

## Adults and Health Committee Health Scrutiny session 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 Improving Health Outcomes for People with Learning Disabilities

Evidence received from:

- i. Chief Nursing Officer, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System
  - 04.12.23 Factual Member briefing
  - 06.12.23 [Published report - Item 13 refers](#)
  - 14.12.23 [Health scrutiny session \(public\)](#)
- ii. Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
  - 13.12.24 [Written submission](#)

The Committee was pleased to welcome the Chief Nursing Officer, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System, to its public health scrutiny session on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Healthwatch's feedback from the Learning Disability Partnership Board on the challenges experienced by people with learning disabilities in relation to annual health checks and access to information was shared at the start of the session to inform the debate.

Questioning focused on:

- Annual health checks
- Provision of health care information in an accessible format
- The disparity in premature mortality rates for people with learning disabilities in comparison to the general population. This was considered in the context of the Council's Strategic Ambition 3: Health inequalities are reduced
- Keyworker pilot project
- The transition from children's to adult health services
- Delivery of the Oliver McGowan training programme to healthcare staff in Cambridgeshire

### Feedback

The Committee:

1. welcomes the Chief Nursing Officer's recognition of people with learning disabilities as individuals with a variety of different needs.
2. expresses significant concern at the disparity in premature mortality rates for people with learning disabilities in comparison to the general population in Cambridgeshire.
3. endorses the focus on delivering proactive and reasonable adjustments to support access to NHS health care services, particularly in relation to respiratory disease

and cancer which are the highest causes of mortality for people with learning disabilities.

4. endorses the keyworker pilot project, and notes the intention to use transformation funding to extend this project during the 2024/25 financial year.
5. endorses the pilot project being run in two special schools to deliver health services in an education setting to minimise children's time out of the classroom for health care appointments. This pilot is being delivered by health professionals from Addenbrookes Hospital and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust.
6. welcomes the work being done to build relationships with harder to reach communities, and to make them aware of the healthcare provision available to people with learning disabilities.
7. welcomes the Chief Nursing Officer's acknowledgement of the contribution made by charitable organisations in supporting and advocating for people with learning disabilities, and their intention to do more work with charities in future.
8. The Chair placed on record the County Council's wish to make progress with Integrated Care Board (ICB) partners in relation to the Learning Disability Partnership (LDP). The County Council did not want to see the LDP break up and was willing and waiting to discuss this, but had not seen the progress it had hoped in the last month. The Chair asked that the Chief Nursing Officer should feed this back to the ICB.

## Recommendations

In the context of its statutory health scrutiny function the Adults and Health Committee:

1. requests a short written update in 12 months' time on the outcome of the pilot project to align annual health care checks for people with learning disabilities with their birthdays. This should state whether this initiative will be rolled out across the county; and, if so, the timescale for doing so. **Action required – Chief Nursing Officer**
2. recommends that County Council officers work with Health Service partners to offer basic healthcare training to carers so that they can carry out basic health checks and support such as mouth care and inspections; foot care inspections; and supporting good eating techniques to reduce the risk of aspiration for people with learning disabilities **Action required – Service Director, Adult Social Care CCC Lead and Chief Nursing Officer, ICS**
3. requests a short written evaluation in 12 months' time of the learning from the keyworker pilot project. This should include the number of people with learning

disabilities receiving the support of a keyworker against the known population of people with learning disabilities in Cambridgeshire in December 2023 and December 2024 (separate figures for adults and children); and an assessment of the impact in practical terms of the keyworker programme in improving access to and the experience of health care services by people with learning disabilities, including supporting the transition from children's to adult services. **Action required – Chief Nursing Officer, ICS**

The Committee will seek feedback from people with learning disabilities about their experience of having a keyworker in 12 months' time via the Learning Disability Partnership, Voiceability and Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. **Action required – Democratic Services Officer**

4. requests a short written evaluation in 12 months' time of the pilot project being run in two special schools to deliver health services in an education setting. This should include whether the programme will be extended, maintained or discontinued.

**Action required – Chief Nursing Officer ICS**

5. notes that all organisations that provide NHS care have been legally required to follow the Accessible Information Standard since 2016.

The Committee requests an update in 12 months' time on the progress made in rolling out health care information in easy read format across Cambridgeshire's health services. **Action required – Chief Nursing Officer ICS**

The Committee will consult the Learning Disability Partnership, Voiceability and Healthwatch at that time to request their perspectives. **Action required – Democratic Services Officer**

6. requests an update in 12 months' time on the number of NHS healthcare professionals in Cambridgeshire who have completed the Oliver McGowan training course at each level, the percentage figures for staff trained out of the total staff number identified as needing to undertake this training; and a comparison of Cambridgeshire's performance against national training completion rates. **Action required – Chief Nursing Officer ICS**