

## **Walsall Council Commissioning Intentions 2023/24**

### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of Walsall Council's Public Health commissioning intentions for 2023/24 as required by the Health and Social Care Act 2012

### **2. Recommendations**

That the Board notes the content of the report for assurance.

### **3. Report detail**

#### **3.1 Adult Social Care (ASC)**

Walsall ASC faces another particularly challenging year, and it is important that the commissioning team delivers its intentions so that we can provide quality and safe services to our residents.

We will be seeking to strengthen our partnerships with health colleagues with a view to furthering the integration agenda. Our intentions fall under three principal areas:

#### **(a) Implementation of the Market Sustainability Plan (MSP).**

We are currently in consultation with the market over the final version, which will be published shortly.

The MSP seeks, in line with government guidelines, to establish a high quality and sustainable care market for the long term. This includes strategies for managing financial restrictions, workforce development and quality improvement. The main mechanism for doing this will be the implementation of our commissioning transformation programme - "Re-Imagining Care."

**(b) Re-Imagining Care.** Following an extensive consultation and design period we will, this year, begin to implement our vision for transforming care in Walsall. The programme will focus on new commissioning models that improve independence and wellbeing outcomes for all our service users.

In addition, we will be reviewing our approach to complex care and whole life service – moving away from bed based, more restrictive provision will be a further outcome from this work.

The programme contains workstreams focussing on:

- reviews of our community-based services,
- needs analysis,
- design of procurement models, and
- a change in monitoring for community providers.

The most important output of this work will be a new single contractual framework, which will unify outcomes for the whole market to ensure that all providers are working to improve independence and wellbeing for our residents.

### **(c) New forms and functions to Commissioning, Procurement and Contract Management (CPCM).**

The Council is looking at maximising its quality assurance, fully utilising knowledge, expertise and resource by centralising all Commissioning, Procurement and Contract Management teams that are currently providing these services throughout the organisation (in each directorate).

The Commissioning function will also be looking at new ways of working collaboratively - ASC and NHS - to create a whole system place-based commissioning environment, optimising the limited health and care resources as well as providing a single point of contact model / experience for Walsall residents.

Further developments and challenges identified: - Responding to the new CQC ASC inspection regime

- Demand management across health and care.

## **3.2 Children's Services**

**SEND.** The Children and Families Act places a legal duty on Local Authorities and ICS to secure services to meet the provision set out in individual EHC Plans. This means that ICS and the Local Authority will work together to ensure the full integration of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) provision across education, health and care and strengthen the principles of joint planning and commissioning of services as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014

Ofsted inspection in February 2019 judged our Local Area and SEN services as having 12 significant areas of weakness in the local area's practice. This resulted in a Written Statement of Action for which the LA and CCG hold joint responsibility. A revisit inspection took place from 20-22 June 2022, which identified progress and improvements for children with SEND. 2 out of the 12 priority areas which were judged as "not have made sufficient progress to improve this area of weakness"

- The poor quality of the local offer, which does not meet the requirements of the code of practice
- Weak arrangements for joint commissioning, which do not consider information about the local area well enough

**Family Hubs.** The Department for Education and the Department for Health and Social Care announced that Walsall was going to be one of 75 LA's eligible to be part of the next wave of Family Hub programmes commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April

A family hub is a system-wide model of providing high-quality, joined-up, whole-family support services. Hubs deliver these services from conception, through a child's early years until they reach the age of 19 (or 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities).

Family hubs aim to make a positive difference to parents, carers and their children by providing a mix of physical and virtual spaces, as well as outreach, where families can easily access non-judgmental support for the challenges they may be facing. Family Hubs will provide a universal 'front door' to families, offering a 'one-stop shop' of family support services across their social care, education, mental health and physical health needs, with a comprehensive Start for Life offer for parents and babies at its core.

Effective service design and commissioning is crucial for better outcomes for infants, children and families – particularly in the context of budget pressures. Designing effective family hubs is about responding to what children and families say they need; and building on best practice while addressing the gaps and who is being missed.

We will be developing a joint commissioning plan between the local authority and partners such as health commissioners for the services accessed through the family hub network.

**Adolescents with complex needs.** There is an increase demand of young people with complex needs who are being admitted on Ward 21 or in high costs placements that could be more safely supported at home with better outcomes through developing the right support at the right time.

Through Joint commissioning arrangements we will be planning to develop an effective community (integrated) service(s) that will assess and meet young people with complex needs safely and effectively in their own home, reducing the need for crisis high cost placements.

**Family Safeguarding.** In Walsall we received an investment - through the Department of Education's 'Strengthening Families Protecting Children programme' - to develop an evidence based model in protecting children.

The model, originally developed in Hertfordshire, will implement multi-disciplinary teams across our 4 localities with children's social workers, probation officers, adult

recovery workers and mental health practitioners working together to resolve the main family challenges that have been identified can cause harm to children's health and development.

We are now working, through joint commissioning arrangements, to ensure the model will sustain the integrated partnership resources beyond the investment of the programme.

### **Future Arrangements**

Walsall Council is establishing the Commissioning, Procurement & Contract Management element of the Council's Hub model, which will in the future centrally manage/support the full commissioning cycle from a whole of life perspective.

### **3.3 Public Health**

It is acknowledged that there are notable differences in service needs, expectations and demand between pre- and post-Covid, Further to the restructure that went live 01 March 2022, Public Health have been working with partners on reviewing all services and programmes to ensure that services and programmes remain fit for purpose and are addressing Public Health outcomes.

Areas of focus:

#### **1. Children & Young People**

- Emotional health and wellbeing support in schools: Continuing to raise awareness through a series of workshops and publicise self-harm support/services in Walsall for easy access .
- 0-19 contract: working with our NHS partners to gain agreement and embed variations in the contract, which will result in a Section 75 agreement in place
- Developing a smoking in pregnancy integrated model (with PH and NHS funded components)
- Children & Families Healthy Eating: Commissioning a new child healthy eating plan

#### **2. Health Improvement**

- Implement new Tobacco Control Strategy (including agree key actions of Trading Standards and Environmental Health)
- Implementation/Mobilisation of Smoking Cessation Contract
- Developing NHS Health Checks Franchise model
- Implementation of plan for initialising Wellbeing service

#### **3. Health Protection**

- Embedding new ways of working for community IPC
- Use of community champions to drive flu vaccination and screening uptake in the South and West of the Borough

- Increase TB screening in specific population groups - under-served populations including refugee and migrant communities
  - Ongoing review and updates based on publication of new guidance, feedback from Care home users relating to infection prevention and control mobile app
4. Healthcare
- By taking a whole system approach, PH will work with partners (health and non-health specific) to achieve the recommendations contained within Walsall's sexual and reproductive health strategy
  - The approach will also focus on improving sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing for our most vulnerable communities and those where sexual health inequalities are greatest through strengthening conversations and reducing stigma in respect of sexual health and HIV.
  - Reviewing the Oral Health programme, ensuring the most vulnerable have access, in particular Year 4-6 and Walsall's elderly population
  - Within 12 months of the updated HSC Act being passed, the Secretary of State must lay before Parliament a report setting out a programme for the fluoridation of water supplies in England with a timetable for each proposed scheme. PH are awaiting publication of this to identify risk to the Council and future tasks/resources required
5. Inequalities
- PH are focusing on the delivery of the OHID SSMTR Grant as 2023/24 is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the 3-year national programme to improve local drug and alcohol treatment and recovery systems
6. Mental Wellbeing (see Annual Report)

The above is not a complete list, but main examples of the Public Health 2023/24 focus for continuing to reduce inequalities

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