

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Health Scrutiny Committee – 18 December 2014
Subject: Health and Wellbeing Update – Part 1
Report of: Strategic Director for Families, Health and Wellbeing

Summary

This report provides Members of the Committee with an overview of developments across Health and Social Care.

Recommendation

The Health Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

Wards Affected: All

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

None

1 The Government's Care Act regulations and guidance for local authorities have been strengthened as a result of consultation.¹

- 1.1 The government response to the consultation explains how the regulations and guidance, which come into effect from April 2015, have been revised as a result of the suggestions received during the consultation. The Department of Health (DH) has made changes that include clarifying the guidance on adult safeguarding and revising the eligibility criteria to focus on outcomes and better address social isolation. In addition there will be more materials to help those implementing the Care Act on the Local Government Association's website. The Care Act factsheets have also been updated.²
- 1.2 Many consultation responses, in particular those from local government, highlighted concerns about adequate funding for social care, and for the specific reforms in the Care Act, as their primary issue. As stated in the joint response from the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services:
"Adequate funding for the reforms... is essential given the significant overall pressures on local authority budgets. It is also essential for realising the aspirations of the Act and, ultimately, supporting the people the legislation is aimed at."
- 1.3 In response, the Department says it recognises the scale of these concerns and that it is critical to the successful implementation of the Care Act that local authorities are both able to plan effectively for the changes required, and that funds be made available to deliver those changes within a constrained financial environment.

2. The Government has appointed a New National Data Guardian on Personal Medical Information³

- 2.1 Dame Fiona Caldicott has been appointed to this role, which will become the patients' champion on security of personal medical information. The DH announces that the extra legislative safeguards will mark a significant step forward for safe and confidential information sharing between health and care organisations.
- 2.2 Dame Fiona will be able to intervene if she is concerned by how an organisation is sharing data. She can refer concerns directly to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) to investigate and sanction where necessary. Organisations that fail to act on her recommendations will face sanctions such as fines and the removal of the right to share personal data.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/final-care-act-guidance-published>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-2014-part-1-factsheets>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-data-guardian-appointed-to-safeguard-patients-healthcare-information>

2.3 No data will be extracted from GP practices as part of the care data programme until Dame Fiona has advised the Secretary of State that she is satisfied with the proposals and safeguards.

3. The Kingsfund has published a new report "People in Charge of their own Health and Care"⁴

3.1 The report finds that "To facilitate changes that will ensure greater patient involvement, we need consistent and meaningful national support:

- to recognise and address the different perspectives on involvement
- to meet the leadership challenge
- A new compact between citizens and services to empower citizens as patients, carers, clinicians, managers, and community workers to be active and equal partners. "

3.2 The aim will be to ensure that by involving people in managing their own health and care, and keeping well and independent, use of services will be minimised.

4. Ebola Virus Disease

4.1 Although the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa continues, the number of new cases each week has stabilised in Guinea and is now falling in Liberia. However, the number of cases in Sierra Leone is still increasing, and 'hotspots' continue in all three countries. Spread to other countries in West Africa remains very limited.

4.2 Although there are positive signs that the situation is starting to improve significantly, the situation remains extremely serious, and it will undoubtedly be months before the outbreak can be stopped altogether. The recent news of further UK healthcare workers arriving in Sierra Leone is particularly welcome.

4.3 The risk of importation of a case to the UK remains low, with the likeliest local scenario being illness in a returning volunteer healthcare worker, a known and well-controlled risk. Further planning and preparation, within MCC and with, and by, external partners has continued. A gold-command exercise (across the whole of Greater Manchester) on 19 November involved 'borough-play' (in each of the ten districts), and was particularly helpful in furthering our planning.

⁴ http://www.kingsfund.org.uk/sites/files/kf/field/field_publication_file/people-in-control-of-their-own-health-and-care-the-state-of-involvement-november-2014.pdf