

Cambridgeshire County Council Adults and Health Committee Rapid Review of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System Winter Plan 2023/24

Rapid Review Group:

Cllr M Black
Cllr A Costello
Cllr C Daunton

Evidence received:

- i. Written responses from the ICS to questions raised during the Committee's scrutiny pre-meet on 2nd October 2023.
- ii. Associate Director of Performance and Operations, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System (ICS)
 - 05.10.23 [Published report - Item 15 refers](#)
- iii. Chief Executive Officer, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System (ICS)
Director of Performance and Delivery, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System (ICS)
 - 08.12.23 Verbal evidence - Teams meeting

Questioning focused on:

- seeking assurance about the plans in place to manage the high levels of demand for healthcare services during winter 2023/24 and the mitigations and planning in place around potential upturns in numbers of covid or flu cases during the winter period, including increased demand on the ambulance service.
- the use of NHS reservists to create additional capacity, and the size and make-up of this group.
- the positive collaboration between local authorities, health service providers, volunteer and charitable organisations and local community groups in Cambridgeshire in response to the covid pandemic, and whether these relationships could be used to help support the NHS in addressing winter pressures.
- the causes for low attendance rates at respiratory hubs the previous year and how the hubs had been publicised.
- the processes in place to manage the impact of industrial action during the winter period, including the work of the Emergency Planning Resilience Team.
- the support available to maintain good mental health and wellbeing during the winter months when people could become more isolated.
- The role of community pharmacies in complimenting the services provided by other healthcare professionals and ways to keep these businesses sustainable and able to serve their local communities.

Feedback

The Rapid Review Group, in consultation with Adults and Health Committee Spokes:

1. welcomes the assurance provided by the Integrated Care System about the plans in place to manage winter pressures in Cambridgeshire in 2023/24, including pressures relating to covid or flu cases and increased demands on the ambulance service. This includes greater use of virtual wards to manage people's care at home and a continued focus on minimising delayed transfers of care and reducing the time people spend in Accident and Emergency Departments.
2. endorses the collaborative work taking place between ICS partners including the County Council and local voluntary and community sector groups in support of health service providers over the winter period of peak demand.
3. notes that the success of community services in caring for those with mild to moderate health care needs means that those people who are seen in hospital tend to have more serious or complex health needs.
4. welcomes the commitment of the senior leadership team at the ICS to making sure that health care staff have the support and tools they need available to them.
5. endorses discussions with developers around building community health care support into new housing developments which reflects the needs of the population which will be living there, allows people to receive care and support within their communities and enables people to stay in their own homes for longer.
6. endorses the work being done by community hubs, libraries, food banks and warm hubs to support mental and physical health and wellbeing and combat isolation during the winter months. This reduces pressure on hospitals and health care providers during the period of peak demand for their services.

Recommendations:

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

1. learned during its scrutiny of [improving health outcomes for people with learning disabilities](#) on 14th December 2023 that respiratory disease is one of the highest causes of premature mortality amongst people with learning disabilities in Cambridgeshire.

The Committee requests a short note setting out what steps have been taken to ensure that people with learning disabilities and their families are aware of the new multi-disciplinary pathways available to manage respiratory illness, and the reasonable adjustments in place to make these accessible to people with learning disabilities. **Action required – Chief Nursing Officer, ICS**

2. requests that all County Councillors and co-opted members of the Adults and Health Committee be made aware of the 'Stay Well for Winter' leaflet produced by the County

Council and how to obtain electronic or hard copies of this. **Action required – CCC Communications Team**