
Report to COUNCIL 13th December 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

Measles: This year the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) concluded that “there is a high risk of imported cases leading to outbreaks in specific population groups ... and geographies ... with some risk of limited spread to the wider community”. Measles is a particular concern because it is easily transmitted across unvaccinated populations. In addition, it can lead to very serious illness. Around 20-40% of those with measles will be hospitalised with higher rates in babies, and adults over 25 years of age.

The Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccine provides excellent protection against measles. The World Health Organisation (WHO) recommend that 95% coverage is needed to prevent the spread of measles. Following the pandemic, global MMR coverage dropped and coverage in the UK, fell to the lowest level in a decade. We have seen a reduction in our MMR uptake here in Oldham.

We are working together to increase uptake of MMR in Oldham. Primary care have been actively engaged in improving vaccination uptake. Work is ongoing to increase the number of children invited to clinics and increase the number and duration of clinics. In addition, community insights and communications, building on the community engagement work carried out during the COVID pandemic, form a critical part of vaccination uptake work in Oldham. In addition, it is important that if we do see cases of measles, we identify them quickly to provide the right care, and reduce the risk of transmission. We have ensured that the testing routes for measles are clear, infection prevention and control measures are in place, and that the system is prepared for any potential outbreaks.

Adult Social Care

The Adult Social Care staff conference held on 14th November was a great success. The content included celebrating success, the roll out of strengths-based approaches and the development of the Adult Social Care workforce strategy. The strategy will be co-produced with Adult Social Care staff.

Adult Social Care continues to prepare for Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection process. The service is working with the Local Government Association (LGA) and Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) in line with a standardized self-assessment framework. It is expected Local Authorities will be informed during the month of December if they are to be inspected by CQC in the New Year. Meanwhile CQC have published the reports from the chosen 6 local authorities who participated in the pilot inspection process.

Adult Social Care have been leading on creating the ‘All Age Carers Strategy’ which is expected to be launched in 2024. The 3-year strategy has been coproduced with unpaid carers. The strategy is a pledge to ensure Oldham is a place where every carer is heard, valued, and given the tools to not

only provide care but also take care of themselves. The objective of the strategy is framed using the following 'I statements,'

I am recognised early as a carer.

I am supported by a community that collaborates effectively.

I feel recognised and valued as a young carer, with my school and community supporting me.

I always have access to information and advice when I need it just for unpaid carers in Oldham.

I am empowered to maintain my own wellbeing while caring for others.

I am heard, valued, and celebrated in my community.

Throughout 2023 the Council have been aware of the fragility of the care home market; this is not an issue unique to Oldham. The Commissioning and Market Management Service are continuing to work closely with care providers but report that the social care market remains an area of risk. This continues to be monitored through operational and strategic provider risk groups, which are a multi-disciplinary approach to the oversight of the whole care market and report back to the Director of Adult Social Care.

Oldham Total Care is now fully re-opened following a recent scabies outbreak despite the challenges of a national shortage of scabies treatment, this treatment has been completed.

Oldham Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)

Flu Campaign for 2-3 year olds: During mid-November all GP Practices started to receive the flu vaccine campaign packs for 2-3 year old. The packs include: A4 Posters; double-sided information postcards; and reward stickers for children.

Oldham Winter UEC Summit: We have recently signed off our winter plan. Given that our urgent and emergency care system has started to come under significant pressure - this will only get more pronounced the colder the weather gets and the deeper into winter we get. Earlier this month we held an urgency and emergency care winter summit to help bring together all parts of the system to discuss measures and actions that can be added to our winter plan.

Integrated Neighbourhood Teams and Population Health: Work has now commenced on a core pillar of our strategy – that is to start to shift our locality to a population health focused model and progress integrated neighbourhood team working. The programme of work will work across Oldham and at Primary Care Network (PCN) level to engage, develop local understanding and co-design local plans across a 4 stage process to:

Build a common, shared understanding of the current state across the PCNs (both population health, but also readiness for public health management (PHM), maturity of PCNs and enablers)

Understand the principles of and applying patient segmentation to identify and focus on local cohorts. Co-develop different ways of working to enhance the effectiveness of neighbourhood multi-disciplinary teams (MDT).

Develop practical implementation plans for each PCN for a specific cohort for proactive targeting.

We expect the following outcomes:

- Start to build PCN buy-in to, and capabilities in, the principles and benefits of PHM, with a clear plan for action.
- An early draft business case for what is needed for a PHM function (looking at resourcing including workforce and financial flows) and what benefits it will deliver.
- Evolve and mature broader neighbourhood MDTs and PCN relationships which will in turn start to solidify closer integrated neighbourhood working and the role of PCNs, in line with national policy recommendations on integrated neighbourhood teams.

Recommendations: Council is requested to note the report.