improve the support pathways for survivors in safe accommodation. A three year commissioning plan has been developed and services are being procured. Funding is being provided to Domestic Abuse Specialist Services, District Councils and others to deliver the commissioning plan. In addition, there is a Local Partnership Board under development to drive the strategic domestic abuse agenda.

### **Healthy Families (Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust)**

38. This service provides help and support to families with children from birth to 19 years of age to ensure the health and well-being of children and young people. The healthy child programme provides a framework to support collaborative work and a more integrated service delivery.
39. The Provider has continued to work innovatively to overcome challenges in the 'new normal' continuing to deliver all elements of the service using a blended approach of face-to-face contacts, telephone and digital platforms to support the most vulnerable children, young people and their families as well as deliver all the universal and targeted elements of the core offer.
40. The number and percentage of infants totally and partially breast fed has seen an increase to 45% which means that there has been a year on year increase in breastfeeding rates at six weeks since 2017/18 with rates 6% higher than they were then. This is against a national picture which has seen a decline in breastfeeding rates.

### **Oral Health Promotion Services (Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust)**

41. Nottinghamshire's specialist Oral Health Promotion Team works to improve oral health within local communities and among vulnerable groups by delivering training to the health, social care and education workforce, a supervised tooth-brushing programme in targeted primary schools (with linked nurseries) and health promotion activities such as the provision of tooth-brushing packs to one-year olds.
42. Whilst the number of frontline staff that have taken up the offer to be trained in child related oral health brief advice is positive, attendance at the adult related training remains very low as care staff continue to focus on Covid-related work.

### **Homelessness (Framework)**

43. The service provides intensive support in short term hostel accommodation (up to 18 weeks) and less intensive support in Move On accommodation (typically for six months, and up to a maximum of 12 months). The service aims to enable service users to achieve a range of outcomes including self-care, living skills, managing money, reducing offending, motivation and taking responsibility, improve social networks and relationships, managing tenancy and accommodation, and making meaningful use of time.

44. Officers have worked very closely with Framework to ensure reporting is robust and accurate so that there is a clearer understanding of the issues impacting service users. Every service user who does not move on in a timely way or exits the service in an unplanned way is now documented with an explanatory narrative. The narrative shows that service users have more complex issues and pre-existing comorbidities which can impact their stay in the services or their chances of moving on.

### **Other Options Considered**

45. None

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

46. To ensure performance of Public Health services is scrutinised by the Authority

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

47. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

48. Robust performance and quality reporting ensures that financial implications are monitored and reviewed effectively to minimise financial risk to the Council.

### **Public Sector Equality Duty implications**

49. Monitoring of the contracts ensures providers of services comply with their equality duty. Equality performance is a standing agenda item of review meetings and providers are asked to provide case studies celebrating success and showing how complaints, if applicable, are resolved.

### **Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications**

50. Safeguarding is a standing item on contract review meeting agendas and providers are expected to report any areas of concern allowing the Authority to ensure children and adults at risk are safe.

### **Implications for Service Users**

51. The management and quality monitoring of contracts are mechanisms by which commissioners secure assurance about the safety and quality of services using the public health grant for service users.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

- 1) The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee considers whether there are any further actions it requires arising from the information in this report.

**Jonathan Gribbin**  
**Director of Public Health**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (LPW 06.10.2021)**

52. The recommendations fall within the remit of the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee by virtue of its terms of reference.

### **Finance Comments (05.10.2021)**

53. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

### **Background Papers and Published Documents**

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All