

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

HCRG

The council and the CCG continue to work together on the future of the community services contract following the unexpected sale of Virgin Care to Twenty 20 Capital. We met with representatives of Twenty 20 Capital and HCRG on March 29th to discuss the new owners vision for the service and work continues on the revised options appraisal. The options appraisal and recommendations will be discussed at a closed session of the Health Scrutiny panel (date to be confirmed) prior to a decision being made by Cabinet and the CCG ahead of the June deadline.

Update on system pressures and recruitment to Care posts

The local health and care system remains under considerable strain. Shortages in social care capacity continue to have knock on effects on the hospital system and also on ambulance services.

Within the local care home sector 47 residents and 65 staff are currently suffering from Covid, 85% of residential and nursing beds are occupied, mainly by self funders and the 15% that are not occupied cannot currently be used due to:

- current covid infection 3% (47 beds)
- Insufficient staffing due to a combination of sickness and vacancies 4% (55 beds)
- Covid management/infection control 3% (39 beds)
- Booked for occupation as soon as the beds come out of quarantine 3% (44 beds)
- Other issues (including problems with a room, refurbishment, access issues 2% (30 beds)

We have never previously had to operate with such limited access to beds.

The Proud to Care campaign is ongoing and another recruitment fair was held in Keynsham last Friday. Good progress is being made on recruitment to the in-house home care service that we are developing in partnership with the RUH. We are hoping to interview the care-coordinator in the next few days so the service should become operational soon. We are also currently seeking new tenders to increase homecare capacity in the area.

Staffing Update - Adult Social Care

Two new Assistant Director posts have been created to reflect the current complexity of work in adult social care and the fact that the Community Resource Centre provision has transferred back from Sirona to B&NES council. Nathalia Lachkou recently moved from Oxfordshire County council to the AD Commissioning role and we have a very strong field for the AD Operations interviews on Thursday 7th April. I'm also pleased to confirm that Anne Marie Stavert who has worked for many years at HCRG has been appointed to the Head of Residential services post. Sadly,

Debbie Forward is retiring from her senior Commissioning manager role at the end of April, Deborah Wolfson has been appointed as an interim to cover this important work for three months as we interview this week for a permanent replacement for Debbie Forward.

Future changes within adult Social Care

There are three very important national policy changes in Adult Social which the service is planning to implement over the next year.

Firstly the Build Back Better - Adult Social Care Charging Reforms. This includes the lifetime cap of £86k on the amount anyone in England will need to spend on their personal care in a residential setting, alongside a more generous means test which is presently an upper capital of £23,250 which will raise to £100,000.

Secondly, Adult social Care are preparing for the new CQC inspection framework. It is expected that CQC will share the framework in early summer and the key focus will be on local authorities and integrated care systems with a consistent set of themes, from registration through to ongoing assessment. The CQC assessment framework will go live in 23/24.

Thirdly, the Government has legislated to introduce a new system for providing safeguards to people aged 16 and above who lack the capacity to consent to arrangements for care and treatment and need to be deprived of their liberty for the purpose of providing their care or treatment. The Mental Capacity (Amendment) Act amends the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and received Royal Assent on 16 May 2019. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has yet to publish details for when the full implementation of Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) will need to be in place.

B&NES Wellbeing House

Some concerns have been raised about a recent reduction in service in the Wellbeing House in Bath. The collaboration between Curo Housing and Bath Mind to provide crisis support at the wellbeing house was for a duration of two years, to provide additional capacity during the pandemic. That came to an end on 31 March and the service has reverted back to its original delivery model of a wellbeing retreat managed by Curo Housing from 1 April.

The eligibility criteria for accessing the Wellbeing House are:

- *Must be a resident of B&NES (or with a registered GP in B&NES)*
- *Have a home to return to after a stay of up to 14 days*
- *At the point of stay, must not be in mental health distress, requiring a period of additional one to one support to manage immediate mental health needs.*
- *Agree to receive one to one support and engage with an action/support plan*
- *Able to positively benefit from a period of peace, calm and additional support*
- *Free from the influence of alcohol or drugs*
- *Happy to stay in a house with shared kitchen and living room (there are en-suite bathrooms including an adapted bathroom for customers with mobility issues)*

- *Capable of personal care and self-catering (these services are not provided)*

Staffing

Curo will continue to staff the Wellbeing House. However, the service will be targeted to specific days and will not be staffed 24 hours a day due to the community independent living ability of the client group. Curo plans to work with local partners in the community to offer a variety of activities and support during the day. They will also offer the wellbeing house as a hub space for wellbeing groups. Guests of the wellbeing house will be welcome to participate in these groups.

Referral

Curo will continue accepting self-referrals as well as referrals from other services

Step down from hospital?

Curo will continue to offer step down accommodation on a case by case basis

Following an independent review of crisis services, B&NES and the CCG are in the process of tendering for the acquisition and management of a crisis house. We expect to announce the outcome of this process by mid-May

Visits to Care Facilities

Plans to visit our in-house community resource centre provision continue to be thwarted by Covid, with visits scheduled for last Friday cancelled once again. However, I did manage to visit Hawthorn's and Charlton House in Keynsham with Cllr Kevin Guy in early March. We really enjoyed meeting staff and thanking them for their work throughout the pandemic, which they described as being very challenging. We were also able to see at first hand the excellent retrofitting that has been done to make Charlton House more energy efficient. We will re-schedule last Friday's visits once the Covid situation starts to improve again.

Englishcombe Lane Site

As part of the ASC Transformation work, we are aiming to bring as many people as possible back from out of area placements which will require the development of specialist accommodation for people with complex needs. This includes the possibility of using the Englishcombe Lane site for a small scale scheme that would provide accommodation for some of our most disadvantaged residents whilst also safeguarding and enhance the Tufa and other ecological features of the site. A meeting has been held with local residents to update them on this potential development.

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