

## **Report for Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel – Monday 14 October 2024**

### **Maternity update and pre and post-natal birth trauma support**

Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board's vision for maternity care is for all women to have a safe and positive birth and maternity experience, and be prepared to approach parenting with confidence.

In terms of pre and post-natal support for women who have experienced a range of trauma including previous birth trauma, BSW ICB has a maternal mental health services team called Ocean which provides a pathway approach to identification and provision of support for women with trauma, grief and fear of pregnancy related to childbirth.

This service provides support through birth reflections which allow parents to explore their birth experience and give them the opportunity to clarify events.

The service also offers tailored support within maternity services throughout pregnancy from specialist midwives, information for women experiencing miscarriage and psychological interventions for trauma provided by psychologists. The evaluation of the Ocean services demonstrates a significant reduction of trauma scores following treatment.

The maternity teams are also focusing on the prevention of trauma in maternity and neonatal services. This includes training for staff and improvement work related to informed and supported choice for service users.

Personalised care plans are also in place to support women to access information throughout their pregnancy journey, along with a decision-making tool that helps service users with informed decision-making. We have a website where information can be reviewed. [www.bswtogether.or.uk/maternity](http://www.bswtogether.or.uk/maternity)

The majority of recommendations from the recent All Party Parliamentary Inquiry on birth trauma were already been integrated into the Three Year Plan for Maternity and Neonatal services which was published in March 2023 and we have reviewed the recommendations to identify if any additional actions were required.

### **BSW Suicide Prevention Strategy 2024-2029**

The NHS Mental Health Implementation Plan 2019/20 – 2023/24 set out two requirements for suicide prevention:

- 1) The current suicide prevention programme will cover every local area in the country (this refers to dedicated funding provided to STPs then ICBs.)

- 2) All systems will have suicide bereavement support services providing timely and appropriate support to families and staff.

Both of these were met in BSW.

BSW has a suicide rate that is lower than the national average, in contrast to many other areas of the South West. There is a marked gender inequality in the ratio of male to female deaths from suicide both in BSW and nationally, with males over-represented. There is also evidence of a strong association between suicide rates and levels of deprivation at a national level. Taking action to reduce the risk of suicide will address both of these inequalities in BSW

A paper has been presented for comment to the BSW Suicide Prevention Group, the BSW Thrive Programme Board and the BSW Population Health Board.

The Strategy has been amended following feedback, including highlighting work on prevention and early intervention (with detailed actions being captured in future Place-based plans) and a distinction between system-based actions accountable to the BSW group and Place-based work to be picked up by local suicide prevention partnerships in each of B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire.

Members of the Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel are asked to note the contents of the BSW Suicide Prevention Strategy and that the BSW Suicide Prevention Group will take forward the following recommendations and for the work:

#### **Recommendations to be implemented at Place:**

- Localities should consider their local priorities to create bespoke action plans suited to the needs of their respective locality
- Localities should develop actions that provide prevention and early intervention, particularly for higher-risk groups
- Local authorities to monitor suspected suicide rates amongst young people to identify a selected priority group within the younger people population
- A range of output and outcome indicators will be presented by local authorities, alongside relevant partners, annually at the BSW Suicide Prevention Group with an aim for collaboration and learning.

#### **Recommendations to be implemented at System:**

- Awareness and training are system priorities (which should be implemented locally, bespoke to the needs of each locality).
- Introduction of a standardised reporting approach from the three local authorities 'near to real-time suspected suicide surveillance' (nRTSSS) into the BSW Suicide Prevention group
- Consider the need for collation of this data at BSW level (*currently two different police areas and systems*) to create an overall BSW system.

- Continue to engage with the regional nRTSSS Sector Led Improvement Group
- Ensure dialogue between suicide surveillance and bereavement support services in each area.

### **Cancer services update**

In B&NES the RUH, along with hospitals in Swindon and Salisbury, is receiving focused support from regional performance teams and Cancer Alliances, including additional funding and regular monitoring meetings.

This approach has been shown to help reduce backlogs more effectively than in those not receiving this additional support.

Waiting times at the RUH have been addressed through a number of actions including support for urology ultrasound appointments from Salisbury Hospital and support for colonoscopy investigations from Sulis Hospital.

Cancer teams at the RUH have reported the most frequent pathway for someone being diagnosed with a new cancer is through a visit to its emergency department.

The ICB is also running awareness campaigns to encourage BaNES residents to do all they can to help themselves reduce the risk of cancer through healthy lifestyle advice, attending screening appointments and contacting their GP practice if they are worried about cancer symptoms.

As reported at last month's committee meeting, the recently opened Dyson Cancer Centre at the RUH provides residents with a purpose-built facility bringing together many of the RUH's cancer services under one roof. The new centre sees around 350 patients a day and is backed by over £40m in government funding.

### **Stoptober campaign to encourage people to stop smoking**

BSW ICB is participating in a campaign to encourage local people to stop smoking during the annual Stoptober awareness month.

Stoptober is the Department of Health and Social Care's annual stop smoking campaign, based on evidence that if a smoker makes it to 28 days smoke-free, they are five times more likely to quit for good. Since it first launched in 2012, Stoptober has helped over 2.5 million people make a quit smoking attempt. With your help, this year we aim to encourage the remaining 5 million smokers in England to give quitting a go this October and support them to quit successfully.

The ICB has supported the campaign through publicity, its social media channels and press releases and signposted local people to the HCRG Stop Smoking Support and Vaping Advice service.

We have also signposted to the national Stoptober free quitting tools including the NHS Quit Smoking app, daily email support, Facebook support group, and information about quitting smoking with a vape.

While smoking prevalence in adults in B&NES is 11 per cent of adults compared to 11.6 per cent for England, smoking in adults in routine and manual occupations (age 18-64) is 28.9 per cent compared to 19.5 per cent for England. Smoking prevalence in adults with long-term mental health conditions (age 18+) is also higher than the national average at 33 per cent compared to 25.1 per cent for England.

### **Physiotherapy Services provided by HCRG**

There was a request from committee members for an update on uptake, waiting times and number of patients seen over the past two years by the HCRG physiotherapy service. Physiotherapy is a significant high-volume service and we would like to work with committee members to understand what particular elements you would like an update on, and arrange to return at a future date with specific information and a relevant representative to provide context.