

GATESHEAD METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
CARE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING

Tuesday, 3 March 2020

PRESENT: Councillor S Green (Chair)

Councillors: M Charlton, W Dick, P Diston, K Ferdinand, J Gibson, B Goldsworthy, M Goldsworthy, M Hall, H Haran, M Hood, R Mullen, I Patterson and A Wheeler,

APOLOGIES: Councillors J Lee, K McClurey and P McNally,

CHW172 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The Committee agreed the minutes of the last meeting held in 28 January 2020 as a correct record.

CHW173 HEALTHWATCH GATESHEAD

Felicity Shenton, Deputy Chief Executive/Operations Manager provided the OSC with a report and presentation on Healthwatch Gateshead.

The OSC were informed that Healthwatch Gateshead Committee have listed the following topics as potential priorities for 2020-21:-

- Interpreting services (Newcastle and Gateshead)
- Risk of falls
- Standards of care in residential settings
- Supporting young people who are facing gender identity issues (Newcastle and Gateshead)
- Use of pharmacies

More information can be found at <https://healthwatchgateshead.co.uk/priorities-for-2020-21/>

Adult Social Care Direct (the front door to adult social care)

The Committee were advised that one the priority areas for 2019-20 was to carry out research on Adult Social Care Direct. This research took place over the summer and autumn of 2019. The findings are currently being shared with key stakeholders in draft and feedback is awaited. The final report is due to be published in March 2020 and will include recommendations and responses from Gateshead Adult Social Care. The final report will be presented to a future OSC meeting.

Outreach and engagement

The Committee were advised that in the past four months 25 events and stalls have been held and these can be viewed on an interactive map on the Healthwatch Gateshead website (healthwatchgateshead.co.uk/about-us/our-work)

Further updates will be made to future meetings of the OSC.

The Committee received information about Commissioned work, namely Integrated Care System and Emergency Departments and also representation on various Boards both locally and regionally.

RESOLVED - That the information be noted.

CHW174 A WHOLE SYSTEMS APPROACH TO HEALTHY WEIGHT

The OSC received a report providing an understanding of the complexity of the healthy weight agenda and overview of the healthy weight work that is being undertaken in Gateshead across the life-course as part of a whole system approach.

The report covered the following areas:

- Background
- The scale and complexity of the problem
- The evidence base
- Whole system approach
- Progress update, and
- Recommendations

RESOLVED - i) That the information be noted.

ii) The OSC agreed to receive further updates in due course.

CHW175 SUICIDE - EVERY LIFE MATTERS INTERIM REPORT

The OSC received the Interim Report looking into Suicide: Every Life Matters. The OSC were advised that the review, to date, has been carried out over a seven-month period with four papers supported by four evidence gathering sessions incorporating input from: HM Coroner, a person with Lived experience of Suicide, the results of a local Suicide Audit, a leader from the Regional level Integrated Care System (ICS) and Northumbria Police. A draft interim report has been prepared on behalf of the Committee settling out key findings and suggested recommendations from a local and regional perspective to agree a local way forward for Gateshead.

Work is progressing at Regional, sub-regional and local levels and the data would point towards a turning point, with decreasing rates of suicide in Gateshead. However, a partnership working needs to be supported to enable rates of suicide to continue to fall, wary that regional and national policy decisions can undermine work at a local level.

The Committee were advised that during the evidence gathering sessions a number of key issues and challenges were identified and include:

- How Suicide deaths are recorded and the impending change in the standards of proof required for a jury to return a conclusion of suicide from a

legal perspective, “beyond reasonable doubt”, to the *civil standard*, “the balance of probabilities”. There is potential for this to result in an increase in suicide recorded.

- National policy having the potential to impact upon the local work that is being undertaken, both positively and negatively. Positively, in accessing national funding streams to develop work programme further and negatively, through policy changes which may make it more difficult for people in extreme circumstances.
- Ensuring that the full impact of the issue is understood. The number of deaths from Suicide are thankfully small and there is the risk that it could be dismissed as not too much of an issue, however, the impact felt by families, friends and communities is significant.
- Inequalities in health are mirrored in inequalities in who is dying from Suicide/Unexplained deaths. Local data shows that more deaths occur in people from more disadvantaged groups.
- People who have been through experiences, either as a family member/friend or as a survivor of having attempted to kill themselves are in position to be able and support local suicide prevention work.
- Data would suggest that the majority of Suicide deaths occur in the home and the challenges this poses for prevention work. Rather than individual case work there is a need to focus work on wider preventative public mental health programmes that tackle the stigma of mental health.
- The responsibility and the ability to undertake prevention work on suicides is not with one single organisation. Partnership working at National, Regional and local level, with every organisation and every person knowing their potential role, will help.
- Partnership working will help to ensure that best practice and learning is shared across agencies, duplication is lessened, scant resources are shared to improve efficiency and effectiveness and the impact of the work is enhanced.
- Partnership working is also key to ensure that organisations communicate with each other and share intelligence on clients where this is possible.
- Funding cuts in Local Authority and Public Health budgets are a risk in the continued focus on elements that fall outside the mandated programmes to be delivered by Local Authorities.

The OSC were advised that the draft recommendations for the review were set out below:

Recommendation 1:

Gateshead Council should continue to support work on Suicide Prevention in Partnership at Regional, Sub Regional and local level to ensure that it benefits from sharing of best practice and support from partners in tackling Mental Health stigma and Suicide in Gateshead.

Recommendation 2:

Gateshead Council should look towards appointing an elected member Mental Health Champion to represent the Council at Regional and local forums/events on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. Note – role previously held by Cllr Mary For before her election as an MP.

Recommendation 3:

Suicide rates in Gateshead should continue to be monitored through data collected by the Northumberland, Tyne & Wear Real Time Data system to identify any changes in patterns which may require local action. Specific focus should be put on identify any changes in patterns which may require local action. Specific focus should be put on identifying health equity issues and tackling Health Inequalities in line with Thrive targets.

Recommendation 4:

Gateshead Council should continue to promote and fight the stigma of Mental ill Health through an Action Plan developed as part of the sign up to the Time to Change Employer pledge by the Council Leader and Chief Executive on 18 October 2017.

Recommendation 5:

Gateshead Suicide Prevention Action Plan should be a standing agenda item on the Gateshead Mental Health and Wellbeing meeting agenda and reports should go up to the Gateshead Health and Wellbeing Board from this group on an annual basis which will include a Suicide update.

Recommendation 6:

There should be a targeted approach, identifying high risk groups such as Men, alongside population level approach to this work as part of the Gateshead Suicide Prevention Action Plan.

Recommendation 7:

People with Lived experience should be engaged in delivery of the Action Plan.

Recommendation 8:

Efforts should be made to engage the media to raise awareness of Samaritans guidance on responsible media reporting. Provide local media with access to the designated suicide prevention lead so they can speak to them prior to running any story.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted.
 - ii) That the draft recommendations be agreed

CHW176 ADULT CARERS AND CARERS RELIEF SERVICE

The OSC received a report providing an update on the Adult Carers and Carers Relief Service, commissioned by Care Wellbeing and Learning.

The OSC were informed that the Adult Carers and Carers Relief Services are two elements of a three-part Carers contract, which commenced on 1 May 2019 and expires on 30 April 2024. The contract is jointly funded by Gateshead Council and Newcastle Gateshead Clinical Commissioning Group.

The existing provider, Gateshead Carers Association, were awarded the contract to Adult Carers, aged over 18 years of age, and Carers Trust Tyne and Wear were awarded the Carers Relief Service; Carers Trust Tyne and Wear were also awarded the Young Carers service.

The new contract has been operational since May 2019. Carers Trust Tyne and Wear are contractually required to provide monthly data on the Carers accessing the service and the number of hours of replacement care completed. The Gateshead Carers Association are also required to provide quarterly data on the Adult Carers Service.

Details of quarterly data was provided to the OSC for information as well as details of the Carers Partnership, Carers Week, Performance Monitoring and Reflections from Service Users.

RESOLVED – That the information be noted.

CHW177 WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received the provisional work programme for the municipal year 2019-20.

It was noted that the work programme work programme was endorsed at the meeting on 23 April 2019 and councillors agreed that further reports will be brought to future meetings to highlight current issues/identify any changes/additions to this programme.

Appendix 1 (appended to the main report) set out the work programme as it currently stood and highlighted proposed changes to the work programme.

- RESOLVED -
- i) That the information be noted.
 - ii) That further reports on the work programme be brought to Committee to identify any additional policy issues which the Committee may be asked to consider.

Chair.....