

WEC rapid feedback to share with partners

Meeting of 15th December 2022

Summary of Discussion

As agreed at WEC in May 2022, we will produce summary of discussion alongside key actions within 24 hours of the WEC meeting, with more detailed notes and action log to follow.

In attendance: Sarah Dugan (Chair) Simon Adams, Liz Altay, Carole Cumino, John Devapriam, Mark Fitton, Hollie Hastings, Ruth Lemiech, Jo Newton, Simon Trickett, Roy Williams, Elizabeth Davies Ward, Christine Blanshard, Mari Gay.
(Sue Harris, Jack Wainwright and Maria Hardy attended for item they presented)

Update on actions:

Some agenda items moved from today to January due to nursing strike.
OOH's re- procurement workshop to be scheduled for January – date to be shared asap and CPF to review invitee list.
Integrated performance report being worked on for January meeting. Could this be shared in advance for internal discussion prior to coming to WEC.
Care Notes in the H&CT is still not operational but a lot of work underway to get it working from early 2023.

MH Collaborative update

Sue Harris introduced the item sharing that a parallel report had been presented in Herefordshire and this would be very place focussed discussion. Integrated performance reporting within the Collaborative is working well, alongside an aggregated view of risk across the Collaborative. The Collaborative infrastructure is enabling agile decision making, for example shifting funding to VCSE sector to support provision of IAPT service which Trust could not provide. Sue gave headlines of the areas of focus for 22/23, some of these are part of the national MH Long Term Plan and so will roll over into 23/24.
There are already some prior commitments for 23/24 mental health investment standard around IAPT; MH response vehicles, CYP MH and inflation.
However, there is new £ for MH year on year, linked to the long-term plan priorities, which are in the process of being delivered.
Accepted there needs to be some further work just to check this is all joined up with the CYP action plan. The planned investments will not enable us to meet the national IAPT access requirements, the national modelling tool suggests we are still circa 70+ staff short.
Further work will be done to align more strongly with HWB strategic priority around mental health and wellbeing.
Acknowledged the impressive work going in primary care and recognition that in terms of demand, most people are seeking access to therapy.

CYP – Community paediatrics challenges and mitigations

Maria Hardy set out the challenges currently facing paediatric community health services, provided by the Health & Care Trust. There are worrying issues for children, particularly those with health and other vulnerabilities. There has been a significant increase in demand for all children's mental health services. This is particularly concerning for children in priority groups and very young children with developmental delays. Getting access to registered professionals is very challenging, and clinicians are prioritising appointments to the most vulnerable patients. The Trust are undertaking immediate actions to set out how they are going to respond to the demand, with a preliminary mobilisation plan being developed for approval in mid-January and WEC will be updated. This includes an executive led transformation programme, alongside clear communications to professionals and parents. Discussion highlighted the exponential increase in demand also being seen in primary care, and where specialist referrals are rejected, it will be helpful to be signposted to other options. Consensus that further work needs to be undertaken to better understand why the pattern of demand has changed.

PCN Highlight Report

Hollie shared a presentation (attached with papers). Following a successful all practice meeting in early December, General Practice across Worcestershire has decided to form a single group and rebranded as General Practice Worcestershire. Hollie highlighted the workforce data in the slides which showed that the number of partners and salaried GPs is decreasing. She also pointed to some examples of innovative engagement with local stakeholders that PCNs and Collaboratives have recently understand.

Clinical Leadership

Roy shared the update from the Clinical and Practitioner Forum, some of which had already been covered in previous WEC agenda items. CPF is supporting multidisciplinary on-line education sessions for primary care with secondary care input and support.

Escalations: Elective; Cancer; Home First

Christine reported that early indications are that there is nothing to escalate from the nurses' strike.

Mari highlighted that Tier 1 national escalations is leading to intense scrutiny and we are having to give a lot of assurance that we will meet the activity levels we committed to at the start of the year for Q.4. This will be more of a challenge for cancer. Rationalisation of meetings to pick up as an action.

Feedback from Integrated Care partnership Assembly Meeting

This meeting took place yesterday afternoon and was very well attended. The draft plan on a page is attached to this report. Discussions at ICPA focussed mainly on the commitments and these will be adjusted to reflect the feedback. Over the next couple of months the more detailed content will be developed and WEC will have an initial view of the Worcestershire place based chapter at the January meeting.

Item for Information

Hollie highlighted the forthcoming District Collaborative showcase event, detail on how to sign up to the virtual showcase are in the flyer sent out with meeting papers. The District Collaborative showcase is proving very popular with over 110 attendees signed up.

Liz Davies-Ward

Liz thanked everyone for making her feel welcome and shared that the University has appointed a new Pro Vice Chancellor for Health and Science. Professor Sally Moyle, who is also a member of the University's Executive Board, will be replacing Liz as University representative at future WEC meetings

Further to WEC call and query about Strep A etc, Liz Altay received the below key messages (not for public):

Experimental key messages from winter intelligence cell - OFFICIAL SENSITIVE

The points below are based on expert consensus of the UKHSA winter intelligence cell following discussion of recent data. They are not based on forecasts or modelling but professional opinion. They are not suitable for discussion in the public domain but may be helpful in system discussions.

Group A streptococcus / Invasive Group A

Pressure seen across Health protection and NHS system illustrated by Paediatric ED seeing an increase in activity that equates to a day's extra work compared to previous week (+14% increase) latest national epidemiology published [here](#) and data will be updated weekly

Influenza

Influenza is on the increase but is currently increasing at a rate in line with pre-covid seasonal trends

COVID

COVID prevalence is starting to show an increase including in ONS data. Hospitalisations are currently flat across Midlands but given previous trends we would expect impact in change in prevalence to lag by about 2 weeks. Impact of the booster across the population at this stage is unclear but should provide some protection from hospitalisation.

RSV

RSV indicators suggest recent increases in reported cases and admissions are slowing, however it is too soon to say if these have peaked.

Cold weather

99% probability of severe cold weather/icy conditions/heavy snow between 0900 on Wednesday 14 Dec and 1200 on Sunday 18 Dec This weather could increase the health risks to vulnerable patients and disrupt the delivery of services. Worth noting impacts on health are not as direct as during heatwaves and may be spread out over a longer period. Met Office cold weather alert information can be found [here](#)

Overview

Overall looking into the new year we can expect to see increasing winter pressures well into January likely to be linked to increases in COVID and influenza as would be expected. Trends in GAS/iGAS are unclear at this stage and it is difficult to judge the impact of the school Christmas holidays.

Ruth Lemiech
Director of Place Development
16 December 2022