

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

5 JULY 2018

EVALUATION OF WINTER PRESSURES ON URGENT CARE

Summary

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) has requested an update on local health economy partners' evaluation of winter pressures and readiness for winter 2018/19.
2. Representatives from across the health and social care sector and from Healthwatch Worcestershire have been invited to the meeting.

Background

3. Weather conditions over winter bring additional pressures and challenges for the health service and social care providers, many of which have been referred to during HOSC's discussions with local partners.
4. Previously, when HOSC has looked at winter pressures, Members have continued to praise the desire among all partners to work together and acknowledged that joint working extends to the broader local economy, for example the Council's role to play in co-ordinating emergency planning and in maintaining transport routes and schooling so that health and social care staff can continue to work.
5. HOSC Members will be well aware of national pressures on Accident and Emergency services and the picture in Worcestershire is not isolated, however Worcestershire has a higher than average proportion of older people with increasing frailty.
6. Locally, as reported to HOSC during its 29 January 2018 update from Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust (WAHT), activity during winter 2017/18 increased 'massively' and for the period 22 December 2017 to 16 January 2018, an additional 418 patients presented to the two acute hospitals' A&E departments, with an additional 264 ambulances. During the 18 March HOSC update, West Midlands Ambulance Service flagged up the need to address increased delayed ambulance handovers during busy periods.
7. Following these discussions, the HOSC is keen to understand what has been learned from the pressures last winter and how this evaluation will inform planning for 2018/19 to improve performance.

Lessons Learned from 2017/18 – System Reset

8. Preparation for winter pressures in 2018/19 is already underway.
9. Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Groups have commissioned a winter

evaluation from the Midland and Lancashire Commissioning Support Unit. NHS England has also commissioned a consultancy company with expertise in urgent care to undertake a system-wide analysis and make recommendations about the deliverability of best practice in urgent care in Worcestershire.

10. A summary will be provided at the meeting on the outcome of the evaluations and the resulting 'system reset' which is taking place.

11. Healthwatch Worcestershire has produced a follow up to its June 2017 report on care in the corridor at Worcestershire Royal Hospital, which has been circulated to HOSC Members and is available on the link under Background Papers.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

12. There are no specific legal, financial or HR implications associated with this paper, but there will be significant implications associated with the development of plans for each programme transformation area within the STP and their subsequent implementation. As these plans are developed, if required to do so, they will be reported to HOSC in a timely manner.

Purpose of the Meeting

13. The HOSC is invited to consider and comment on the review of last year's winter plans and lessons learned for winter planning in the future.

14. In doing so, HOSC members may look to consider:

- Lessons learned from successive years of winter pressures – how has learning been captured and shared?
- What will be different for 2018/19 – what will change for the public?
- How will we know if the new system-wide approach is working?
- Are all partners involved?
- What are the main obstacles?

Contact Points

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Specific Contact Points for this Report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the Proper Officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and Minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 14 March and 29 January 2018, 19 July and 17 October 2017, 27 April, 19 July, 26

September, 16 November 2016, 16 September and 9 December 2015, 26 February and 30 April 2014 - available on the County Council's website [here](#)

- Agendas and Minutes of the Health and Well-being Board are available [here](#)
- Healthwatch Worcestershire report 'Care in the Corridor at the Worcestershire Royal Hospital – Follow Up Report (June 2018)
<http://www.healthwatchworcestershire.co.uk/care-in-the-corridor-at-the-worcestershire-royal-hospital-march-2017/>