

ADULTS, HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY BOARD, Thursday, 19th August, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Blagbrough (Chair)

Councillors: Barnes, Benton, Durrans, Hutchinson, Kingstone, Parsons-Hulse, Robinson and M Swift

16 SUBSTITUTES NOMINATED FOR THIS MEETING AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies received.

(The meeting finished at 20.40 Hours).

17 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Durrans declared an interest in minute 19 as she was a member of a Neuro Parent group and in minute 20 as she had links with North Halifax partnership.

Councillor Parsons-Hulse declared an interest in minute 19 as she works in a psychotherapy service provision outside the Borough.

18 MINUTES OF THE ADULTS, HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY BOARD MEETING HELD ON 15TH JULY 2021

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Adults, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board held on 15th July 2021, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

19 SUICIDE PREVENTION

The Interim Consultant, Public Health presented a report on the partnership work being undertaken on suicide prevention. The report included the findings of the audit undertaken between 2016 and 2018 (Appendix A) and informed Members on:

- suicide rates in Calderdale in comparison to local, regional and national figures;
- a summary of the risk and protective factors from the suicide audit;
- the background information on the construction and priorities of the updated Suicide Prevention Action Plan (SPAP);
- a summary of the progress made on the delivery of the SPAP; and
- the integration of suicide prevention into all the council's services and programmes for all age groups.

The Chair welcomed the representatives from partnership organisations and Members of the Children and Young Persons Scrutiny Board who had been invited to attend the meeting and contribute to the review of the report.

Councillors Barnes, Blagbrough, Courtney, Durrans, Foster, Holdsworth, Hutchinson, Kingstone, Parsons-Hulse, Rivron, M Swift commented:

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- Why is the SPAP not attached to the report? In response, Officers advised that the SPAP is currently going through the final check and approval process. A timescale of when the SPAP will be submitted for consideration will be circulated to Members in the next few days.
- The report does not give a sense of why Calderdale suicide rates were higher than average.
- At the July 2021 meeting of this Board a report on “Burnt Bridges” had been scrutinised by Members where concerns had been raised about the lack of joined up services and clear signposting and no one taking on responsibility. There is a need for joined up services between Mental Health and Drug/Alcohol Dependency Teams. Members had experience in the past where alcohol/drug dependant persons had been refused support within the Mental Health service and this now needs to start to happen. In response, Officers replied they saw clear links between the “Burnt Bridges” report and a joined up service approach required for suicide prevention.
- There is a lot of data analysis in the report which also advises that support for relationship challenges and adjustments to benefit status particularly for the disabled community is required. In response, Officers advised that the Department of Work and Pensions and GP practices deal with benefit assessments independent of each other and that dual diagnosis should be applied and focussed on. The following report at this meeting is about a person centred approach to avoid people falling through the cracks.
- The last audit on suicide prevention did not include ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation. A co-ordinated approach is not limited to Mental Health and Drug/Alcohol dependencies Teams but involves other teams and partnerships as well to prevent all people including young people reaching crisis point. In response, Officers advised dual diagnosis is an area that requires attention and improvement and is one of the action points in the SPAP.
- Data on adults show it is more common that a person who commits suicide have attempted suicide previously. Are data collected on children and young people recorded differently as there is some understanding that some young people’s deaths are recorded as accidental? In response, officers advised that all evidence is reviewed and if the burden of proof is that it is a suicide then that is what is recorded.
- Having to wait up to 12 weeks following a referral to Mental Health services is too long. Intervention is required sooner to avoid people reaching crisis point. In response, Officers acknowledged that provision across the service does have different waiting times but there are services available such as Safe Spaces who are available every evening and currently there is no waiting list at Healthy Minds.
- Some of the intervention services are not funded and require volunteers to raise funds to keep the services running sustainably. These services should be fully funded. Statistics and information on training is also available for officers going into schools and Children’s Home settings. What controls and training are being offered to the voluntary sector? In response, Officers advised that all schools in Calderdale are covered, a therapeutic plan forms part of all Children Looked After

(CLA) care plan which is reviewed. Officers further advised that they could not predict what support or funding will be available to support voluntary groups going forward. Information needs to be kept simple and should have contingency plans in place if there is a shortfall in service.

- What help is being provided to support all Young People's Mental Health post covid-19? In response, Officers advised that schools have been given a significant amount of funding to provide support to young people struggling to readjust back to a school environment and studying.
- It is criminal that millions of pounds require spending after the event are not available to invest as a prevention before the event. These services should be fully funded. In response, a representative from West Yorkshire Police (WYP) advised that they currently work closely with Mental Health Services on a more reactive than proactive basis. People are referred through different agencies and they also assist family and friends of the person by signposting them to agencies as well. It was important to look at prevention rather than reaction solutions. It is very traumatic for their officers to attend and deal with the aftermath of suicide.
- The similarities in "Burnt Bridges" and the joined-up service report on suicide prevention should be in the next report.
- Is service provision impacted by the transition from Children and Young People Service to Adult Service provision? In response, Officers advised a smooth change can be achieved by making the transition personalised, softening the boundaries between directorates, and adopting a trauma informed approach.

The Chair summarised the key themes and issues highlighted in the discussion which would be collated by the Scrutiny Officer into a report to be presented to an informal joint meeting of the Children and Young People's and Adults Health and Wellbeing Boards.

IT WAS AGREED that:

(a) the Senior Scrutiny Support Officer be requested to collate the key themes and issues discussed and present a report to an informal joint meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Board and the Adults Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Board; and

(b) the report be noted.

20 TRANSFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Chair of this Scrutiny Board welcomed the Chair and Members of the Calderdale Collaborative Community Partnership Board (3CPB) to the meeting.

The Director, Public Health and the Chair of 3CPB presented their report on Transforming Community Services and with other Members of the 3CPB gave a presentation on collaborative partnership working in Community Services which informed Members on the role of Calderdale Cares, its story so far, and the development of the role of 3CPB and their programme plan. The key factors

developed in creating the conditions to achieve Calderdale Cares outcomes which are:

- Person Centred
- Place Based Intervention, Investment and Provision
- Channel Shift
- Sustainable Place Based Workforce
- Place Based Digital Maturity
- Right Care, Right Time, Right Place

Councillors Barnes, Hutchinson and Kingstone commented on the report:

- The Urgent Community Response Report contains too much jargon and is not reader friendly. Future reports need to be simplified and not contain jargon.
- It is useful to know where on the programme/plan the 3CPB members were at.
- It would be useful to have solid aims rather than aspirations.
- Members look forward to seeing a detailed local report at a meeting later in the year, not a duplication of the West Yorkshire Joint Overview and Scrutiny report which had not included sufficient detail.

IT WAS AGREED that the report be noted.

21 COVID-19 UPDATE

The Director, Adult Services and Wellbeing gave an oral update that provided information on the key changes to the response to the pandemic since the last meeting of the Board. He advised that in the period 8th to 14th August:

- Calderdale residents had a Covid-19 case rate of 396 per 100,000.
- there had been two outbreaks in care homes and one case from social care provision.
- 86% of care home staff have received their 1st vaccination and 78% their second vaccination.
- 89% of residential care setting staff have received their 1st vaccination and 74% their second vaccination.

The Director, Adult Services and Wellbeing further advised that on 16th July 2021 the Government had advised that all staff in the care sector are required to be fully vaccinated by 11th November 2021 unless they have a medical exemption. The current estimate is that potentially 120 staff in care settings will lose their job and this

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was on top of approximately a 10% vacancy rate within the sector. Calderdale had the 2nd lowest death rate in a care home setting in Yorkshire and Humber and were 42nd Local Authority nationally.

Members received the update.

IT WAS AGREED that:

(a) the Director, Adults Health and Wellbeing be requested to write a letter of thanks to Calderdale Care Home Staff.

(b) the update be noted.

22 WORK PROGRAMME 2021/22

The Senior Scrutiny Officer provided a written report which updated the Adult Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board's Work Programme that included upcoming items and an opportunity to make any changes/additions and incorporate any suggestions made within this meeting of the Scrutiny Board.

The Chair confirmed that if anyone had any suggestion or items to add to contact him or the Senior Scrutiny Officer directly.

IT WAS AGREED that the report be noted.