

Cabinet Member Update

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Briefing of: Councillor Tim Mitchell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Briefing Author and Contact Details: Charlie Hawken
chawken@westminster.gov.uk

1. COVID-19 Update

As of 26th August, 923 Westminster residents have tested positive for COVID-19.

Local Authorities have a significant role in supporting the UK Government's COVID-19 pandemic response including developing local Outbreak Control Plans and responding to Covid-based inequalities as well as shaping recovery strategy. Westminster's Outbreak Control Plan was published on 30th June 2020. The Plan identifies how the authority is supporting the national Test and Trace programme using local data and knowledge to profile the spread of COVID-19 in the borough, and to prevent and manage outbreaks and clusters in Westminster.

Operational teams have continued to support delivery of services to residents during COVID-19. Ways of working have adapted including the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in line with Public Health England Guidance when undertaking face to face visits. Teams are also completing assessments and reviews on the phone or via video calls where appropriate to ensure the most vulnerable are kept safe.

Adult Social Care is seeing a slight increase in the number of hoarding and self-neglect cases due to the lockdown and continues to work in partnership with Environmental Health and Housing on these cases. This is using the Self Neglect and Hoarding Protocols that were developed to ensure effective working between the different Council departments.

Our hospital social work teams have worked in partnership with Imperial Trust, Central London Community Health Care and North West London CCG's to create Discharge Hubs on site across the 3 hospital sites, St Mary's, Chelsea & Westminster and Charing Cross Hospital. The purpose of the hubs was to ensure

safe effective discharges of residents from hospital, ensuring that residents had to the correct support to return to their own homes. An Adult Social Care Staff presence remained on site at all 3 hospital sites throughout the pandemic to support the Discharge Hubs, ensuring new and innovative way of using existing resources were developed and to ensure that residents were safely and effectively supported to be discharged from hospital.

2. Recovery

There is ongoing work to ensure that vulnerable service users continue to be supported by Adult Social Care Work. This has included a project to contact all past and present users of the Visual Impairment Service to ensure that they are managing and to provide any additional support where required.

The ongoing monitoring of Care Homes is continuing but ensuring that social distancing is maintained. This includes conversations outside in gardens and over video calls utilising the iPads that were distributed to Care Homes at the start of the pandemic. These have been used to help residents maintain contact with their relatives when the homes were cocooned.

The improved Better Care Fund (iBCF) includes winter pressure funding and work is being completed on the Winter Pressures Planning to ensure that Adult Social Care can deal with increased pressures. This includes the general seasonal increases in demand, but also has anticipated a potential second wave of Covid-19 along with season flu.

3. Operational issues

Beachcroft House

Beachcroft House is an 84 bedded dual registered care home, developed by Westminster Council. It is set to replace two existing, nearby care homes, Carlton Dene and Westmead, which have come to the end of their use as buildings suitable for providing care. Residents of both homes have been given the option to move into Beachcroft House, or elsewhere should they choose, and all but one have chosen to move to the new care home. Consultation and engagement with residents, their families and loved ones have been very positive and feedback indicates a positive outlook and excitement about the move.

The transition period will last three- to four weeks, starting from the middle of September. Throughout this period the provision of care will be delivered by the existing staff who work at Carlton Dene and Westmead, with procurement of a long-term care organisation taking place in Autumn 2020, to start from Spring 2021. Detailed plans are in place for managing or adjusting the transition period in the light of any positive cases of COVID-19 before or during the transition period, informed by advice from Public Health.

Following the opening of Beachcroft House, the sites for Carlton Dene and Westmead are due to be redeveloped. The former is due to include a 65-bed extra care housing scheme for older people, as well as an increased number of affordable housing. The Westmead site is also scheduled for redevelopment as part of the housing development programme.

North West London Integrated Care Systems

North West London (NWL) is undertaking a consultation on the development of a single Integrated Care Systems (ICS) covering the five north west London CCGs.

The Council has welcomed the opportunity to contribute to the consultation and assurances have been given by NWL ICS to listen and ensure close collaborative working. They also recognise that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is going to place significant pressures on the financial and operational performance of our local Health and Social Care Systems.

As the detail of the new NWL ICS develops we will keep residents and our stakeholders updated through the Health and Wellbeing Board and other forums.

Gordon Hospital Consultation

The Gordon Hospital is a 55-bed acute in-patient mental health hospital located on Vauxhall Bridge Road managed by Central North West London (CNWL) NHS Trust. In March 2020, CNWL temporarily closed the Gordon Hospital as a key part of their COVID-19 response. CNWL presented a briefing to the July Health and Wellbeing Board to consult on the permanent closure of the hospital.

The reasons for the closure include the inpatient wards not complying with standards around physical environments for care such as no en-suite facilities along with the general layout that has posed long-standing challenges, particularly around safety for patients, the public and staff. Strategically, CNWL consider this proposal as part of the NHS Long Term Plan to support people at home and shift of care from inpatient to community-based settings where clinically possible.

Across London, CNWL has reduced its bed base across and this has provided challenges locally with no local Mental Health inpatient provision. This temporary closure of the Gordon resulted in long delays in finding beds and with some Westminster patients being admitted to units in outer London.

Mental Health - Transformation

CNWL Westminster received transformational funding through NHS England as an early implementer site of a new model of care for the provision of community mental health care to develop Community Mental Health Hubs.

This transformation programme will change the shape, structure and nature of the service and radically transform local Mental Health services moving them much closer to GP primary care networks through development of two Community Mental Health Hubs. The transformation of local services is welcome, and the local authority is working in partnership to strengthen its social care offer to residents.

Immunisations

Nationally COVID-19 has disrupted childhood immunisation programme delivery. There has been lower service utilisation and some reductions in vaccine uptake. There has also been a reduction in the incidence of some vaccine preventable diseases due to social distancing but many are still circulating for example pertussis (whooping cough). The consequence is that there is an increased pool of individuals who are susceptible to vaccine preventable disease.

Whilst COVID-19 appears to have had a marked negative impact on the uptake of childhood immunisations in other London boroughs, early indications are that this may not be as severe for Westminster.

Uptake of childhood immunisations remains below the 95% uptake required for herd immunity and the Local Immunisation Implementation Group, led and Chaired by Public Health, continue to work with partners including NHS England, the local CCGs and other organisations to maximise uptake.

A targeted communications plan is in place, and local authority commissioned services such as health visiting and the school health service are actively encouraging uptake although they are not directly commissioned to provide / deliver immunisations. Public Health are currently developing a school aged health strategy (5-19yrs) and one of the 6 priorities will be immunisations.

Flu

In light of the risk of flu and COVID-19 co-circulating this winter, the national flu immunisation programme will be absolutely essential to protecting vulnerable people and supporting the resilience of the health and care system. This is due to both the risk of a second wave of coronavirus, and to relieve winter pressures on A&E and emergency care.

The main ask for the 2020 campaign is that anyone who is at risk of being affected by the flu, or affecting someone else who is vulnerable, is vaccinated this autumn. This year, the free flu vaccine will be available to:

- People who have been shielding and members of their household
- All school year groups up to and including year 7

- 50 to 64 year olds who will be invited later in the season – the NHS will contact people directly once vaccination of the most ‘at risk’ groups is underway
- People aged over 65, pregnant women, those with pre-existing health conditions

For this year’s residents facing campaign, we are proposing to adopt national messaging, resources and assets, alongside producing localised materials to engage and support our diverse communities. For staff, a voucher scheme will be in place with frontline staff prioritised.

Change4Life

Since 2019 the whole-system ‘Change4Life Programme’ has been delivering evidence-based initiatives to tackle childhood obesity in Westminster focusing on promoting healthy weight and the wider wellbeing of children, young people (CYP) and families.

The summer campaign called Naturally Active supporting families to be physically active utilising their local environment and green spaces. It also ensured messaging consistently reminded families about social distancing while being active outdoors and responded to families’ anxiety to leave the house and low levels of physical activities due to the lockdown.

The Change4Life grant scheme launched in July 2020 and facilitates community-led initiatives, focused on more deprived areas, promoting physical activity. So far, 5 grants of up to £1000 have been awarded to organisations that work with children, young people and families in Westminster to deliver activities that link to the Naturally Active campaign and help children, young people and families be physically active outdoors this summer.

On 1st July 2020 the Change4Life Service launched, a key component of the wider Change4Life programme, which will deliver a range of new and exciting services supporting children, young people and families to lead healthier and happier lives. Family Action who are partnering with two sub-contractors, London Sports Trust and Health Education Partnership, have been awarded the contract to deliver the service. During this implementation phase the service is adapting its digital offer as well as utilising the latest information to ensure an inclusive offer.