

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a remote meeting of the **Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held on Tuesday, 1 December 2020 at 1.00pm

PRESENT

Councillor J. Beynon
(Chair, in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

Armstrong, E.
Bowman, L.
Cessford, T.
Dungworth, S.

Hutchinson, J. I.
Nisbet, K.
Rickerby, L.J.
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CABINET MEMBER

Jones, V.

Adults Wellbeing

ALSO PRESENT

Angus, C.
Bowers, H. A.
Brooks, P.

McEvoy-Carr, C.

Richardson, E.
Taylor, M.

Scrutiny Officer
Democratic Services Officer
Service Lead – Northumberland
Communities Together Hub
Executive Director Adult Social Care and
Children's Services
Senior Manager, Poverty Lead
Director, Business Development &
Communities

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Nugent, D

Healthwatch

127. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Dodd and E Simpson.

128. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny

Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3 November 2020, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

At the last meeting a question had been raised regarding the administration of the flu vaccine to the vulnerable. A written response had been provided to members.

The Chair informed members that Liz Morgan, Director of Public Health and Dr Jim Brown, Public Health Consultant would no longer attend the Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny meetings and any Covid updates would be given at All Member Briefings. A member stated that the roles of the Scrutiny Committee and All Member Briefings should be distinguished as the scrutiny committee may want to scrutinise reports rather than receiving information. The Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Children's Services stated that this would be relayed to the Director of Public Health and a regular reporting pattern would be organised.

129. FORWARD PLAN

The latest Forward Plan of key decisions (attached to the signed minutes as **Appendix A**) were noted.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

130. HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health & Wellbeing Board held on 10 September and 8 October 2020 Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Tuesday 3 November 2020, were attached for information. (attached as **Appendix B**).

CABINET REPORTS FOR CONSIDERATION BY SCRUTINY

131. NORTH EAST AMBULANCE SERVICE – QUALITY ACCOUNTS

Members received a presentation on the Quality Report 2019/20 from Mark Cotton, Assistant Director of Communications and Engagement, North East Ambulance Service. (Presentation attached as **Appendix C**).

- In line with the requirements of the Foundation Trust's to produce an annual Quality report the presentation provided an update on the progress made on the three quality priorities for 2019/20 and also outlined the proposals for the quality priorities for 2020/21
- One of the priorities in the Quality Report for the previous year was to improve survival from cardiac arrests with early CPR and early defibrillation which were key to survival
- Community public access defibrillators (CPADS) were purchased through charitable funds for those areas which would benefit the most

- The table of page 5 highlighted the CCG areas which already had CPADS in 2018/19. In Northumberland, this had increased from 230 to 282 in 2019/20.
- CPADS were all automatic and no training was required and anyone who needed to activate would have written and audio instructions
- The GoodSAM app had been rolled out which could be downloaded onto a telephone and tracked by NEAS. The app was available to registered health clinicians. This had helped to get early CPR to patients.
- Work had commenced on a cardiac arrest registry which tracked where cardiac arrest occurred and the outcome
- The table on slide 11 showed the return of spontaneous circulation and measured how many resuscitations were started and how many were successful
- The return of spontaneous circulation against overall resuscitations carried out was relatively low as it was unknown how long the patient had been collapsed before starting CPR.
- The return of spontaneous circulation, witnessed was also measured and had a higher successful rate
- Survival to discharge to hospital was also measured
- The NEAS Ambulance Mini Medics had been set up in 2019 for 9 to 12 year olds to teach them valuable life skills and hopefully develop a future interest in paramedics.
- It was difficult to understand the extent of pre-hospital emergency care use by patients with mental health needs and the aim of the priority was to develop and implement year one of the Mental Health Strategy to improve the care of patients with mental health needs
- Year two would see the delivery of a three-year mental health education programme and would include a mental health tool for paramedics
- NEAS Mental Health Strategy would provide a bespoke service to allow timely conveyance to hospital or places of safety and a trauma risk management tool within a training programme had been piloted in February for front line crews
- The aim of the Just Culture priority was to begin work to ensure a just culture was developed within the organisation and would improve the reporting environment and improve patient safety
- Patient safety incident reporting had increased from 2035 in 2018/19 to 2208 in 2019/20.
- NEAS was above average of most ambulance services in safe practices and the best performing trust in reporting incidents
- The quality priorities for 2020/21 were:
 - The management of the deterioration of patients.
 - Determining what factors might identify possible deterioration.
 - The review all current processes.
 - Continuing to support communities in setting up defibrillators.
 - Review the impact of the specialist paramedics in Emergency Care Dispatch desk
 - The use of smart technologies to summon early help
 - Review clinical care provided post cardiac arrest
 - To ensure patients receive end of life care and a peaceful death
 - Ensuring available resources
 - Undertake and evaluate emergency health care plans.
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The following comments were made in response to questions raised by members:-

- Regarding training – there were community response schemes and volunteers who received refresher training. CPR schemes were updated, and training offered for members of the public.
- A list of postcodes which required defibrillators would be circulated to all members
- Firefighters were not included in the GoodSAM app as assurance was required that the app was working efficiently in the first instance. Some authorities did offer the app to members of the public, but it was important that correct training was given. The more people that were trained, the better the response.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

132. NORTHUMBERLAND COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

Members were updated on the establishment of the Northumberland Communities Together Service and its response to the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Pandemic. The update also provided an overview of the services ongoing response and delivery initiatives since March 2020 and its strategic aims and priorities going forward. Report attached as **Appendix D**).

Councillor Veronica Jones introduced the report and informed members that Northumberland Communities Together had been introduced in March during the first lock down in response to those shielding and had identified those needing help to get food essentials which was made up mainly of staff volunteers and locality coordinators, working with the VCS and the Covid response groups. There had been an amazing response.

We were now in middle of the second wave, and Northumberland Communities Together was responding to the impact of emergency and were now embedded in the core business of the Council, supporting residents along with the DWP, CAB, NHS and the Voluntary Sector and also included the Care in the Communities programme to bring together one response to those in need.

Maureen Taylor, Director of Business Development and Communities informed members that the response from staff and communities had been incredible and the Covid 19 humanitarian crisis that we found ourselves in made us pull together for the benefit of our residents. The introduction of “shielding” meant that 20,000 residents found themselves having to live within tight restrictions to protect themselves from contracting the virus. NCT was created to ensure those specifically shielding and other vulnerable residents were supported through the first lock down with support for essential food and medication supplies.

The county was very privileged to have an amazing voluntary sector and strong community response which NCT harnessed. We helped facilitate this response and

maximised this position of strength in local communities. NCT and the network of over 300 community groups had been actively supporting people with food and fuel poverty, mental health and wellbeing needs, pulling together other services such as Revenues and Benefits and Welfare Rights to ensure all the available help and support is activated.

Despite the change to the lockdown arrangements over the summer, many residents still needed help due to being furloughed or out of work. There was a lot of vulnerability throughout the county. NCT continued and was no longer a temporary service. A service structure was set up with posts realigned from across council services - a breakdown was shown in the report of existing positions across the Council and NHS.

Thanks were conveyed to Paul Brooks and Emma Richardson for the work they had done and who had been the backbone of the service. The work they had carried out had been outstanding.

NCT would continue to explore funding and move into a strategic development position engaging with communities and the voluntary sector.

The volume of activity had been huge, including millions of items of PPE delivered and tens of thousands of pounds to support the community groups.

The Chair thanked the officer for her presentation and also conveyed his thanks to the team.

The following comments were made in response to questions raised by members:-

- Regarding free school meals – a lot of work had been going on around provision and an update will be provided for an All Member Briefing. An update would also be given at the Family & Children’s Scrutiny Committee
- It was requested that an update be given after the Christmas period

RESOLVED that:-

1. The ongoing impact of the Coronavirus emergency on the residents of Northumberland and the need for a collaborative partnership response be noted.
2. The continued work undertaken to date by the service to build community capability and capacity to respond be noted.
3. Further clarity and assurance through scrutiny and challenge, helping to set future strategy and prioritised action be sought.
4. Further reports on the work being undertaken by the Northumberland Communities Together Service, aligned to corporate response and recovery plans be received.

133. WORK PROGRAMME

Members considered the work programme/monitoring report for the Health and Wellbeing OSC for 2019/20. (Report attached to the signed minutes as Appendix E.)

A verbal update on Northumberland Communities Together was requested for the January meeting.

RESOLVED that the work programme be noted.

134. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 5 January 2021 at 1:00 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____