

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

System pressures

Since our last meeting, the recent wave of the Omicron variant of Covid has caused significant additional pressure to the health and social care system. This intensified over the Christmas period due to high case numbers, staff absences and the additional capacity needed to deliver the booster programme. The local health and social care system has continued to work together very effectively and Suzanne Westhead and Corrine Edwards will be presenting an update at this meeting on behalf of the council and the CCG.

Proud to Care Campaign

In recent months, close to 20% of local care posts have been vacant and most recently, on average, a further 10% of care staff have been off sick. This shortfall of almost one third of the workforce has contributed to the pressures on the local health and social care system by disrupting flow.

The Proud to Care campaign is one of a number of initiatives that have been developed to try to address the shortfall of care staff in the local area. It aims to celebrate the work of carers and to attract more people into the sector. Following an initial recruitment fair, held in the Guildhall in September '21, a further event was held at Bath University and another is planned for this Friday at Midsomer Norton Town Hall. The recruitment fair will provide an opportunity for potential recruits to meet with a range of local employers and representatives of Bath College who can provide information on job vacancies, apprenticeships and other training opportunities.

Update on Transformation Process

We had planned to provide a detailed update on the transformation of adult care services at this meeting but due to the recent system pressures it has been agreed that this will be delayed until the next meeting on March 8th.

Community Health and Care Services

Following the unexpected announcement on December 1st that Virgin Care had been sold to Twenty20 Capital and re-branded as HCRG, a decision was made to pause the planned contract extension. This was to allow time for comprehensive due diligence to be undertaken on the new provider and for commissioners to reflect on the implications of the change of circumstances. A specialist organisation is undertaking this work on behalf of the council and the CCG and we will plan to update this group further at the next meeting on March 8th.

Cllr Alison Born – Cabinet Lead, Adult Social Care, January 2022