

Health Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2021

This Scrutiny meeting was conducted via Zoom, in accordance with the provisions of The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.

Present:

Councillor Farrell – in the Chair
Councillors N. Ali, Clay, Curley, Doswell, Hitchen, Holt, Mary Monaghan, Newman O'Brien and Wills

Apologies: None received

Also present:

Councillor Craig, Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing
Nick Gomm, Director of Corporate Affairs, Manchester Health and Care Commissioning (MHCC)
Dr Manisha Kumar, Executive Clinical Director MHCC
Ant Hanlon Chief Executive Manchester Irish Community Care
Martin Moran Manager Manchester Irish Community Care
Laura Foster, Director of Finance Manchester Local Care Organisation

HSC/21/01 Urgent Business – Manchester Irish Community Care

The Chair introduced an item of urgent business by informing the Committee that he had invited the Chief Executive, Ant Hanlon and the Manager, Martin Moran from Manchester Irish Community Care to be provide Members with a verbal update and presentation on their work.

The main points and themes within the presentation included: -

- A background to the organisation;
- Describing what services and support they provide;
- An overview of the structure of the organisation;
- Operational objectives;
- Describing how these activities were funded;
- Describing the approach to partnership working; and
- The desired outcomes of this work.

In response to questions Members were advised that the Irish community experienced many adverse health outcomes that were particularly associated with historical social and economic experiences. Members were informed that the referral telephone contact details were available on the organisations website, and it was anticipated that a referral form would be available via the site following a redesign.

The Committee were advised that the work of Manchester Irish Community Care had been restricted due to COVID-19, however telephone support had continued to be offered and all working practices had been reviewed in accordance with all Public Health guidance.

Following a discussion on funding and how the organisation could support the wider health and wellbeing ambitions of the Council the Chair recommended that the relevant Executive Member should engage with the group to explore these options further.

Decision

The Committee;

1. Notes the presentation and thanked the representatives from Manchester Irish Community Care for attending the meeting.
2. Recommend that the relevant Executive Member should engage with the group to explore the options for how the service can support the wider health and wellbeing ambitions of the Council.

HSC/21/02 Minutes

Decision

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2020 as a correct record.

HSC/21/03 COVID-19 Update

The Committee considered the joint presentation of the Director of Public Health and the Executive Clinical Director Manchester Health and Care Commissioning that provided an update on COVID 19 activity and an update on the Manchester COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- What was the view on how best to protect yourself from the latest strain of the virus;
- Noting the infection rates amongst the over 60's and the corresponding numbers of hospital admissions;
- Noting that the pressures currently experienced by hospitals as a result of COVID-19 was impacting on their capacity to deliver other services and care;
- Acknowledging the positive work of the Woodhouse Park Lifestyle Centre to support residents;
- It was important that as the vaccination programme progressed all residents were given the opportunity to be vaccinated;
- How quickly would schools obtain the result of mass testing;

- Noting the current two different vaccines that were being administered was there a clinical difference as to who should receive these;
- What was the view of the Director of Public Health on the time gap between the administration of the vaccine;
- What was being done to ensure that the children of key workers could still access school places during lockdown;
- Were volunteers still required for the vaccination sites;
- How would residents be contacted to inform them to attend for a vaccination; and
- What was the approach to addressing and dispelling the many misconceptions surrounding the vaccine.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing stated that she wished to pay tribute to all staff who had worked to mobilise the vaccination programme and she had every confidence on the delivery of this, however noted that the success of the vaccination programme in Manchester was predicated on the successful supply of the vaccine that was being coordinated at a national level.

The Director of Public Health responded to questions by stating that in regard the new variance of COVID-19 the public were being advised to continue to follow all of the Public Health advice and guidance to ensure the rates of infection decreased. He advised that by reducing the rates of infection this would in turn reduce the pressures being experienced in hospitals. He described that the next couple of weeks would be critical and every attempt was being made to safely discharge patients from acute settings to help relieve the pressure on hospitals. He described that the levels of infections continued to be monitored and analysed.

The Executive Clinical Director MHCC stated that whilst the pressures currently experienced by hospitals as a result of the pandemic could not be underestimated it was important to emphasise that if anyone was experiencing a medical episode to seek immediate advice and assistance. She stated that the successful delivery of the mass vaccination programme would contribute to the stabilisation of hospital services.

The Director of Public Health stated that following briefings of senior clinicians he was confident that the current guidance relating to the time between vaccine injections was correct. He advised that a communications campaign relating to the vaccination programme had been developed and added that an individual did not need to be registered with a GP to be eligible for a vaccination.

The Director of Public Health stated that the results of testing in schools would be available after thirty minutes and schools had developed protocols to administer and manage this in line with advice from the Department for Education. He further commented that colleagues within Children's Services and the Education Department had responded positively to the issue of school places for children of key workers and a dedicated phone line had been established for parents to contact if they were experiencing difficulties.

The Executive Clinical Director MHCC stated that the different vaccines that were being administered were appropriate for the vast majority of all over 18 year olds, however one was more appropriate for some patients with severe allergies and those

who were pregnant or breast feeding. She described that the difference between the two vaccines was due to the storage and management of the vaccine.

The Executive Clinical Director MHCC expressed her gratitude to all those who had volunteered to assist at the vaccination centres and additional volunteers would be welcomed as this would be an ongoing programme, adding that training and support would be offered to all volunteers.

The Executive Clinical Director MHCC informed the Committee that residents would be invited for a vaccination, using the contact details retained by Primary Care. She commented that if people did not subsequently then book in for an appointment or did not attend a booked appointment would be monitored and followed up. She described that the booking system for the mass vaccination sites was currently administered nationally.

The Director of Corporate Affairs, MHCC described that a specific vaccination communications campaign had been designed in consultation with a range of partners. He described that the campaign would engage with a variety of different community groups and organisations and local intelligence would be used to target the campaign and deliver key messages regarding vaccination.

The Chair, on behalf of the Committee placed on record his gratitude to all staff and volunteers working to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Decision

The Committee notes the report.

HSC/21/04 Budget Options for 2021/22

The Committee considered a report of the Acting Chief Executive Manchester Local Care Organisation and Executive Director of Adult Social Services that detailed the service and financial planning and associated budget strategy work that is taking place for adult social care with partners across the health and care system.

The report detailed the identified and proposed opportunities to make savings in 2021/22 aligned to the remit of the Health Scrutiny Committee, to support the City Council to achieve a balanced budget in 2021/22.

As adult social care is both within the MHCC health and care pooled budget, works in partnership is increasingly focused on integrating with community health services through the Manchester Local Care Organisation (MLCO); this report is jointly presented to the Scrutiny Committee by the key partners of MHCC, MCC and MLCO, noting the areas that would be led by MLCO.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Commenting on how the pandemic had highlighted the consequences of continued and prolonged underfunding of NHS and Adult Social Care by central government;
- Welcoming the Better Outcomes, Better Lives programme, noting that the level of savings from within this programme would increase in future years and substantively replace the one-off grant and support funding provided;
- Commenting that the Health Scrutiny Committee should have regular updates and oversight of the delivery of the Better Outcomes, Better Lives;
- More information was requested on the governance arrangements of the Manchester Partnership Board;
- Noting the anticipated long term impact of COVID-19 on mental health, was the budget allocated to deliver mental health services sufficient to meet these demands both in the immediate and long term;
- Members would welcome a separate briefing session on local pooled budget arrangements;
- Welcoming the ongoing commitment to paying the National Living Wage; and
- Welcoming the stated commitment to ensure that as service plans for neighbourhoods were shared with the relevant elected members and other key stakeholders as they are developed.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing advised the Committee of the significant pressures that had been placed on services and budgets as a result of COVID-19. She commented that this been exacerbated by continued and repeated cuts to funding imposed by the government. She stated that the government had failed to deliver on their commitment to address Adult Social Care and she called on the Chancellor to adequately and fairly fund all local authorities. She stated that despite these cuts Manchester had worked to respond to these challenges and support the most vulnerable residents in the city. She described that the Better Outcomes, Better Lives programme was one example of innovative working and she gave a commitment that the Committee would be regularly updated on the delivery of this programme.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing further commented that Public Health services would be reviewed in line with all funding announcements and the Committee would be kept informed with any developments.

The Executive Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing informed the Members that there was political representation on the Manchester Partnership Board, stating that she was appointed to the Board. She stated that further information on the work of the Board and the organisational arrangements could be submitted for consideration at a future meeting.

The Interim Deputy Director of Adult Social Services noted the positive comments from Members regarding the Better Outcomes, Better Lives programme and commented that it was important to note that this was supported by the work force who were essential for the successful delivery.

In response to the comments regarding mental health budgets, the Director of Finance Manchester Local Care Organisation stated that the Greater Manchester

Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust were managing and delivering these services within the budgets that were available to them.

Decision

The Committee agree the savings proposals as described within the report and endorse these to the Executive.

HSC/21/05 Our Manchester Strategy Reset – Draft Strategy

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Services and Director of Public Health that provided an update on the draft *Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025* reset document. The draft of the reset Strategy is appended to this report.

Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025 would reset Manchester's priorities for the next five years to ensure we could still achieve the city's ambition set out in the *Our Manchester Strategy 2015 – 2025*.

The main points and themes within the report included: -

- Describing the background to the Our Manchester Strategy reset;
- Providing an overview of the Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025;
- Describing the final design and communications; and
- Next Steps.

Some of the key points that arose from the Committee's discussions were: -

- Welcoming the engagement with local elected Members;
- Every attempt should be made to increase participation with the consultation to ensure all views of the community were captured and reflected;
- Congratulating staff for the work they had delivered on this area of work in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Noting that it was important to feedback to residents to provide confidence that their views had been listened to and were reflected; and
- Was data and information collected on who responded to consultations.

The Deputy Leader stated that 3,800 people who had directly participated in the engagement activity that had ran from 3 August 2020 to 25 September 2020 compared favourably to the original Our Manchester Strategy engagement in 2015 when approximately 2,000 people were directly engaged, and is higher than other recent similar Council activity, however he stated that this activity would always be reviewed to ensure maximum participation.

Officers reported that this activity was supported by a communications campaign with specific targeted campaigns to reach hard to reach groups. She stated information was asked for and recorded when responses were completed, such as gender, ethnicity etc however this it was not compulsory for residents to complete this information.

Decision

The Committee endorse the recommendation that the final version of *Our Manchester Strategy – Forward to 2025* be taken for consideration by the Executive in February 2021.

HSC/21/06

Overview Report

A report of the Governance and Scrutiny Support Unit which contained key decisions within the Committee's remit and responses to previous recommendations was submitted for comment. Members were also invited to agree the Committee's future work programme.

Decision

To note the report and agree the work programme.