

## **Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 18 January 2023**

### **Health and Care Winter Update**



**Councillor Julia Jessel, Cabinet Member for Health and Care said,**

“The NHS has been under extraordinary pressure this winter due to people unwell with respiratory virus infections and staffing issues.

“The Council has worked hard to ensure that the number of people in hospital waiting for social care remains low.

“We will continue to work with the NHS to facilitate timely hospital discharges and to support those residents who need adult social care.”

#### **Report Summary:**

This report provides an update on pressures facing the NHS this winter and the additional and ongoing services commissioned by the Council to facilitate timely hospital discharges and support those residents who need adult social care.

#### **Recommendations**

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Note the pressures facing the NHS this winter.
- b. Note the additional services commissioned by the Council to facilitate timely hospital discharges and support those residents who need social care.

## **Cabinet – Wednesday 18 January 2023**

### **Health and Care Winter Update**

#### **Recommendations of the Cabinet Member for Health and Care**

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Note the pressures facing the NHS this winter.
- b. Note the additional services commissioned by the Council to facilitate timely hospital discharges and support those residents who need social care.

#### **Local Member Interest:**

N/A

#### **Report of the Director for Health and Care**

#### **Reasons for Recommendations:**

##### **Background**

1. The NHS nationally has been under extraordinary pressure this winter. There have been high levels of demand due to large numbers of people unwell with respiratory virus infections, compounded by staff shortages due to vacancies and sickness absence. Urgent care activity has been particularly high with large numbers of emergency hospital admissions and widespread reports of ambulances queueing outside emergency departments.
2. There remains a substantial opportunity to reduce emergency hospital admissions by improving management of elderly and frail people in the community, especially at end of life. Emergency hospital admissions at end of life can be extremely distressing and almost one quarter of hospital beds are occupied by people in their last year of life. There is also an opportunity to improve management of people within hospital to reduce length of stay and prevent the need for longer term care and support.
3. It is also important to ensure timely hospital discharges. Acute hospitals typically report high numbers of people “medically fit for discharge”. Many of these are waiting for ongoing actions within the hospital, or for NHS community services. A smaller proportion are waiting for social care – and this varies depending on the part of the country. In December

2022 the Government provided a one-off social care discharge fund to local authorities and Integrated Care Boards to commission additional services to facilitate hospital discharges and support those residents who need social care. Local authorities and Integrated Care Boards were given two weeks to develop, agree and submit expenditure plans.

### **Urgent social care in Staffordshire**

4. Staffordshire has fully integrated hospital discharge services provided and co-ordinated by Midlands Partnership NHS Trust. People who need reablement and/or assessment for ongoing care and support are discharged from NHS acute hospitals to a range of urgent care services: Home First, NHS community hospitals and temporary care home placements. For those who need longer term care and support and who are eligible for local authority funded services, the Council arranges either home care or a permanent care home placement.
5. This means that very few Staffordshire residents now wait in acute hospitals for social care. The Council's focus is on ensuring that people who need ongoing care and support can move on from urgent care services in a timely way. Performance is monitored on a daily basis and so far this winter has been better than last year.
6. The Government has allocated £3.0m of the one-off social care discharge fund to the Council. Expenditure has been agreed with the NHS as part of the Better Care Fund and will include around £854k for home care, £579k for care homes, £182k for additional assessment capacity, £414k for voluntary sector, housing, assistive technology and equipment, and £739k for measures to recruit and retain the workforce. This will further improve the timeliness of social care for people in urgent care services.
7. The Council continues our programme of improvement in social care including to embed consistent strengths-based practice, develop additional Extra Care and nursing home capacity, and support the market to recruit and retain staff. We are also supporting the NHS with winter vaccinations: 84% of over 65s have had a Covid booster and 80% have had a flu vaccination.

### **Legal Implications**

8. There are no legal implications arising as a result of this report.

### **Resource and Value for Money Implications**

9. The Council has committed £3.0m of the Government's one-off social care discharge fund to commission additional services to facilitate timely

hospital discharges and support those residents who need adult social care.

### **Climate Change Implications**

10. There are no climate change implications arising as a result of this report.

### **List of Background Documents/Appendices:**

None

### **Contact Details**

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