

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 10 December 2020

Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Clinical Commissioning Groups Strategic Update

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Note that nationally the planning, commissioning, and finance framework for 2021/22 has not yet been published, and that due to the ongoing requirement to prioritise management of the Covid-19 pandemic, there was no obligation to produce commissioning intentions.
- b. Note the updates provided on the impact of Covid-19 and Phase 3 Planning, the focus on the priorities outlined in the long-term plan and the ongoing work in relation to service changes.

Background

1. On 30th January 2020, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) declared a Level 4 National Incident, triggering the first phase of the NHS pandemic response. In March 2020, a Covid-19 control centre was established to provide control and command, co-ordination and decision-making across the STP.
2. Since March 2020 the system has been operating and planning in a very different environment and has responded to national guidance outlined in four letters to date.
 - a. The NHSEI *Next Steps* letter of 17th March 2020, set out the key actions for each part of the NHS to redirect staff and resources to prepare for the emergence of a potential pandemic.
 - b. At the end of April 2020, NHSEI set out their expectations for *Phase 2* of the response to Covid-19. The requirement was that local systems and organisations should 'fully step up' non-covid-19 essential services as soon as possible over a six week period.
 - c. On 31st July 2020, NHSEI set out further expectations for *Phase 3* of the response to Covid-19 and NHS priorities from 1st August 2020. Each system was asked to submit a range of Phase 3 Covid-19 plans to demonstrate their actions.
 - d. NHSEI wrote to STP and ICS leaders on 25th September 2020 in relation to preparedness for a potential *second wave* of Covid-19 and asked systems to set out their plans in the event of a further peak of Covid-19 demand and the impact this may have on restoration of non-Covid health services.
3. In light of national planning, commissioning, and finance frameworks not being published for 2021/22 yet, formal commissioning intentions were not produced. However, partners across the system continue to work closely together focusing and linking the priorities to be delivered through the phase 3 plan and those outlined in the Long-term plan (LTP).

Phase 3 Planning

4. The STP strategic five-year delivery plan (FYDP) was developed to respond to the LTP. In particular, the FYDP outlined the ambitions and priorities to increase the scale and pace of progress of reducing health inequalities.
5. The phase 3 planning letter outlined the focus required on protecting the most vulnerable from Covid-19 and setting out a clear commitment to tackling inequalities. The system phase 3 plan sets out a range of work to be delivered around the inequalities and prevention programme. The work programme has a specific stream in relation to health inequalities and builds on the commitments outlined in the FYDP. Areas of focus include accelerating preventative programmes and supporting the recovery of services in the community including smoking cessation, CVD prevention, and community engagement to promote uptake of flu vaccination and childhood vaccinations.
6. In addition to the work across the system, there are agreed local “placed based” plans and priorities in place within the three Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs). As to be expected, there is some variation to reflect specific issues in each ICP but there is also a large degree of alignment on certain pathways including: Post Covid-19 services (including rehab); long term Conditions (including diabetes and respiratory); Support for frail elderly (including care homes); and integrating access for mental health services.

Service Changes

7. In April 2020, work around the pre-consultation business case was paused. A number of service changes were made as a result of national guidance, local need and to redeploy the workforce to where it was required.
8. Throughout the response to the pandemic, a comprehensive record of the material service changes that have taken place has been developed and maintained. The Midland Impact Assessment Tool has been used to split the service changes into two categories of Covid-19 Restoration and Recovery.
9. The system is keen to retain the benefits seen during Covid-19, particularly those that have accelerated the delivery of the LTP/FYDP ambitions. Any temporary service changes, which may become permanent solutions, would then be subject to public involvement and/or consultation.

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