

HEALTH AND CARE GENERAL UPDATE PAPER

Joint report from Devon County Council and NHS Devon

1. Purpose and recommendation

- 1.1. That the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee receives this report that contains updates on key and standing items, and general information including on responding to specific actions, requests or discussions during the previous Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee meeting.

2. North Devon Link Service

- 2.1 Following the agreement at Devon County Council Full Council meeting in February on the budget for 2023-24, a consultation has been launched seeking to close the North Devon Link Centre buildings and the drop-in service, and instead to provide support in different ways.
- 2.2 The council is committed to supporting adults with mental health and wellbeing needs in the best way that it can. There is a national focus on improving and developing the way we deliver community mental health services, including national investment and the introduction of the Community Mental Health Framework.
- 2.3 This service offer in North Devon is inconsistent in comparison to how services are delivered across the Council footprint. Mental health and social work professionals are delivering services which are not covered by the Care Act and which go beyond eligible need.
- 2.4 In 2021, our reviews found that many of the services delivered by the Link Service, such as help with form filling and IT support, art classes and choir groups, could be delivered by the community and voluntary sector. Those reviews led to the development of a proposal to redesign the service, which we have been doing for the last year.
- 2.5 During the last year we've demonstrated in Holsworthy that we can move away from the council building-based model for drop-in sessions, to work more effectively with voluntary sector partners to deliver excellent wellbeing support services in the community that complement the existing mental health services delivered by NHS colleagues. Feedback from service users has been very positive, with early case studies showing how people have been supported to a much greater level of independence and community involvement than before.
- 2.6 The Link Service does not provide urgent or crisis or therapeutic support and is part of the wider health and care system supporting mental health needs across Northern Devon. Other services include:

- Community Mental Health Teams
- Mental Health Social Work Teams
- crisis services such The Moorings Crisis Café
- a 24-hour support phone line from Mental Health Matters
- Devon Partnership Trust's First Response Service.

2.7 Attendance at the Link Service does not impact eligibility for accessing specialist mental health services from Devon Partnership Trust. People will still be able to access those services in the same way they do now, and in the same way as people across the rest of Devon.

2.8 Assessments for and the commissioning of social care support will be managed by Devon Partnership Trusts North Devon Social Work Team.

2.9 Devon County Council has a statutory responsibility to provide services to people who have eligible needs under the Care Act 2014. Approximately 12 people out of the 161 who have attended the drop-in sessions since July 2022 are in receipt of social care support.

2.10 Attendance at the drop-ins has been low with many people who attended the drop-ins before the pandemic not returning.

2.11 The Bideford and Ilfracombe buildings will cost around £306,000 to maintain over the next 5 years.

2.12 These are only proposals at this stage, and we would like people to respond to the consultation. No decision will be made until we have fully considered what people tell us. The consultation is seeking views on:

- Closing the North Devon Link Service drop-in centres in Barnstaple, Bideford and Ilfracombe
- Closing the drop-in service that runs out of those buildings and work with current service users to confirm their needs and agree alternative support. (Targeting investment in the voluntary and community sector may be considered to support the development of alternative services if not readily available).
- Ceasing the outreach support to those people in receipt of Care Act eligible services, and instead provided the support in different ways which will be agreed with current service users.

3. Integrated Adult Social Care 2022-23 budget update as of January 2023

3.1 Integrated Adult Social Care at month 10 is showing an overspend of £4.055m or 1.2% of net budgets.

3.2 We are overall currently serving 349 more people than budgeted for. The number of people receiving a learning disability related service has risen by 200, with an increase of 42 being seen in those receiving a mental health service.

- 3.3 The forecast overspend continues to be driven by a worsening position in Older People service budgets, particularly within increased unit costs for residential and nursing care and personal care.
- 3.4 Total savings plans of £15.508m are currently forecast as deliverable in year, against a budgeted target of £18.741m.
- 3.5 At month 10 we have delivered £14.809m of savings, with a further £1.110m forecast to be achieved by year end.
- 3.6 NHS Devon has provided significant financial support to social care over 2022/23 including £8.000m to directly support the Integrated Adult Social Care 2022/23 budget.
- 3.7 We have also received national funding (NHS and Adult Social Care) intended to support the continuation of Discharge to Assess in year.

4. Devon Integrated Care System (ICS) Financial Position as of January 2023

- 4.1 On 20 June 2022, Devon ICS submitted a deficit plan of £18.2m, although there is a requirement that the system achieves a breakeven outturn by year end and an expectation that £138.9m of efficiency savings are needed to meet that plan.
- 4.2 As at month 10 the Devon ICS is reporting a year to date £37.0m deficit against a planned deficit of £19.5m –£17.6m more than planned for this point in the financial year.
- 4.3 The forecast for the end of the 2022/23 financial year is a deficit of £49.2m, which is £31.0m more than the planned deficit of £18.2m.

NHS Devon Integrated Care Board (ICB) Financial Position as of January 2023

- 4.4 As at month 10 the NHS Devon ICB is reporting a year-to-date deficit surplus of £0.1m and an end of year surplus of £0.1m against a breakeven plan. This is subject to the ICB receiving the expected allocations from NHSE for the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme (ARRS) and the discharge fund costs.

Looking Ahead to 2023/24

- 4.5 Waiting lists and finances continue to present huge challenges for NHS Devon.
- 4.6 The secretary of state has written to all ICBs asking that they must make a 30% real terms reduction in their running costs budgets by 2025/26, with at least 20% to be delivered in 2024/25.

4.7 Running cost allowances for ICBs have already been held flat in cash terms in 2023/24 (i.e., no inflationary uplift). Our current allowance is £22.6 million in 2023/24 reducing to £17.0 million in 2025/26.

4.8 Next year significant savings will be needed to deliver a financially sustainable system wide plan. This is a long process that will require support from all partners in the county.

5. CQC assurance of adult social care duties

5.1 Local preparations are continuing to ensure readiness for the new assurance framework commencing on the 1 April 2023, and to ensure robust governance arrangements are in place. This will include developing oversight and challenge mechanisms from elected members, and particularly the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee.

5.2 We have developed an Assurance Board that will meet monthly with the purpose of co-ordinating all relevant and related activity. The Assurance Board will provide quarterly reports to the Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee within the Health and Care Update Report.

5.3 Each quarterly report will be structured on the four themes of the Assurance framework: Working with People; Providing Support; Ensuring Safety; Leadership.

5.4 Committee Members were made aware of a Local Government Association webinar that took place in March that included the Minister for Social Care, Helen Whately and Kate Terroni, Chief Inspector for Adult Social Care, Care Quality Commission.

5.5 The webinar was an opportunity to hear the very latest on this important policy area and to discuss the challenges and opportunities in creating a new assurance regime that aims to drive continuous improvement in adult social care.

5.6 [Interim guidance has now been published by the CQC](#) setting out how it plans to assess local authorities. To make sure our assessments are as effective as possible, the CQC expect to implement them as follows.

April to September 2023

5.7 From 1 April, the CQC will start to review data and publish documentary evidence across all local authorities, focussing on themes in 2 quality statements:

- Care provision, integration and continuity
- Assessing needs

They will also look at themes and insight on:

- access
- commissioning
- market shaping

- workforce
- personalisation.

- 5.8 The CQC will not publish this data and evidence at individual local authority level, instead publishing it at an overall national level as a collection of evidence. For example, in the annual statutory State of Care report to Parliament.
- 5.9 This national review will be the first element towards full assessment of these 2 quality statements. It will constitute the first steps in developing judgements for individual authorities and. It provided valuable context and an opportunity to benchmark the data.
- 5.10 There will be a limited number of pilot assessments from April. These will cover up to 5 local authorities between April and September 2023.

September to December 2023

- 5.11 Assessing local authorities is a new duty for CQC. Before moving to ongoing assessments, the CQC will need to complete an initial formal assessment for all local authorities to establish a starting point.
- 5.12 Formal assessments will start in September with up to 20 assessments planned to be carried out between September and December. The CQC will then work with the local authorities and others on the best way to publish our findings from these pilots.

Early 2024 onwards

- 5.13 Further formal assessments will be carried out from early 2024 onwards and report on our findings. The Government has also asked the CQC to publish individual ratings of local authorities following the pilots and assessments.

Integrated care systems

- 5.14 The CQC wants to start to assess integrated care systems as soon as it's practical and meaningful to do so. It is currently working closely with and seeking approval from the DHSC on its approach to implementing these assessments and will provide more details on this as soon as possible.
- 5.15 The CQC is also engaging with [the Hewitt Review](#) to contribute to its learning and to understand any potential considerations for its approach. Once agreement from DHSC on the approach has been received, the CQC will be able to finalise guidance on how it will assess integrated care systems using the single assessment framework.

6. Surgical hub wins recognition for meeting top clinical and operational standards

- 6.1. A hospital site in Devon that is helping to reduce planned care waiting lists has received recognition for meeting top clinical and operational standards.

- 6.2. The South West Ambulatory Orthopaedic Centre (SWAOC) at the Nightingale Hospital in Exeter is one of eight to be awarded accreditation as part of a pilot scheme.
- 6.3. The scheme, run by NHS England's Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons of England, assesses hubs against a framework of standards to help hubs deliver faster access to some of the most common surgical procedures such as cataract surgeries and hip replacements.
- 6.4. After being decommissioned as a COVID hospital, the site was transformed into a state-of-the-art facility and is now home to a range of orthopaedic, ophthalmology, diagnostic, and rheumatology services.
- 6.5. SWOAC, which has two operating theatres for day case and short stay elective orthopaedic procedures, opened at the Nightingale site in March 2022.
- 6.6. Surgical hubs, which are separated from emergency services, are part of plans nationally to increase capacity for elective care with more dedicated operating theatres and beds. They bring together the skills and expertise of staff under one roof helping to deliver shorter waits for surgery.
- 6.7. The hub beds are designated for patients waiting for planned surgical procedures, and are protected from emergency admissions, reducing the risk of short-notice cancellations.

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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