

Report to COUNCIL 1st November 2023

Cabinet Report for Health and Social Care

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Barbara Brownridge Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care

This report provides an update on the main activity since the last Council meeting relating to portfolio responsibilities. Council is requested to note the report.

Public Health

Tobacco Harms;

Oldham Tobacco Alliance has been established for the past two years and is a partnership aiming to reduce the health inequalities caused by tobacco and smoking and to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents. Your Health Oldham provides community stop smoking support which is tailored to meet the individual needs. This includes working with communities on alternative forms of tobacco such as shisha.

Oldham Youth Council's motion regarding vaping highlighted the issue of youth vaping and the concerns that young people have about this. The public health team, and Your Health Oldham are working with the Youth Council to coproduce communication for young people about vaping and smoking. A support pack for schools and education settings on youth vaping has also been developed and shared with schools already.

Vapes are an effective way to quit smoking and all the evidence shows that they are less harmful than smoking as 2 out of 3 smokers will die early, many in mid-age. But we do not want non-smokers, particularly young people, to take up vaping. If you smoke, vaping is the better choice; if you don't smoke, don't vape.

Oldham Suicide Prevention Strategy

Oldham Suicide Prevention Partnership launched its new 10-year strategy on World Suicide Prevention Day (10th September). This has been co-produced with residents as well as a wide range of professionals. The focus of the strategy is recognising that each life lost to suicide is a tragedy that has a devastating impact on loved ones. The Oldham

approach is to work together as a whole community to make suicide prevention everyone's business.

Infection Prevention in Care Homes:

The Public Health team have been working closely with our care homes to reduce the spread of infections. We have seen an increase in scabies cases and outbreaks over the past few months. Scabies is an infestation of the skin by a mite. It can be intensely itchy and is transmitted by prolonged or frequent skin to skin contact. It can also be transmitted before symptoms occur.

Staff from NHS GM, Adult Social Care, our Care Homes, Primary Care, and the Public Health Team have all been working to address these outbreaks. There have been challenges in accessing treatment which have taken time to address. It is really important that scabies is diagnosed and properly treated to avoid further spread, in particular in our most vulnerable residents. Our staff have been training care home staff in how to apply treatment, and prevent spread.

Adult Social Care

Adult Social Care has developed a new operating model to enable people to access advice, information, and guidance earlier and ensure everyone who requires assistance receives enablement support in the first instance. Although in its infancy this new way of working is already proving to be successful with the introduction of the Adult Referral Contact Centre (ARCC). The ARCC is proving it can respond timely to people's care and support needs with 28.0% of enquiries per month resolved following an initial discussion with the ARCC Service.

Adult Social Care has seen a continued demand for specialist support services, as such the service has needed to prioritise timely responses to safeguarding concerns and those people with complex care and support needs.

Adult Social Care has published a Market Position Statement; [Understanding Oldham's health and adult social care market | Understanding Oldham's health and adult social care market | Oldham Council](#). The purpose of the market position statement is to outline social care priorities based on the current and future needs of Oldham residents. The service is actively working closely with and supporting providers in response to care market fragility because of workforce and cost of living challenges.

Activity continues across the Adult Social Care directorate in preparedness for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) assurance process. This has included the completion of a CQC self-assessment to evaluate the current service and identify areas for improvement. Transformation across Adult Social Care is being completed at pace in the form of a service improvement plan. Specific workstreams have been established to implement service improvements which focus on improving outcomes for residents, this is linked to the council and wider system strategic priorities.

Oldham Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)

Oldham's burgeoning ICP continues to develop at pace. The ICP brings together partners from across the borough's health and social care sector, as well as Action Together and Healthwatch, to agree and lead the strategic direction for local health and care services, under delegation from NHS Greater Manchester. The Locality Board is well attended and there is real commitment to secure the advantages that joint working can bring.

Commissioners and providers are collaborating to agree how to transform services to make them sustainable for the future for our borough's residents. A new five year strategy for health and care has been agreed, as has the scope for a revised transformation programme following extensive work to examine our local drivers of demand. A delivery plan for the transformation programme is in the process of being finalised, which will also align to the national NHS planning process.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.