

Date:	8th November 2021
Report of:	Councillor Tim Mitchell
Portfolio:	Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
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1 Summary

This report provides the Scrutiny Committee with an update on key aspects relating to Adult Social Care (ASC) and Public Health, including the response to COVID-19.

2 Mental Health

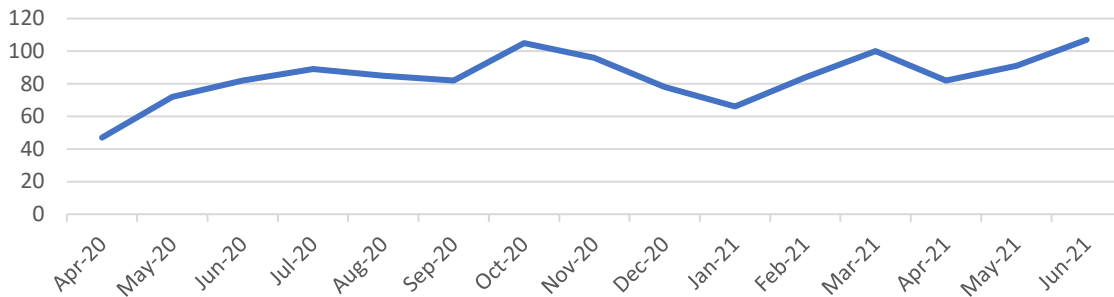
ASC community mental health services are delivered through a Section 75 Partnership Agreement with Central North West London (CNWL) NHS Foundation Trust. Community Mental Health Hubs have recently been created and aligned with Primary Care Networks, moving towards the provision of more integrated, personalised and place-based care. There are two Community Mental Health Hubs covering Westminster, with each tailored in terms of staffing and provision of services to meet the needs of their local population.

Mental Health Services and Demand During the Pandemic

There have been increases in demand for mental health services throughout the pandemic, mainly around depression and anxieties but also within the number of people experiencing a mental health breakdown and requiring a Mental Health Act assessment.

The graph below shows the number of referrals for assessments conducted per month between April 2020 and June 2021. This comparator data shows there has been a 33% increase in the number of referrals received for Mental Health Act assessment over the same quarter reporting period for last year.

Number of Mental Health Act Referrals Q1 20/21 to Q1 21/22



Outcomes from these assessments include:

- 38 % - Compulsory admission to hospital for 28 days
- 24% - Admission for treatment
- 16% - No application/admission
- 15% - Community Treatment Order
- 7% - Voluntary admission, detention under guardianship, Emergency Duty Team

Under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act, the Police have the power to take a person who appears to be suffering from a mental illness and to be in immediate need of care or control in a public place, to a place of safety. This power was exercised 29 times in Westminster in the first quarter of 2021/22, with 17 residents admitted to psychiatric hospital.

Mental health service interventions were able to respond to the challenges throughout last year however, there are several ongoing challenges for the service, including:

- Bed availability continues to remain a challenge and likely to become more problematic going forward
- Contracting services elsewhere continues to place additional demands on the Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) service
- Reviewing the Single Point of Access (SAP) to improve signposting and collaborative working
- Recruitment of AMHPs. This is also a national challenge.

3 Discharge to Assess (D2A)

The NHS has implemented a Discharge to Assess (D2A) pathway which sees patients, who are medically optimised, being discharged and assessed outside of the hospital setting. This has allowed for quicker discharges and eased pressures on hospital beds. However, this has seen increased costs to ASC due to people being discharged and requiring higher care packages, in the short term.

The risk to ASC budgets is currently being mitigated through Discharge Funding, which funds a person's first four weeks of post-discharge recovery and support services. This will continue until 31 March 2022 - consequently no costs for care will be available during 2022/23.

The implications of D2A and the loss of Discharge Funding are being worked through and will be clarified in the coming months.

4 Integrated Care Services / Integrated Care Partnerships

Integrated Care Systems (ICS) are partnerships that bring together providers and commissioners to collectively plan health and care services to meet the needs of their population. Regular meetings are held with partners, including feeding into the wider North West London (NWL) meetings to ensure local priorities are influencing policies (and funding) at regional level. The aim of the ICS is to integrate care across different organisations and settings to improve population health and tackle health inequalities.

NWL ICS and local Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) has a number of areas of priority, including:

- Obesity
- Discharge
- Care Homes
- Children and Young People
- Population Health Management

5 City for All – Priorities Update

Adult Social Care and Public Health are supporting a range of projects across the City for All (CfA) plan and include:

Priority 1 – Addressing the Impacts of COVID-19 on Residents

COVID-19 has affected some communities disproportionately and is highly likely to be exacerbating wide health disparities that were already present in Westminster. £3m from the Public Health grant will be invested in short-medium term projects with a focus on those communities we most want to reach with a view to evaluating and then sustaining a long-term focus on actions which work.

Priority 2 – Mental Health and Wellbeing in a Post-COVID World

The development of a Mental Wellness Training opportunity will provide training on mental wellness and life skills training to the community. This is being done in conjunction with the development of the digital platform to bring together resources to support residents with their mental wellbeing. Together it will alert them to activities in their communities and develop a menu of mental health training for community organisations, businesses, and statutory sector partners.

The Suicide Safer Communities initiative, which will operate across the Bi-borough, is out for tender and will go live in January 2022 with the successful partner/partners.

Priority 3 – The Dementia Plan

Our Dementia Plan commits the City to four areas of action, for which updates are provided below:

- Raising awareness and reducing the risk - Training for dementia awareness and dementia champions continues to be delivered for all staff, new starters and for organisations across the City through the Dementia Action Alliance.
- Providing personalised, timely and high-quality services - Memory Assessment Service on Westbourne Park Road has re-opened.
- Creating a community that is dementia-friendly - Council staff, partners and residents continue to work across the City to maintain its dementia friendly status.
- Giving unpaid carers good support - Carers Network is working with partners across the public, private and voluntary sector to attract unidentified carers and make sure they are able to access available support.

Priority 4 – Trialling Smart City Assistive Technologies

The Virtual Wallet pilot project has completed the refresh of user research findings. A series of 45-minute interviews conducted via Teams or telephone with service users receiving direct payments. Participants were shown example screens from a potential virtual wallet provider as well as an explanation of the concept. The feedback and learning from these interviews will inform the design and next steps for the pilot.

6 Winter Plan and Flu Vaccinations

The Bi-borough ICP Staying Well This Winter and Keeping Each Other Safe Plan was presented at the October Health and Wellbeing Board. The three broad priorities for supporting our local health and care system outlined in the plan are:

- Being proactive through a community led Making Every Contact Count (MECC) approach to support people to stay well over the Winter months.
- Managing demand pressures on health and care by ensuring opportunities are maximised for people to be supported within the community rather than attending hospital, or to be supported at home as early as possible, if a hospital attendance is required.
- Working as an integrated partnership to continue to support the health and care workforce over the challenging Winter months.




To keep staff, services, vulnerable residents, and communities as safe as possible this Winter, a free flu vaccine offer for staff was launched in September 2021. Also, vaccinations have commenced in GP practices and local pharmacies, and outreach has also begun to provide vaccinations in care homes and to housebound residents.

The national 'Boost your Immunity' communications campaign promoting the NHS Flu and COVID-19 booster vaccines to high-risk groups launched in October 2021. The plan will be amplified across council channels and via close working with NWL.

7 COVID-19 updates

Current Epidemiology and Cases

Data as at 27 October 2021

Westminster Average	London Average	England Average
206.4 per 100,000	290.5 per 100,000	487.4 per 100,000
 24% increase from last week	 19% increase from last week	 12% increase from last week

WCC Positivity Rate: **2.6%**

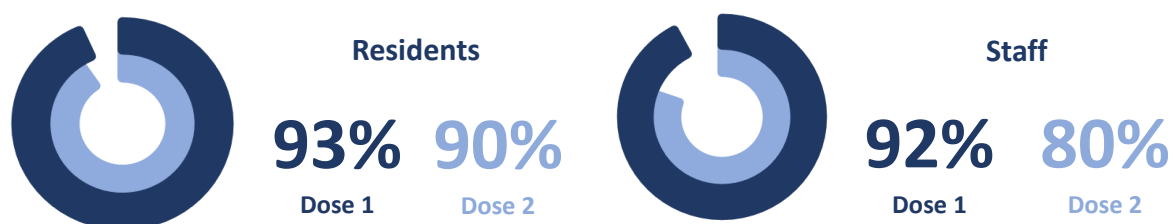
WCC Tests Per Day Average: **2,981**

After a pattern of increasing cases from June to mid-July 2021, case rates initially declined but have subsequently plateaued at a relatively high level. This is consistent with what has been observed at a London level and in both London and Westminster there has been a recent increase in case numbers. Currently there are more cases in the 12-17 age cohort.

As at 27 October 2021, the total number of COVID-19 cases was 25,288. Westminster has the third lowest rate of infection in London at 206.4 per 100,000 population which is up by 24% from the previous week.

Care Homes

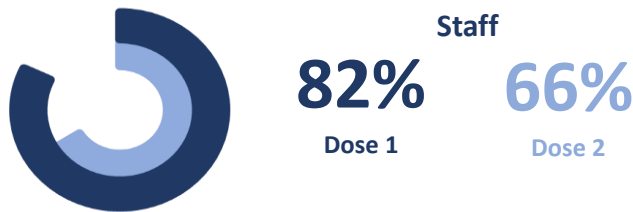
Uptake of the vaccine continues to increase across care homes in Westminster, particularly amongst care home staff. Data as at 8 October 2021 shows:



The rollout of booster vaccinations has commenced, with 56% of care home residents being vaccinated and 10% of staff. Work remains underway to encourage staff to receive their booster. Westminster is the first Local authority in North West London to have completed booster roll out in all our care homes. Mop up sessions are also planned in 2 weeks-time when more staff are eligible for boosters (6 months will have elapsed from 2nd vaccinations).

Home Care

Uptake of the vaccine continues to also increase across home care services in Westminster. Workforce data as at 8 October 2021 shows:



This is higher than the London average where only 61.6% of staff have had their first dose and 15.8% their second dose.

Work to ensure preparedness for Winter is in full flow. Measures include block booking homecare capacity to ensure ample capacity to meet any spikes in demand and refreshing plans around overnight care pathways, to keep hospital flow moving well. Staff across all sectors of ASC, including residential and home care, are being supported to take up the flu vaccine alongside COVID-19 vaccinations.

Outbreak Management

The Westminster Local Outbreak Management Plan has been updated in light of recent changes to government guidance, particularly around the move to Step Four of easing lockdown, regulatory proposals, and self-isolation changes. The plan is currently being further updated.

Supporting the CCG with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations

The latest report from NHS England states, 52% of Westminster residents over the age of 18 have received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. This figure rises to 65% within our residents aged 50+.

Booster vaccinations, using either Pfizer or Moderna, are also available for those who are aged 50+, carers, frontline health, and social care staff or those classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. Westminster continues to have a comparatively low vaccination uptake. Vaccinations continue to be available through local clinics, pop ups and pharmacies. The latest offer is available on the [Westminster City Council website](#).

Westminster City Council is responsible for booking schools in for the vaccination clinics. In collaboration with the Strategic Education Lead and NHS colleagues, the rollout of vaccinations among the 12-15 age group has rapidly gained momentum since it commenced on 20 September 2021. Pop ups will then be available during this forthcoming half term for those who have yet to benefit from the vaccine.