

## FULL COUNCIL

5 JULY 2022

### REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

#### 1.1 Purpose of Report

To advise Members that there were no decisions to be made on the 22 June 2022, therefore the meeting was cancelled.

#### 1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 This report highlights some of those decisions which have been made, but not all. Members wishing to view all decisions made can find these at <http://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/mgInternet/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

#### 1.3 Good News

- 1.3.1 **Carers Week:** Carers week took place from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of June. To celebrate the hard work and dedication of our unpaid carers there were a number of events which were run by the Carers Trust Solihull, who are the Council's commissioned provider for carers support.
- 1.3.2 This year saw a trip to Glastonbuget for young adult carers (18-25 years), a beach trip for 22 families to Weston-super-Mare with 73 carers and those they cared for. There was also a drop-in at Lily's Team Room in Chelmsley Wood, to raise awareness of carers in the community with discussion with the public and the distribution of information. The highlight of Carers week was the first Charity Ball and Carer Friendly Awards on the 11<sup>th</sup> of June at the Village Hotel. The event marked 20 years of Carers Trust in the Solihull. This gave an opportunity to celebrate both individual and corporate efforts in Solihull to support our carers.
- 1.3.3 **Solihull Home First:** The Solihull Home First Programme continues to work well in terms of hospital admissions avoidance and in order to ensure that people with care needs are, wherever possible, supported to return home on discharge from hospital. A diagnostic of what works work, and where developments could further support this programme, concluded in March 2022. This identified a number of positives, including excellent joined-up working.
- 1.3.4 In the first quarter of 2022/23, a video was produced for staff across the health and care system to share the findings of the diagnostic, so everyone is prepared for the next steps of development. The next steps of development and improvement will be happening over the coming months.
- 1.3.5 **Early Response Service (ERS):** Adult Care and Support Directorate commissioned an Early Response Service (ERS) as a hospital admission avoidance service. It was launched in October 2021 and is delivered by Universal Care Services. This is a borough-wide service, operating 7 days a week and can support people for up to 6 weeks. The service is designed to work with people's existing support networks and enables them to remain at home if a crisis in circumstances affects their care arrangements or welfare. As hospitals continue to have high levels of demand for care, it is important that bed capacity is used only for those who need a hospital service. ERS puts in place wraparound care to prevent unnecessary stays in hospital.

- 1.3.6 Since it began operating, the ERS has started to accept referrals directly from A&E to provide another response for those taken there for whom a rapid return home is preferred. NHS colleagues have been very positive about the service and its responsiveness in helping to offer a more flexible approach, and to alleviate pressure on hospital beds. After the initial success, the long-term model for this service will be considered as part of the Home First developments outlined above.
- 1.3.7 **Solihull Festival Offer for Care Staff:** Commissioners have worked with Solihull Festival organisers and agreed a special offer to show our appreciation for the dedication and hard work by care staff.
- 1.3.8 This great offer means staff working in the Solihull borough in the private, voluntary and independent sector in Adult Social Care will be able to purchase 2 tickets for the price of 1 to the Solihull Festival.
- 1.3.9 This offer will be open to all care staff who should apply directly to Solihull Festival and identify themselves as care workers, to take advantage of this offer.
- 1.3.10 The festival is well established in Solihull and has a range of great acts performing, providing a chance to relax, listen to music and enjoy street food. This offer is another way that appreciation and recognition is shown to care workers in Solihull. We are grateful to the organisers for this gesture of recognition.
- 1.3.11 **Exploitation Reduction:** [Solihull's All-Age Exploitation Reduction Strategy](#) represents a partnership approach committed to making improvements to protecting children, young people and adults from all types of exploitation.
- 1.3.12 Exploitation Reduction Delivery Group members have been co-ordinating efforts to raise awareness of this work and of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Procedures through the development of a communications plan. The focus of the plan is split into four themes - prevention, protection, partnership and pursue.
- 1.3.13 The current prevention focus is on reaching into sectors with specific insight and access to vulnerable groups - individuals and businesses who can be watchful eyes and ears on the ground in the community.
- 1.3.14 If people in these sectors are engaged and equipped to spot warning signs and know how to act on and highlight their concerns, then much earlier interventions could be made, ultimately protecting potential victims of exploitation.
- 1.3.15 They include those involved in the night-time economy – fast food, bars and cafes, pubs and clubs, hotels and B&Bs, visitor attractions like skating rinks, festivals, circus, parks and open spaces, shopping centres, town centres, and events for teenagers.
- 1.3.16 Public services staff are another very important group - refuse collectors, street cleansers, litter pickers, grounds maintenance, highways operatives, along with public transport and taxi and private hire firms.
- 1.3.17 To support raising awareness of, and as an output of the communications plan, leaflets and posters have been developed and shared. A dedicated Council telephone number has been implemented and more detailed sector specific training has been developed and is available via the Solihull Safeguarding Adults Board and Local Safeguarding Children's Partnership website [All Age Exploitation - Solihull Safeguarding Adult and Children \(safeguardingsolihull.org.uk\)](#).

Resources have also been developed for awareness raising within the public, this includes accessible material that will be launched to coincide with the Commonwealth Games.

- 1.3.18 **Adult Social Care Environmental Sustainability Plans:** Environmental responsibility is a key enabling priority for the Adult Social Care. To support the sustainability of our commissioned care services and workforce we have utilised government grants to provide funding to three care providers to support their use of hybrid or electric vehicles. At a time of increasing fuel costs these providers are now delivering over one hundred and eighty care miles per week using electric or hybrid vehicles as well as achieving improved workforce recruitment and retention. Additionally, we have purchased two electric mopeds which will be used by home care providers to travel around the borough, further reducing the environmental impact of social care provision in Solihull.
- 1.3.19 We have also seen the environmental benefits from new working arrangements and technology improvements reducing the environmental impact of home to work travel as well as travel journeys to attend internal and external meetings. For council employees working in adult social care, there has been a 61% reduction in business miles from 223k miles in 2018/19 to 86.7k miles in 2021/22. Additionally, the use of digital communication and development of electronic systems and processes has seen a 74% reduction in printing from 750k sheets in 2019/20 to 272k sheets in 2021/22.
- 1.3.20 Our Day Services South Team have established a Sustainability Champions Staff Group working with people who attend the day centre to improve sustainability of the centre. Taking proactive steps to raise environmental awareness, through events such as 'switch off fortnight' to monitor and reduce energy usage and improving recycling to reduce the amount of waste that goes to landfill.
- 1.3.21 **Dual Diagnosis:** Our local commissioned Drug and Alcohol service SIAS has employed a dual diagnosis worker to provide evidence-based interventions and supervision to SIAS practitioners and Mental Health teams within Solihull. This post will develop and implement structured pathways to and from community teams and work with Transforming Mental Health to improve access to treatment as well as work with Dr E Day to improve treatment experiences and outcomes for comorbid services users.
- 1.3.22 **PCN Hubs:** Solihull Integrated Lifestyle Services have commenced providing Lifestyle clinics within PCN hubs across the borough, to work with GPs in pro-active prevention, early identification and support for long term conditions. This has been a collaborative enterprise between, LA, Primary Care, CCG and providers resulting in enhanced and improved health pathways for Solihull residents. It demonstrates the ability of Solihull services to operate within a whole system approach that will improve outcomes for patients in Solihull.
- 1.3.23 **Family Hubs Transformation Fund bid Announcement:** Solihull has been named as one of 12 areas (out of 84 applicants) to be awarded up to £1 million each to create a network of Family Hubs. This funding will deliver genuine transformation for Solihull families from pre-conception to 19 years (and 25 years for young people with additional needs) with a seamless, single-branded family support offer throughout childhood. This funding will enable us to work collaboratively on prevention and early intervention across the system to realise our vision of a network of hub buildings, a digital offer and outreach work in the community. We look forward to working with teams across the Council and wider partners to shape our hub offer so families can access the right help, at the right time, in the heart of our communities who need it most, directly addressing intergenerational patterns of disadvantage.

## 1.4 Future Decisions

- 1.4.1 A list is available on the Forward Plan.