

Report of the Cabinet Member Adult Social Care and Health Services

Introduction

1. I have been asked to report by Cllr Hannaford as follows for Full Council on 5 December 2019:

A report into the care of a teenager with autism has highlighted a number of failings into her care and made a "comprehensive list of improvements required to support children like Beth". The report was commissioned by Health Secretary Matt Hancock after Beth's case caused a public outcry.

"The disgraceful practice of locking up autistic people and people with learning disabilities in mental health units was exposed in 2011 following the Winterbourne abuse scandal. Over the next 12 months every patient with autism or a learning disability in a mental health hospital will have their case reviewed.

The government will commit, as part of the review, to providing each patient with a date for discharge or if suitable a clear explanation of why and a plan to move them closer towards being ready for discharge into the community. This announcement builds on recent statistics which show that there has already been a 22% decrease of inpatient numbers since March 2015. The government has also committed to a further reduction of up to 400 inpatients to discharged by the end of March 2020.

For the patients that are in long-term segregation, an independent panel, chaired by Baroness Shelia Hollins, will be established to oversee their case reviews to further improve their care and support them to be discharged back to the community as quickly as possible. The panel will include independent experts who will monitor, challenge and advise on the progress of case reviews of those in the most restrictive settings, with the aim of supporting more people to be discharged. The panel will expect a clear plan towards a discharge date or an explanation for how providers are making progress towards discharging the individual.

The government has also confirmed that every NHS and social care worker will receive mandatory training relevant to their role. The new training is backed by £1.4 million of government funding and will focus on understanding learning disability and autism, legislation and rights and making reasonable adjustments such as using different communications methods for autistic people with sensory sensitives."

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm with Council, how many residents in the Devon County Council area are affected by these issues, how we will be working with others to access and implement this new training and advocacy

regime, and also ensure that these improved measures will be achieved in Devon and local clients placed out of area.

Response

In 2015, the Government and NHS England (NHSE) launched Transforming Care to improve health and care services so that people with autism and/or a learning disability can live, with the right support, in the community and close to home.

At a national level, progress has not been good enough and the Health and Social Care Secretary, Matt Hancock, has ordered the Care Quality Commission to conduct an in-depth review.

As part of the review, the Government will commit to providing each patient with a date for discharge, or where this is not appropriate, a clear explanation of why and a plan to move them closer towards being ready for discharge into the community.

The Transforming Care Partnership in Devon

Devon has been very successful in this area and is recognised by NHSE as delivering best practice for adults. The performance of Devon for Community Treatment Reviews is good: 90% for adults with CCG support (10% have not given consent) and 100% for adults who are NHSE supported.

Devon's Transforming Care Partnership is a multi-agency Steering Group (Devon County Council is a part) overseeing progress to reduce the number of children and adults with a learning disability/and or autism who are placed in out of area in-patient settings.

As of 31st October 2019, there were 20 people in the Devon County Council area who are living in in-patient settings outside of Devon. This includes:

- 8 people in specialist adult in-patient settings commissioned by the CCG;
- 6 adults in secure settings commissioned nationally by NHSE; and
- 6 children.

The Council and the Health work together in a number of ways to ensure the appropriate care of children with learning disabilities and autism. This includes support for families when children are at home, the offer of community based and residential short breaks and longer-term care where appropriate. The Council quality assure all of this provision with the support of health colleagues.

Children who require inpatient care, to meet their mental health needs, are placed in a Tier 4 provision by Specialist Commissioning NHS England, who are also responsible for quality assurance of this provision. There are currently six children with autism placed in Tier 4 provision from Devon. Local CAMHS services are part of the clinical team who support the admission and

discharge plan for any child placed. If the child is Looked After then Social Care also have lead professional responsibility throughout the placement and visits continue including co-ordinating the multi-agency plan for the move on to residential or fostering provision when a child well enough to be discharged from hospital.

The Council and Health have been working together through the SEND Improvement Board to plan services locally and to improve the capacity and capability of the local services and the workforce to meet the needs of children with learning disabilities, autism and challenging behaviour. This will include the roll out of the national training.

The TCP Steering Group has a tracker group which meets fortnightly to monitor and drive progress for this cohort of people. This work includes identifying and developing local community-based support and training for staff to support people with behaviour that challenges to be as independent as possible and part of their local community.

Locally agencies have recognised the need to expand and develop services for people with learning disabilities and/or autism and are investing to improve the availability of support. One of the key outcomes for this investment is to reduce the number of people going into specialist out of area hospital placements.

Devon, in conjunction with Devon Partnership Trust, has developed a 'blue light' protocol which brings together a group of health and social care professionals to proactively support people in the community where possible, and avoid a hospital admission.

Across the Devon STP, a new model of support is being implemented to ensure that people with autism have timely access to health and care support to meet their needs. The aim of this work is to prevent and/or reduce the escalation of people's needs and the number of hospital admissions. This work also includes increasing awareness of autism amongst non-specialist staff across agencies through training, learning materials and information available on the CCG and DCC website.

In Devon, we have built autism awareness and associated training into our workforce development plan and this is currently being rolled out to all frontline staff. We are also jointly developing a positive behaviour support network to improve the quality of health and care support received by people with learning disabilities and/or autism. We are monitoring the impact of this.

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Adult Social Care and Health Services