

## Health Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 12 September 2021

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

### Report of the Health Scrutiny Steering Group

Contact for further information:

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#### Executive Summary

Overview of matters presented and considered by the Health Scrutiny Steering Group at its meetings held on 7 and 14 July 2021.

#### Recommendation

The Health Scrutiny Committee is asked to receive the report of its Steering Group.

#### Background and Advice

The Steering Group is made up of the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee plus two additional members, one each nominated by the Conservative and Labour Groups.

The main purpose of the Steering Group is to manage the workload of the Committee more effectively in the light of increasing number of changes to health services which are considered to be substantial. The main functions of the Steering Group are listed below:

1. To act as a preparatory body on behalf of the Committee to develop the following aspects in relation to planned topics/reviews scheduled on the Committee's work plan:
  - Reasons/focus, objectives and outcomes for scrutiny review;
  - Develop key lines of enquiry;
  - Request evidence, data and/or information for the report to the Committee;
  - Determine who to invite to the Committee;
2. To act as the first point of contact between Scrutiny and the Health Service Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups;
3. To liaise, on behalf of the Committee, with Health Service Trusts and Clinical Commissioning Groups;

4. To make proposals to the Committee on whether they consider NHS service changes to be 'substantial' thereby instigating further consultation with scrutiny;
5. To act as mediator when agreement cannot be reached on NHS service changes by the Committee. The conclusions of any disagreements including referral to Secretary of State will rest with the Committee;
6. To invite any local Councillor(s) whose ward(s) as well as any County Councillor(s) whose division(s) are/will be affected to sit on the Group for the duration of the topic to be considered;
7. To develop and maintain its own work programme for the Committee to consider and allocate topics accordingly.

It is important to note that the Steering Group is not a formal decision making body and that it will report its activities and any aspect of its work to the Committee for consideration and agreement.

- **Meeting held on 7 July 2021**

### **Review of Hyper-Acute Stroke Services across North Mersey**

The Steering Group considered a report presented by Carole Hill, Director of Strategy, Communications and Integration from NHS Liverpool Commissioning Group which provided an overview of the proposals regarding the review of hyper acute stroke services being undertaken by the Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) across North Mersey and West Lancashire.

The following points were highlighted:

- Transforming stroke care formed part of the NHS Long Term Plan to improve services, and similar proposals to this had already been implemented elsewhere in the country, such as in Manchester, resulting in clearly improved health outcomes;
- Currently, stroke services were provided at four different sites across the region: two hospitals under the control of the Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the Southport & Ormskirk NHS Hospitals Trust (Southport site), and The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust;
- The proposal established a set of clinical standards, in particular that the new Comprehensive Stroke Centre would deal with 500 to 600 admissions per year and that patients would be assessed by a specialist stroke consultant. Currently, workforce retention and recruitment remained a key issue, for example there was only one stroke consultant at the Southport & Ormskirk NHS Hospitals Trust;
- There had been encouraging advances in stroke treatment, which the proposal would take advantage of. For instance, patients treated with a thrombectomy within five hours of their stroke had significantly improved outcomes. Providing

this service at a specialist centre would improve access to and awareness of the treatment;

- The hyper acute element of the patient pathway covered the first 72 hours following a stroke. Following that, patients would be repatriated to a stroke unit close to home or discharged to home with Early Supported Discharge (ESD). The ESD services needed to be improved and standardised to ensure consistency in community care;
- The proposal, which had been worked on by clinical consultants, commissioners, patients with experience of hyper acute stroke services, and the Stroke Association, set out the development of a Comprehensive Stroke Centre on the Aintree Hospitals site and specialist services provided by The Walton Centre; and
- The proposal was ready for public consultation, part of which included presenting the plans to the Overview and Scrutiny Committees of the four relevant local authorities. Each committee would be asked to consider whether the proposal could be considered a substantial change to services and therefore whether a Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be formed to review the proposal in detail.

In response to a question, it was clarified that the current admissions figures for stroke patients were 397 per year at the Southport & Ormskirk NHS Hospitals Trust, 524 per year at the Aintree Hospital; and 556 per year at the Royal Liverpool Hospital.

It was noted that the county council would need to wait to hear the views of the other consulted authorities before the process of forming a joint committee could be initiated. Cheshire and Merseyside councils already had a joint protocol on establishing joint health scrutiny committees, to which Lancashire County Council had aligned itself in the absence of its own protocol for the Lancashire and South Cumbria area.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that a joint committee could still be established if at least one of the four local authorities did not agree that the proposals constituted substantial change or variation. If a local authority did not agree that a proposal was substantial, then the relevant authority would not have a seat(s) on the joint committee and the ability to comment formally on the proposal and exercise other powers, such as the power to refer to the Secretary of State, would be removed.

**Resolved:** That the proposals in relation to hyper acute stroke services in North Mersey and West Lancashire, as set out in the report, be considered substantial change to services for Lancashire's residents.

### **Finalising the Health Scrutiny function work programme**

The Steering Group reviewed a list of topics proposed by officers and members of the Health Scrutiny Committee at its work programming session held on 29th June 2021 for inclusion in the Health Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021/22.

It was noted that any topics scrutinised at joint committee meetings would be reported back to either the Health Scrutiny Committee or the Steering Group, and that the joint committee with Cumbria was currently focussed on services provided by the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust.

Following a period of discussion, the following outcomes were agreed for each proposed topic:

- Winter planning and vaccination programmes – NHS England would be asked to provide the Health Scrutiny Committee with a briefing note on winter planning in the NHS, meanwhile a rapporteur would investigate winter planning by the county council's Adult Social Care (ASC) service and report back to the committee.
- Quality of services for high intensity users (patient experience of emergency care) – to be reviewed by Steering Group, in partnership with Healthwatch, a teaching hospital and the ambulance service and there was possibility for a themed review. It would be useful to investigate how use of A&E services varied before, during and after the pandemic.
- Mental health pathway and pandemic response – to be reviewed by the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- Shortage of GPs and (primary) healthcare – the report of a previous scrutiny inquiry day (2017) would be shared with the Steering Group for discussion at its next meeting. It would be useful to receive an update on progress against recommendations of the inquiry report and to assess the impact of the pandemic.
- Capacity and effectiveness of the county council's ASC workforce – the Steering Group would ask Louise Taylor, Executive Director of Adult Services and Health and Wellbeing, to present a report to the Steering Group during the Autumn of 2021.
- Early intervention and social prescribing development and effectiveness – to be considered by the Health Scrutiny Committee, with the aim of driving the agenda and encouraging it to become business as usual in Lancashire.
- The New Hospitals Programme; the Shaping Care Together Programme; and the stroke programme in Lancashire and South Cumbria – it was likely that the Health Scrutiny Committee would be presented with updates related to all three in the near future.
- Vascular service improvement and new model of care – to be reviewed by the Steering Group.
- Pathology collaboration – the Steering Group would be presented with further information at its next meeting to determine whether an additional report or committee briefing was necessary.

- Hyper acute stroke services across North Mersey – had already been considered by the Steering Group and was likely to be considered in the future by a joint committee.
- NHS 111 update – to be reviewed by the Steering Group, having been considered by the Health Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in September 2020.
- Health systems reforms – the Steering Group would be presented with further information at an appropriate time and would make a decision on further scrutiny work at a point when the Health Scrutiny Committee could have an effective influence. The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny was already advocating health scrutiny to the Department for Health and Social Care and the earliest possible date for new legislation was April 2022. A further Bite Size Briefing on the reforms could be provided at a later date.
- Disabled facilities grants – to be reviewed by the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- Housing with care and support strategy – to be reviewed by the Health Scrutiny Committee at a time agreed with officers.
- Annual Health Checks and LeDeR programme (learning from deaths of people with a learning disability) – the Steering Group would be provided with more information at its next meeting.
- Continuing healthcare assessments – the Steering Group would be provided with more information at its next meeting.
- NHSE Quality Surveillance Group – the Steering Group would be provided with more information at its next meeting, and initially the Chair of the NHSE Quality Surveillance Group would be invited to introduce the body's work to the Steering Group.
- Review of primary care networks and neighbourhoods – the Steering Group would be provided with the papers of its last review of the topic, since December 2019, and highlight issues that needed to be addressed as a result.

It was agreed that another meeting of the Steering Group dedicated to work programming was required to discuss the remaining proposed topics for the 2021/22 Health Scrutiny Work Programme. The additional meeting was scheduled to be held as a virtual meeting on Wednesday 14th July, at 9.00 am.

- **Meeting held on 14 July 2021**

### **Finalising the Health Scrutiny function work programme (continued)**

The Steering Group continued its review of a list of topics proposed for inclusion in the Health Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021/22, following its meeting held on 7th July 2021 and the Health Scrutiny Committee work programming session held on 29th June 2021.

It was noted that, since the last meeting, additional information had been shared with the Steering Group regarding a selection of agreed topics and the following outcomes were agreed for each of them:

- Shortage of GPs and (primary) healthcare – to be reviewed by the Health Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in November 2021 so that progress against the recommendations of the 2017 inquiry report could be assessed, including a review of the current numbers and shortages of GPs across Lancashire and the impact of the pandemic.
- Annual Health Checks and LeDeR programme – in considering the recommendation of the committee from its meeting in December 2018, it was felt this matter should be reviewed by the Steering Group. The Steering Group would ask for a written report and an updated action plan on the performance against the trajectory for discharge rates, annual health checks (AHC) and Learning Disabilities Mortality Reviews (LeDeR) as requested by the committee.
- NHSE Quality Surveillance Group – the Steering Group would be presented with further information on the role of the Quality Surveillance Group, particularly in relation to its review of NHS trusts' Quality Accounts and how the Steering Group could utilise its expertise. The Steering Group would look to establish a working relationship with the Quality Surveillance Group and, as a first step, would invite them to attend a future meeting.
- Review of primary care networks and neighbourhoods – this topic would not be added to the Health Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021/22.
- Pathology Collaboration – to be reviewed by the Health Scrutiny Committee. Information on the Lancashire and South Cumbria Pathology Collaboration that had been shared with the Steering Group would also be shared with the committee.
- Continuing healthcare assessments – to be considered by the Steering Group during the Autumn of 2021, with a focus on county council resources and understanding the delay to finalising policies, as well as on wider health outcomes.
- Mental health pathway and pandemic response – to be reviewed by the Health Scrutiny Committee at its meeting in September 2021, in light of new information about the Lancashire and South Cumbria community mental health transformation project.

Following a period of discussion, the following outcomes were also agreed for each of the remaining topics proposed during the Health Scrutiny Committee work programming session:

- Liberty protection safeguards – to be reviewed initially by the Steering Group and by the Health Scrutiny Committee at a later date if considered appropriate.

- CQC Assurance of local authorities' adult social care – initially Steering Group to receive a briefing note. CQC report to be reviewed by the Health Scrutiny Committee when published. An update on preparations should also be provided to all councillors in the form of a Bite Size Briefing.
- Assistive technology – this topic would not be added to the Health Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021/22.
- Intermediate care services – to be considered by the Steering Group which, with more information, would decide whether a review by the Health Scrutiny Committee was needed.
- Outbreak management and infection control (adult social care) – to be reviewed before the end of the calendar year by the Steering Group, with a report from Public Health. The Steering Group would decide whether to take the issue to the Health Scrutiny Committee.
- Workforce resilience, wellbeing and sufficiency (adult social care) – to be reviewed by the Steering Group, with the aim of identifying key issues to return to in more detail.
- Health inequalities (people with learning disabilities) – to be reviewed by the Steering Group, with the aim of identifying key issues to return to in more detail.
- Increasing vaccination uptake and addressing inequalities – to be reviewed by the Health Scrutiny Committee, as members and co-opted members of the committee would offer perspectives from across Lancashire. The committee would request a joint presentation/attendance from representatives of the NHS, the council for voluntary services, and the borough councils delivering the local vaccination programme.
- Building an enduring health protection function beyond COVID – to be reviewed by the Steering Group.
- Emotional health and mental health, including substance misuse and alcohol services – to be reviewed initially by the Steering Group, to gain a better understanding of issues that could be taken forward to the Health Scrutiny Committee in the future.
- Healthy weight and obesity – to be considered by the Steering Group, in connection with topics such as emotional health, mental health, and social prescribing.
- Healthy Hearts (NHS health checks) – to be considered by the Steering Group, in connection with topics such as healthy weight and obesity, mental health, and social prescribing.
- NHS White Paper opportunities for population health – to be included in any conversations about the government's White Paper on health and social care

reforms. A further Bite Size Briefing to provide members with an update should be arranged in consultation with Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing.

- Presentation from Ian Barbour, Lancashire Lead on Armed Forces, working on a programme to engage GPs and health services to identify ex-service personnel and ensure their access to specialist services locally – to be reviewed by a rapporteur, who would meet with Ian Barbour to gain a better understanding of the issue and report back to the Health Scrutiny Committee. It was agreed that the Chair would progress the review of this topic.

In addition to the topics discussed above and at the Steering Group meeting held on 7th July 2021, the Steering Group agreed to monitor the scrutiny work of Healthwatch Lancashire. This would include COVID recovery and restoration in primary and elective care services, the return to face-to-face engagement in primary care, the dental service shortage, improvements to day care services provided by the county council, and the promotion of community diagnostic hubs.

The Steering Group noted the value of establishing a good working relationship with Healthwatch Lancashire, and the benefits of Healthwatch's offer to bring expertise and grassroots perspectives to future meetings. Whilst the possibility of co-opting a Healthwatch representative to serve on the Health Scrutiny Committee could be considered, it was suggested that a representative from the organisation could be regularly invited to attend meetings of both the committee and the Steering Group.

It was agreed that the Steering Group would also make time to discuss the structure of the Health Scrutiny Committee, as well as the frequency of its meetings.

The Steering Group agreed that at the next meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee, due to be held on Tuesday 14th September 2021, two topics would be reviewed, as follows:

- The Pathology Collaboration; and
- The Lancashire and South Cumbria community mental health transformation project.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Health Scrutiny Steering Group would take place on Wednesday 22nd September.

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

This report has no significant risk implications.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**  
**List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II:

N/A