

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

### **14 FEBRURY 2023**

## **WORCESTERSHIRE INTEGRATED COMMISSIONING EXECUTIVE OFFICERS GROUP (ICEOG) UPDATE**

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### **Board Sponsor**

Simon Trickett - Chief Executive, Herefordshire & Worcestershire ICB

### **Co-authors**

Jenny Dalloway, Programme Director – Mental Health, Learning Disabilities and Autism, Rebecca Wassell, Assistant Director – People Commissioning, Worcestershire County Council, and Mark Dutton, Chief Financial Officer, NHS Herefordshire & Worcestershire

### **Priorities**

This report is relevant to the following Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing
- Healthy Living at All Ages
- Homes, Communities and Places
- Jobs and Opportunities

### **Safeguarding**

This report does not have a direct impact on safeguarding children or adults.

### **Item for Decision, Consideration or Information**

Information and assurance

### **Recommendation**

1. **The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the contents of this report.**

### **Background**

2. The purpose of ICEOG is to progress the integration of NHS, social care, public health and related services for the benefit of Worcestershire residents through the development of strategies, working with delegated budgets, across adults and children's services. This is in the context of the Integrated Care System, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Integrated Care Strategy and other relevant strategic plans across the Council and Integrated Care Board (ICB).

3. ICEOG further ensures effectiveness, safety and improved experience of services commissioned under the Section 75 agreement which was extensively, revised and updated for 2022/23.

## **ICEOG Update**

4. Below is an update on the activity overseen by ICEOG for the financial year to December 2022, summarising key activity, priorities, spend and areas of risk:

### **Adult Services and discharge to access pathway**

5. Throughout 2022, the flow of patients from the Acute Hospital setting has remained a hot topic as the NHS continues its aim to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Specific COVID-19 discharge funding ceased in March 2022, and the additional facilities commissioned to assist discharge (and which were by this time largely vacated) were decommissioned. Additionally, the issue of ambulance waiting times has been well reported nationally, and Worcestershire has experienced significant local pressures with long handover delays, particularly at the Worcestershire Royal. These issues of patient flow, timely discharge and ambulance handover delays have been followed up via the County Council Health Overview Scrutiny Committee.

6. In support of the efficient discharge process, the County Council has commissioned a “wraparound” domiciliary care service for the duration of the funded pilot of the Intermediate Integrated Care Service. This enables up to four patients to be discharged home, with the benefit of up to four days/nights live-in support from a carer. Initial results are positive on this service, which is scheduled to continue as a pilot until September 2023.

7. The County Council has also commissioned additional support for the council-run reablement service, on a two-year (plus 1) contract. This service was commissioned previously on a temporary (short-term) basis, in support of the ongoing recruitment campaign to the in-house team. However, in February 2022, it was determined that the recruitment activity (save for replacement positions in the event of attrition) would cease and the contract be offered for the longer term in order to ensure that sufficient hours were available in relation to the agreed service demand.

8. At its interim review of the Integrated Intermediate Care Service (February 2022), it was agreed to extend the pilot until the end of September 2022, with a further review in July 2022. The associated funding will remain in place for the duration of the further extended pilot (to end September 2023), but with the exception of the additional staffing, the costs of which have, since July 2022, been absorbed by the partner organisations. This is currently being discussed at the executive level, as, once a decision is taken on the optimal service to be implemented longer term, there will be some movement of staff into new roles, and therefore an ideal opportunity to put in place the right structure – and funding - to take this work forwards. It was also agreed, that whilst the improvements in discharge had been largely sustained throughout the year, there remained some delays that required operational oversight and improvement. Within this remained the issue of sufficiency of therapists within the community setting and the (non) availability of IAR beds within the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust, which results in delayed discharges for patients to the community setting for intensive rehabilitation.

9. At this time, it was recognised by ICEOG that the Integrated Intermediate Care offer could be much broader and make a more significant contribution to the delivery

of effective and efficient onward care. On this basis, it was agreed that the service should, between July 2022 and September 2023, evolve into a full service rather than be focussed on providing a step-down service. The revised organisational structure will feed into this evolution but, in the interim, as staffing changes occur, a standard operating procedure has been drafted to assist in maintaining the progress achieved to date.

10. The HWB is advised that continued programme progress remains under risk in the approach to winter months due to the on-going fragility of health and care markets, finance and the NHS elective recovery plan.

## **Children's Services**

11. The Worcestershire Children and Young People's Joint Commissioning Group continues to co-ordinate the joint commissioning of services within the Section 75 commissioning agreement between the ICB and Local Authority.

12. Commissioners have focussed on provision that supports the delivery of Education, Health and Care Plans for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

13. In March 2018, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission inspected how effectively the special educational needs and disability provision was being delivered in Worcestershire, by the Council, together with the then NHS Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group. They reviewed joint commissioning between health services and the Council. Inspectors also looked at assessments and planning for children and young people with special educational needs and disability. Although improvements were recognised by inspectors, it was found that children and young people who have SEND were not being provided with the quality of support and service they were entitled to.

14. Following a 3-day inspection that took place between 1st and 3rd November 2021, inspectors reported that 8 of the 12 areas of weakness had been addressed however there were 4 remaining areas that required further improvement. The Council and the ICB have been working together to address the areas of improvements required through an Accelerated Action Plan (APP). A 12-month review of the action plan will take place on 29 March 2023.

15. The demand for Education Health Care new assessments between January 2022 to December 2022 totalled 815. Regionally there has been, in the main, steady growth over the last nine years within Worcestershire in terms of the numbers of education health care plans increasing from 2,452 to 4,904 as of end December 2022. As a result of this increase it was identified that additional health workforce was required to address the completion of the education health care needs assessments (including the outstanding requests) within the required 6 week timescale. At ICEOG on 16 January 2023 the following additional staffing was agreed:

Grade	Post Description	Hours
B9	Community Paediatrician	4.00
B6	Occupational Therapist	37.5
B6	Physiotherapist	37.5
B3	Administration (Centralise for all professionals)	37.5

## Speech, Language and Communication Needs

16. Work is progressing to develop a system-wide understanding of need and current provision to support a strategic approach to joint commissioning by health, public health, social care and education commissioners.

17. The challenges identified so far include an inconsistent approach to the application of the NHS Universal, Targeted and Specialist offer, creating an inequity for our Children and Young People and a high demand for specialist support.

18. The differing commissioning arrangements across partners have created an inconsistent approach to meeting needs and delivering outcomes.

19. For example, mainstream education support Children and Young People up to 16 years and specialist school students are supported up to 19 years. The newly established Enhanced Mainstream Autism Bases (MABs) have WCF commissioned support, where previously established MABs do not have a commissioned service in place and access the universal speech, language and communication needs offer.

20. The joint commissioning group is focusing on four cohorts of Children and Young People initially. These are Early Years (this work is led by the Early Years Strategy Group), 16-25 years, those receiving input from specialist providers and Mainstream Autism Bases. This is building on work previously undertaken by Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust, the NHS Service provider, using a therapy demand management tool known as the Balanced System Framework. Initial findings are expected in 2023 to inform commissioning for 2023-24.

## Joint Commissioning for Complex Needs

21. Work has commenced to review the commissioning of support for children and young people aged 16-25 years old, and who are accessing specialist services from Education, Social Care and Health. Through a better understanding of the current position a joint commissioning approach will be developed to inform future plans across education, health and social care.

## Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

22. The Integrated Care System Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Transformation Plan has been developed with partners and published in October. This sets out the commissioning and delivery plans for 2023-24 across a range of provision from early intervention and prevention to urgent support to improve both the access to appropriate support and improved outcomes for our children and young people.

## Public Health

23. Commissioning services through a Section 75 agreement enables collaborative commissioning, further delivery of integrated services and shared health and wellbeing objectives. Last year, priorities for this agreement from Public Health included Integrated Care and Wellbeing, and Children and Young People and Prevention Services.

24. In preparation for the Integrated Care System a number of Public Health services were moved into the Section 75 agreement where there was benefit to the health and care system or to enable joint commissioning to improve outcomes. These services are NHS Health Checks, Prevention and Early Intervention Service for Children Young People and Families, Lifestyle Services and the Sexual Health Service. In addition, funding for short term initiatives to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and to be commissioned by the NHS were added, including emotional health and wellbeing services for some schools, online counselling support for adults and enhanced speech, language and communication support for young children to support school readiness.

25. This year, contributions have been added to the Section 75 agreement to:

- pilot a High Intensity User Service for Accident and Emergency;
- fund the Head of Housing and Health Partnerships role, working with partners across the ICS to develop and deliver an evidence-based programme of actions to improve the contribution that the home environment makes to good health;
- develop an infectious disease service across the ICS to ensure a consistent and resilient health protection offer, run by SW Healthcare, available seven days per week; and
- develop a new, easily accessible, prevention response service to reduce inequalities in screening, diagnosis and treatment of disease via an outreach vehicle model.

## Hospital Discharge Funding

26. The Department of Health & Social Care issued a statement on 22 of September 2022 highlighting additional funding of £500m nationally which is distributed across both Health and Social Care systems. This funding is called the Adult Social Care Discharge Fund and is aimed at increasing the number of discharges from hospitals, improving patient flow, and minimising on admission delays.

27. Worcestershire's allocation of the grant totals £3.5m, which is split £2.0m to Local Authority Adult Social Care, £1.5m to NHS through Herefordshire & Worcestershire ICB. The NHS Allocation for Herefordshire & Worcestershire was £2.1m, with £0.6m to be utilised within Herefordshire. The planned utilisation of this grant has previously been agreed by HWB, and fortnightly returns on spend and activity are being submitted, in line with reporting requirements.

28. National guidance stipulates that HWB must recognise the additional funding as an increase in S75 arrangements, and the funding must be incorporated into the Better Care Fund.

29. A further announcement of an additional investment of £200m nationally was issued on 9 January 2023. This funding has been identified to purchase short-term placements, which in turn speed up discharge. The Worcestershire allocation of the fund totals £2.6m. A delivery plan has been submitted to the NHS. This funding stream is not a grant, it enables each system in the UK to claim funding for suitable expenditure up to an allocated ceiling.

30. Reporting requirements also state that this funding (£2.6m) must also be reported through the Better Care Fund.

31. In total the additional investment into Hospital Discharge totals £6.1m for Worcestershire which will be reported through the Better Care Fund.

32. The 2022/23 service spend within the Section 75 Agreement now totals £136,775,560 following additional investment (previously £130,657,459), and within which the Better Care Fund totals £58,914,458.

## **Section 75 Agreement**

33. The aim of the Section 75 Agreement is to provide a framework for partners to pool and align resources to support the achievement of shared objectives. It is agreed between Worcestershire County Council and the ICB through their appropriate governance structures. The value of the section 75 agreement is £137.4m. During 2022/23 joint work across both the ICB and WCC has been undertaken to review the section 75 portfolio which has resulted in some changes to what is included in the agreement. Whilst the value of the section 75 has reduced the portfolio has been streamlined to include services which are covered by the remit of joint commissioning through ICEOG.

34. The most significant pressure within Section 75 is the increasing levels of expenditure on S117 Mental Health Placements – at P08 (November 2022) forecasting an increase on the 2021/22 out-turn of £23,565,269 of £5.555 million. Analysis shows that the main cost driver is the increase in the complexity of care required to support individuals. Further work is being undertaken to understand this driver and identify mitigations to manage this increasing pressure. Worcestershire County Council (WCC) has invested in a Pathway Planning team, which will define Mental Health recovery services, remodel existing services and establish ability to move and support individuals into different pathways.

35. In addition, many contracts continue to be reflecting the COVID-19 enhanced costs (albeit that NHS funding assumes that with the reduction of invention prevention control measures these costs will subside) as well as requests for additional funding to reflect cost of living pressures, all of which will put further pressure on delivering the Section 75 position for both the Council and ICB.

## **Governance Arrangements**

36. ICEOG is seen as an important part of the ICS governance structure going forward. The ICB Chief Executive Officer is the Chair of ICEOG. The ICB Chief Finance Officer is also a member of ICEOG and is the responsible executive for the ICB's new Strategic Commissioning Committee. The Strategic Director of People within WCC ensures that the council remains fully briefed and cited on the activities of ICEOG. This ensures strong alignment between NHS commissioning and joint

commissioning. The national guidance for Integrated Care Strategy development states .... *“In preparing the integrated care strategy, the integrated care partnership must, in particular, consider whether the needs [of the population] could be more effectively met with an arrangement under section 75 of the NHS Act 2006”*. The ICB board, which includes the Chief Executive from the Council as a partner member has discussed the ambition to use effective local partnerships as the basis for developing more integrated services and pooling more funding. ICEOG will remain the platform for overseeing these sorts of developments and all partners are committed to explore opportunities to increase the use of both the Better Care Fund and the Section 75 agreement.

## **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

37. The Section 75 budget includes several funding streams such as the Better Care Fund, Improved Better Care Fund, Disabled Facilities Grants and contributions from WCC, the ICB and Public Health for jointly commissioned and jointly delivered services. There is a separate agenda item for the Health and Wellbeing Board updating on the Better Care Fund, last received in September 2022.

## **Privacy Impact Assessment**

38. This are no privacy issues.

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

39. An Equality Relevance Screening is completed in respect initiatives and projects prior to commencement and during implementation. This report provides a general update on related activity, with no relevant proposal for screening.

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

### Specific Contact Points for this report

Simon Trickett - Chief Executive, Herefordshire & Worcestershire ICB