

HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

A meeting of the Health Scrutiny Panel was held on Tuesday 16 February 2021.

PRESENT: Councillors J McTigue (Chair), D Coupe (Vice-Chair), B Cooper, A Hellaoui, B Hubbard, T Mawston, D Rooney and M Storey

PRESENT BY INVITATION: Councillors J Thompson and D Davison

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Andrew Rowlands (TVCCG) and Jayne Herring (TVCCG)

OFFICERS: C Breheny, J Dixon, S Lightwing and M Adams

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors P Storey

20/53 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

20/54 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest received at this point in the meeting.

20/55 **MINUTES - HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL - 8 DECEMBER 2020**

The minutes of the Health Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 8 December 2021 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

20/56 **COVID-19 UPDATE**

The Head of Planning and Assurance and the Commissioning and Delivery Manager for Planned Care at Tees Valley NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (TVCCG) were in attendance to provide an update to the panel on the Vaccination Programme and Covid Oximetry at Home Service.

The panel was advised that TVCCG was experiencing issues in receiving locality data in respect of vaccination rates and the information released from the data warehouse nationally was currently very high level. Data was being reported at an NHS region and Integrated Care System (ICS) level and was yet to be produced at a STCCG or locality (Middlesbrough) level.

Currently the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) priority list, included nine priority groups (as of 7 January 2021), as detailed in the presentation and vaccinations were being administered in line with these requirements. A number of vaccination offers were in place including a local vaccination service, hospital vaccinations service, pharmacy vaccination service and mass vaccination programme.

The local vaccination service included 13 Primary Care Network (PCN) vaccination sites across the Tees Valley covering 14 PCN's. There were two sites in Middlesbrough including:-

- Holgate/Greater Middlesbrough Primary Care Network – North Ormesby Branch – Linthorpe Surgery
- Central Middlesbrough Primary Care Network – Thorntree Surgery

The hospital vaccination service focused on providing vaccinations for Health service staff and Care workers including care home staff. This service was in place at South Tees hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, North Tees and Hartlepool Foundation Trust and County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust.

The local pharmacy vaccination service was operating from 2 sites; Acklam in Middlesbrough and Fairfield in Stockton. The large scale vaccination service (mass) vaccination programme

was also in place.

It was advised that the number of vaccinations administered in North East and Yorkshire, up to 14 February 2021, was now over 2.1m. On 13 February 2021 77,229 vaccinations had been administered in the region. In terms of cumulative comparisons, as of 7 February 2021 18.9 per cent of the North East and North Cumbria (NENC) ICS population had received its first vaccine. In addition 93.8 per cent of the population aged 80+ in the NENC ICS had received their first dose. The NENC ICS was above the national average in both '% population received first dose' and '% of 80+ received first dose'. The national average for these figures were 17.4 per cent and 90.2 per cent respectively.

It was explained that the vaccination programme had been a massive undertaking both regionally and nationally. Locally STCCG was in a really positive position. The national requirement for individuals in the top 4 priority groups to have received their first dose of the vaccine by 1 February 2021 had been achieved.

The Chair congratulated TVCCG, as well as the regional and national NHS teams, on the delivery of the vaccination programme to date. Positive comments were also expressed by Members in respect of the testing facilities that had been established locally.

It was queried as to whether a decision had been taken as to the location that may be considered for the delivery of the mass vaccination programme. The panel was advised that the Riverside Stadium was one of the sites currently being considered and once confirmation had been received an update would be provided. Reference was made as to whether Middlesbrough Bus Station could be considered as a possible location and it was advised that there were national constraints on the type of site that could be used and any approved site needed to be available from 8am – 8pm seven days per week.

A member of the panel queried as to the date by which TVCCG anticipated all 9 priority groups would have been offered their first dose of the vaccine. It was explained that nationally the target date for all over 50's had been set for 30 April 2021. This would be a massive challenge, as inevitably these would need to be administered at the same time as many people older people would be receiving their second dose of the vaccine. However, fantastic progress was being made and currently those in priority groups 5 and 6 were being offered their first dose of the vaccine.

In terms of the Covid Oximetry at Home Service 876 people in the Tees Valley had been referred to the service and 693 had been admitted. The service was proving effective in monitoring an individual's progress following either discharge from hospital or referral from a GP. It was estimated that as of 9 February 2021 64 hospital beds had been saved as a result of the provision of this service.

The Director of Public Health (South Tees) was in attendance to provide an update on COVID-19 and the local Public Health response.

The panel was advised that in terms of the current number of COVID-19 cases in Middlesbrough, the latest data showed that 49 new cases had been added to the system today. 426 new cases had been detected in the last 7 days and the current rate per 100,000 population in Middlesbrough was 302.2. In respect of hospital admissions at South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (STH NHS FT) 129 in patients had positive COVID-19 lab results. This figure included 7 new admissions / diagnoses in the last 24 hours, 28 patients in critical care, 30 patients ventilated and 30 patients on oxygen.

With regard to community (asymptomatic) testing a number of targeted community testing sites had been established. These included the following sites:-

- Middlesbrough Sport Village (5 test booths) – live from 10 February
- North Ormesby Hub (3 test booths) –live from 15 February
- Newport Hub (5 test booths) – live from 16 February

In addition "essential worker" tests were being provided at two sites including MAIN and Phoenix House (Independent Living Service) and both went live on 27 January 2021. The Public Health Team was also developing an approach to testing non-Council "essential workers" (i.e. those that cannot work from home and have high levels of contact with members

of the public and are therefore at increased risk. Finally, proactive work was also underway with local taxi companies to ensure taxi drivers were able to access the community testing sites. In total 576 tests had been carried out at the community testing sites since 27 January 2021, with only 1 positive result. The current low level of detection was promising, as the Public Health Team was not uncovering hidden infections. However, it was anticipated that higher numbers would be recorded with more positive test results reported.

Work with other high risk business settings had also taken place and 10 businesses in Middlesbrough had attended the Lateral Flow Testing training.

Finally, in relation to the South African variant a single case had been identified locally but the individual had had very limited movement.

AGREED that the information provided be noted and the fantastic efforts of the local NHS and Public Health Teams recognised.

20/57

DRAFT FINAL REPORT - OPIOID DEPENDENCY: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Chair invited the Democratic Services Officer to highlight the salient points contained in the Draft Final Report prior a discussion on the proposed recommendations. The Democratic Service Officer made reference to a number of key points and following discussion Members concluded that based on the evidence presented the Health Scrutiny Panel wished to put forward the following recommendations:-

- a) That the public health approach to drug dependence be continued and the benefits of introducing safe spaces in Middlesbrough for people to consume substances (drug consumption rooms) be further explored. Drug consumptions rooms have been successfully used elsewhere in the world (including in Europe and in Canada) for approximately 16 years and no one has ever died of a drug overdose in any of these facilities. Middlesbrough could in the future be a pilot for the adoption of such an approach in the UK.
- b) That a new capital funding bid for a 16-18 bedded detox and drug rehabilitation facility at Letitia House be submitted. Public health benefits and financial savings could be achieved when compared to the current costs of funding individual 7-10 day detox programmes out of area.
- c) That funding for the Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) programme be prioritised by partners in South Tees and the current level of investment continued for the foreseeable future.
- d) That the local authority write to the relevant Minister highlighting the success of the Heroin Assisted Treatment Programme (HAT) in Middlesbrough and how it is a demonstrably effective way of treating drug addiction.
- e) That the high quality drug treatment facilities available in Middlesbrough are recognised and that the town further develops as a Recovery Orientated System of Care (ROSC).
- f) That in an effort to reduce the stigma associated with drug dependency a proactive approach is undertaken to promote the town's vibrant recovery community. Middlesbrough is a town where recovery from drug dependency is possible, recognised and celebrated. The town has outstanding substance misuse treatment services and innovative harm reduction initiatives in place. Work needs to be undertaken to ensure Middlesbrough is recognised locally and nationally as a Recovery Town/City.
- g) That in respect of the areas for improvement put forward by Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust it is ensured that a number of measures are implemented including:-
- i) That quick and reliable access to specialist Substance Misuse support is made available to the Community Crisis Team, Crisis Assessment Suite and Inpatient wards
- ii) That Substance Misuse workers, Social Workers and other colleagues are included in the single point of access in Mental Health for joint triage/joint initial assessment
- iii) That Substance Misuse workers attend joint meetings, as arranged by TEWV, including formulation and pre-discharge

- iv) That Substance Misuse Services contribute to TEWV's co-produced Crisis management plans / Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAP)
- v) That a programme of joint clinics (Mental Health/Substance Misuse) to meet the needs of dual diagnosis patients be established
- vi) That the role of peer support workers across all organisations be increased
- vii) That prescribers in Substance Misuse services work with TEWV prescribers to ensure enhanced sharing of information
- viii) That cross fertilisation in terms of training for Substance Misuse and Mental Health workers be established
- h) That pathways for young people at risk of drug dependency be developed and a way for those already dependent to access timely treatment provided.
- i) That prescribing substitute treatment for those under 18 years be further explored and the preferred option piloted.
- j) That support for children experiencing parental opiate dependence be commissioned and the, number of children being reached and supported reported.
- k) That the best practice approaches adopted elsewhere in the UK in respect of opioid deprescribing for persistent non-cancer pain (for example, those put forward by Nottinghamshire Area Prescribing Committee) be taken up by Tees Valley CCG and promoted amongst Primary Care Networks (PCNs) in Middlesbrough.
- l) That in 2021/22 GP lists in Middlesbrough be screened using the I-WOTCH inclusion and exclusion criteria to establish the number of patients who could benefit from education on opioids and managing chronic pain. Following identification an appropriate initiative be developed to target those patients. In order to ensure that prior to the outcome of the pharmacist led opioid and gabapentinoid reduction proposal early steps are taken to provide people with alternatives approaches to pain management.
- m) That if the opioid and gabapentinoid reduction programme currently being piloted proves successful TVCCG invests sufficient resources to ensure the programme is scaled-up and the number of patients prescribed strong opiates for chronic non-malignant (non-cancer) pain in Middlesbrough is reduced.

AGREED that the Panel's Final Report on the topic of Opioid Dependency: What happens next? be approved and the recommendations incorporated prior to the report being submitted to the Overview & Scrutiny Board for approval.

20/58

REGIONAL HEALTH SCRUTINY UPDATE

A verbal update was provided in relation to the business conducted at the Tees Valley Joint Health Scrutiny Committee held on 29 January 2021, as follows:-

- Covid Update – Presentation from Mark Adams (Director of Public Health for South Tees)
- North East Ambulance Service Performance Update – Presentation from Mark Cotton (Assistant Director – Communications) and Victoria Court (Deputy Chief Operating Officer)
- Tees Suicide Prevention Plan – Jo Cook (Tees Suicide Prevention Officer)
- Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust: Our Big Conversation – Draft Strategic Framework – Discussion with Dominic Gardner (Director of Operations)

AGREED that the update provided be noted.

20/59

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD - AN UPDATE

A verbal update was provided in relation to the business conducted at the Overview and Scrutiny Board meeting held on 11 February 2021, as follows:-

16 February 2021

- Executive Forward Work Programme.
- Middlesbrough Council's Response to Covid-19 Response – Chief Executive & Director of Public Health.
- Executive Member update – Executive Member for Regeneration (Councillor Waters).
- Final Report – Culture and Communities Scrutiny Panel – Social Cohesion and Integration.
- Scrutiny Panel Chairs' Updates.

AGREED that the information provided be noted.