Report to Norwich city council scrutiny committee from Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny committee 5 September 24

Norwich representative Cllr Lucy Galvin

Item 6 Update on Dentistry matters in Norfolk and Waveney

Briefing on long term dental plan – identify any markers to put down for the future. Presented by Sadie Parker, director of primary care: 17 months since they took over resp for commissioning dental health services, inherited 'fragile service' but 'pleased with progress'. Only 3,780 new patients were registered 23-24 – this they use as a marker. April – end august 20, 5 times this amount registered in short time. 'Really pleased with progress'. Have done public consultation – want to stabilise, build resilience and access and reduce inequalities, Have had a significant workforce programme to train and reduce leavers, have made fantastic progress, all 23 golden hellos have been taken up. There is a big focus on children, which is a pilot. They will continue to focus on urgent services for people in pain - 23 providers, 1900 appts a month, and investing £1.2 m a year in that service. There is not a dental school in whole of East of England.

There is an issue with a lack of robust data on the scale of the issue with provision, as there is no registration process with dentistry – so 'we don't know the size of the problem'. Several members of the committee asked for a survey of the general population on this issue. It was noted that dentistry in Norwich and Norfolk has been in crisis, with emergencies and extreme pain, people pulling out their own teeth, and at the same time, we are storing up a long term problem with children not getting regular care and huge impact on health inequalities. Most people's perception is that they are 'registered' or not for a dentist and that lists are 'open' or not. So being 'on the list' is de facto registration.

There are ongoing problems with the NHS contract at the root of the issue. In addition not fit for rural areas due to required hours of operation – 8-8 7 days a week – this will change and they will set the opening hours accordingly.

The committee discussed writing to government regarding this issue.

The committee discussed a joint ICB/HOSC survey, or adding to existing regular surveys. Officers were concerned this would 'raise expectations' and said a Healthwatch summit was imminent on the topic.

Item 7 Women's Health Hub Position Statement

All ICBs across England have been allocated non-recurrent funding of £595,000 across a 2-year period ending March 2025 to develop Women's Health Hubs. At Norfolk and Waveney ICB, following a stakeholder event in October 2023 and in partnership with Norfolk County Council's sexual & reproductive health commissioners, they are focusing resources on improving access to contraceptive care, menopause services, and training community champions to ensure that services are provided to vulnerable and hard to reach groups.

Rather than providing a physical hub in one setting, the ICB will employ a ‘virtual hub’ approach using the existing network of primary care services, community care and local authority commissioned specialist sexual health clinics, in conjunction with the mobilisation of the Wellness on Wheels (WoW) bus to improve access to and experiences of care, improve health outcomes for women, and reduce health inequalities. Access to timely menopause care has long been an issue in Norfolk and the long waiting time for treatment in hospital clinics has been flagged by HOSC as a particular area of concern.

£100k for person to go in the ‘Wow’ bus member of staff – committee requested more information on the WOW bus, where it goes and what its targets and efficacy is.

Norwich issues:

Norwich in 2nd lowest decile for cervical screening rates, and in lowest decile for new STIs

Norwich & Great Yarmouth – in 2nd lowest decile for under 18 conceptions

HIV late diagnosis between 2020-22 is similar in Breckland, GY, Norwich, and SN, and in the worse 95% in KLWN and NN.

For most reproductive health indicators, performance is fairly uniform across Norfolk & Waveney. Exceptions are cervical screening: Public Health Fingertips data demonstrates that this is lower in Norwich and Kings Lynn localities.

In Norwich, screening coverage in women aged 25-49 has remained lower than England average since 2011. For women aged 50-64, screening rates are lower than England average in Norwich and Kings Lynn since 2013 and 2011 respectively.

Norwich has poor sexual health outcomes especially for Chlamydia with the detection rate amongst 15- 24 year olds, worsening since 2019