

PUBLIC

MINUTES of a meeting of the **IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**
– **HEALTH** held remotely on MS Teams on 13 July 2020

PRESENT

Councillor D Taylor (Chairman)

Councillors D Allen, R Ashton, S Bambrick, S Burfoot, L Grooby, G Musson and A Stevenson

Also in attendance were: Dr Chris Clayton, Michelle Bateman and Sean Thornton from Derby and Derbyshire CCG

Apologies were received from: Councillors S Blank

12/20 MINUTES RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting of the Improvement and Scrutiny Committee – Health held on 9 March 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13/20 PUBLIC QUESTIONS **Question to the Committee from Councillor Ruth George:** “What progress has been made with weekly Covid testing in Derbyshire care homes, including county council and privately run homes, and with the roll-out of antibody testing to all care staff who request it?”

Councillor D Taylor responded as follows:

“I’d like to thank Councillor George for submitting her question to this meeting.

The management of Derbyshire care homes, and the wellbeing of their residents and staff, is the responsibility of the County Council’s Adult Social Care and Health Department. As such, this would be a matter for the Council’s Improvement and Scrutiny – People Committee. However, as I am a Member of the People Committee, and its Chairman, Councillor Gary Musson is a Member of this Committee, and the subject does reflect an important health issue, I am happy for this Committee to accept and respond to the question from Councillor George.

The Strategic Director of Adult Social Care and Health has informed me that the Department of Health and Social Care has informed all Directors of Public Health and Directors of Adult Social Services of its programme for testing in adult care homes. As from 6 July 2020, a programme of testing in all adult care homes was begun where weekly testing of staff (bank, agency and visiting) is carried out along with residents being tested every 28 days. This approach balances the need for regular testing of staff, who will potentially be more exposed to the virus – with the fact that regular testing can be difficult and distressing for some residents.

The Council's Director of Public Health and Adult Care Service Director wrote to all Derbyshire Adult Care Homes informing them of the process for testing. Initially, this includes homes being registered on a testing portal following which they will receive testing kits. At the time of responding to Councillor George's question, the Department had registered 149 of the total of 164 homes in the county, with the remaining 15 hopefully registering very soon.

In respect of **antibody testing** it is important to recognise the relationship between **antigens**, which are capable of stimulating an immune response and **antibodies** which are produced by the immune system in response to exposure to antigens. Currently, antibody testing is not available to all care staff BUT as anyone can have an antigen test if they are symptomatic, and with the weekly roll-out of antigen testing for care home staff, it is not clear if antibody testing would be of use."

14/20 SERVICES CHANGES QUALITY ASSURANCE Dr Chris Clayton, CEO of Derby and Derbyshire CCG made a presentation to the Committee explaining the CCG's approach to the Coronavirus pandemic and NHS response to COVID. Their response was in three phases (waves): Activity, Restoration and Recovery, with Derbyshire and the rest of the country currently being in Phase 2 - Restoration.

Dr Clayton explained Phase 1 and service changes by creating more hospital capacity, prioritising protection of services and care and modelling for oxygenated and ventilated hospital beds. Derby had experienced an early spike in infections but this had settled and Derbyshire had achieved 'average' for the rate of infections. A cause of concern to the Trust was the percentage of deaths in the BAME groups at 15%.

Phase 2 – Restoration saw a step up of non-COVID-19 urgent services and the lock-in of beneficial changes. The objectives for this phase was to ensure significant transformation and new ways of working were retained and embedded, health and care staff were properly supported and protected, and strengthen focus on the outcomes-based approach.

Phase 3 – Recovery was expected later in the summer with a framework for longer-term recovery of services, following the Derbyshire Local Resilience Forum Recovery Governance Framework. An NHS Quality Assurance Process would assess all changes to determine "restoration vs recovery". Public engagement would continue through communication, consultation and quality assurance.

The Committee was given the opportunity to ask Dr Clayton questions. He was expecting there to be challenges on demand and resources and agreed to return to a future Committee meeting to discuss in more detail. He also shared the concerns of the Committee around mental health, levels of

engagement, waiting list times and A&E cases. Patient anxiety would remain around hospital admissions however a lot of work was being done to allay these fears. Care homes continued to be supported.

RESOLVED that the Committee note the presentation.

The Chairman thanked Dr Clayton and his team for the presentation and the work done throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

15/20 DCHS QUALITY ACCOUNT REPORT Michelle Bateman, Chief Nurse and Director of Quality presented the quality report that described in detail the work undertaken during the year to improve the quality of the services delivered. 2019/20 was a challenging year in planning and delivering healthcare but also would be marked as the year the NHS embarked on its response to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

There were a number of positives to come out of the report: being rated '**outstanding**' in its first annual well-led inspection in September 2019 with no areas of improvement actions and the Service having excellent family and baby friendly results, including being awarded the Gold UNICEF Baby Friendly Initiative.

There were three main priorities for the Trust, with two areas requiring further work after having been waylaid through the COVID pandemic: Patient Safety; Clinical Effectiveness; and Patient Experience around Dementia. Plans were already in place to address these and progress on all three objectives was monitored through performance reports to the Board of Directors.

The Committee was given the opportunity to ask Ms Bateman questions predominantly around sepsis, falls, care in homes and the forthcoming Winter flu jab programme.

RESOLVED that the Health Scrutiny Committee was pleased to receive the Quality Account for Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust for 2019/20. The Committee would take the opportunity, over the coming year, to monitor the activities and progress of the Trust and both support and challenge the Trust as appropriate.

The Chairman thanked Ms Bateman for her report.