

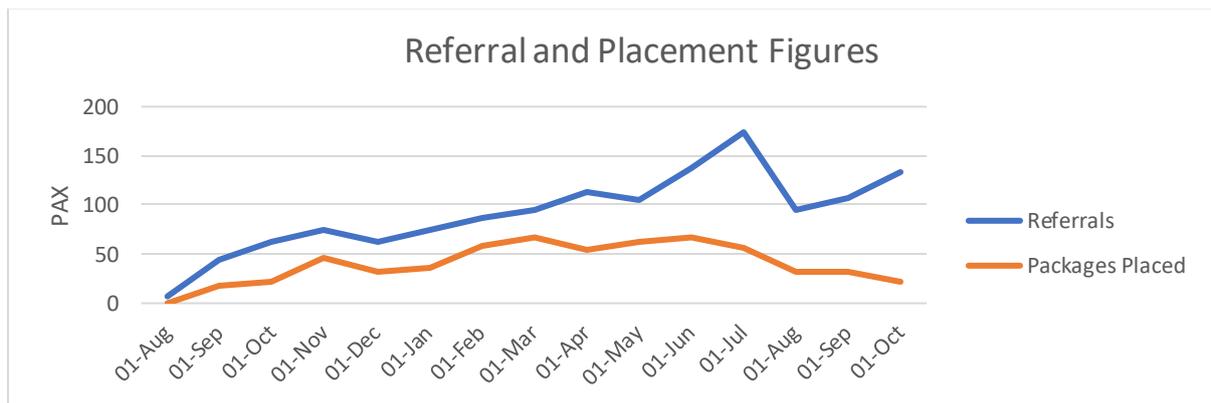
BATH & North East Somerset Adult Lead Member Report for Children and Adults Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

System pressures

The health and social care system continues to work together to address the many challenges posed by the combination of increased demand and staff shortages; services remain under great strain.

The number of people delayed in hospital beds continues to be high with over 100 currently in the RUH who are ready to be discharged. Since my last report, social care providers have handed back 30 care packages because they are no longer able to meet individual clients needs due to staff shortages. We continue to experience Covid outbreaks in care homes which also reduces the availability of beds, 4 homes are currently closed to admission due to Covid with 32 people residents and staff currently testing positive. There has been a significant increase in cases following the false negative PCR tests.

While our adultcare team has continued to work closely with the RUH, Virgin care and other local providers, staff shortages are having an increasing impact on the system and there are growing concerns about the RUH's ability to respond to acute needs and to tackle the backlog of work caused by the pandemic. Commissioners are currently working on actions to improve flow through the system which will have an impact on the adult social care response. The chart below shows the significant increase in demand for home care since this time last year and the limitations on being able to place people with the current availability of home care.



We are commissioning additional home care through the Discharge to Assess programme (D2A) and have set up an Intermediate care team to support people who are being reabled in care home beds. However, this is proving challenging in the current employment market. Our CRCs have played a key role in meeting this challenge providing additional beds for people who will move on to permanent residential or nursing care as well as for those who need a period of further recovery before going home.

One of the many measures we have taken to mitigate the staff shortages is to develop the Proud to Care campaign which included holding a Recruitment Fair at the end of September. While this was welcomed and well supported by local providers, the number of people that attended was low, but has resulted in a small number of appointments, therefore we will be continuing collaborative efforts to attract more people into the social care workforce. It is worth noting that, in recognition of this being a national problem, the government has just launched a recruitment campaign for social care. It remains to be seen whether this will make much difference.

Learning Disability Services

A joint strategic review between the CCG and the council has been undertaken which highlights the current gaps and issues in local provision for people with learning disabilities along with a lack of planning and market development. As a result, both the CCG and the council are strengthening their commissioning of these services, developing the market in a more planned and strategic way which will include:

- Engagement with the provider market in B&NES, and with adults with a learning disability / autism and their carers to move towards meaning full co-production.
- Joint development of a set of commissioning intentions and a shared ethos to underpin the delivery of new services.
- To develop a five-year rolling commissioning plan which identifies new demand each year over the next five years to plan new growth.
- To commission new services that can grow incrementally each year in line with demand through open and transparent procurement processes.
- Develop longer term contractual arrangements that give providers more financial certainty and confidence to grow provision.

The first phase of commissioning and procurement will be to continue to grow supported living services and the procurement for this will commence next year. Following the recent single member decision taken in October to increase investment in the Virgin Care Learning Disability services, we will begin the phased expansion of the Virgin Care Supported Living Service which will address some of the more immediate supply pressures for people with more complex needs.

Update on Transformation Process

Transformational programmes are underway across Adults' and Children's services in B&NES which will help to improve the services and increase the efficiency and productivity of back-office functions. Each of the 7 projects for project for Adult social care has a project manager and a subject matter expert who is supporting the developing of the redesign and improvement of services

There is a monthly Adult Social Care Internal Transformation Group which is chaired by Amanda George, Director of Business Change and Customer Services who has an overview of the council transformation programmes.

Highlight reports are generated by each of the workstream leads and these provide an update on progress being made alongside key risks and challenges. They also provide opportunities to identify project interdependencies between transformation workstreams and wider interdependencies with other areas of work such as budget setting and development projects.

Care Homes

The leader of the council and myself have a planned visit to Cleeve Court in November to thank the staff for the fantastic work they are doing and for what they have done throughout the pandemic. As the lead member I also plan to visit a number of our internal Extra Housing and care Homes to meet staff and thank them for their work.

The leader and the senior management team of the council are also planting bulbs in care homes in the community to thank staff for all the work they have done throughout the last 2 years.

Cllr Alison Born – Cabinet Lead, Adult Social Care