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Item

Public

Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Public Health

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1. Synopsis

The Portfolio Report provides Council with an overview of the developments and achievements that have been delivered in 2023 for adult social care and public health. This has been a challenging year with ongoing demand pressures across the sector but also an exciting time of change with Transformation Programmes of work helping us to deliver the Shropshire Plan priorities.

2. Executive Summary

This report updates on the work across adult social care, public health and communities and includes the work being undertaken to deliver the Shropshire plan priorities, detailing areas of transformation and focus.

For adult social care pressures continue to increase with high demand for support, increasing complexity such as dementia and nursing provision required. This with the rising costs associated with delivering services has seen increased budget pressures despite being on target for our savings programme aligned to the transformation programmes. Social care and public health are working collectively to address and mitigate the impacts by focussing on early intervention and prevention activities to keep people well and supported in their own homes.

For public health, the report provides an overview of the context and delivery of improving Public Health outcomes in Shropshire. It summarises the key health and wellbeing priorities for Shropshire, the exercising of the Public Health statutory public health responsibilities.

3. Recommendations

That Members receive the report, and raise any issues as appropriate on the performance and activities of the functions of the Council in respect of adult social care, public health, and communities.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

ASC has statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 to meet needs and manage the care market; meeting need in the most cost effective and way. The teams continue to assess needs and work with commissioners to do this creatively whilst maintaining good quality care that meets individual needs.

Public Health has a range of Mandated and Statutory Services and Duties it is expected to deliver within available resources alongside areas of identified local health and wellbeing need; this report demonstrates Public Health Shropshire's compliance with these functions. In addition, an assessment has also been undertaken in line with the Public Health function in the Rural Proofing Toolkit for Health and Inequalities ([Rural proofing for health toolkit – Rural England](#)). This shows the steps that need to be taken to rural proof the delivery of public health services. Our assessment noted nine areas where the indicator is met with five where it was partially met. Plans are in place to address partial or maintain and improve minimal areas noted within both assessments. A review against both the Mandatory/ Statutory Duties and Rural Proofing assessment will be routinely undertaken by the Directorate as part of annual service review planning and when a new policy or service is introduced and routinely shared with the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of Public Health Updates.

5. Financial Implications

For adult social care the overall forecast overspend across Social Care Operations is £10.081m for quarter 2. This is mainly due to purchasing where numbers of service users and cost of placements are higher than anticipated at budget setting, we continue to see an increase in nursing care, highlighting a complexity in people's needs from the community and through the hospital discharge pathways. We have also seen more packages of care commissioned within peoples' homes, resulting positively on reduced waiting lists however costs have increased due to improved wait times. Work is on-going with the market to manage the increased costs of care. Finally, we have seen further pressures due to the continued need to support hospital discharges and short term care provision which has resulted in higher costs. One-off Grant funding has been applied to offset some of these pressures and the Reablement Transformation is in progress with system engagement.

Adult Social Care - Adult social care is on trajectory to meet its current savings plan currently over £12m to date, these savings are as a result of working differently and improving outcomes for people by progressing our transformation plans across the customer journey. By using technology we have many examples of how we have improved the wellbeing and

independence of individuals; one example includes reducing a care package by tailoring the technology to support an individual with high mental health needs which not only has resulted in efficiency savings but importantly has given their family the confidence so they have been able to go on holiday for the first time knowing their family member is safe and more independent.

We still however continue to experience high demand and high cost across the sector in areas such as hospital discharge and with people presenting with more complex needs, in particular needing dementia support. We are however positively supporting more people at home with Direct Payments giving people autonomy and choice over their care and support in a more cost-efficient way. Supporting people at home and increasing their independence and wellbeing is in line with the Shropshire plan priorities and the transformation programmes currently underway across adults social care.

To facilitate the delivery of Public Health outcomes, each upper tier local authority area has been given a grant since 2013. This grant is ring fenced and the terms of the grant include delivery of several mandated functions, which are specific to the public health prevention agenda, including lifestyles. Any remaining budget is to be used at the discretion of the local authority area to reflect local need and target areas with the biggest impact. In addition, the remaining grant is used to fund public health staff delivering statutory and mandated public health functions and the substitution of several key services within Shropshire Council that are deemed to be delivering priority public health Outcomes. During 2023/24 the full Public Health grant will be spent. Furthermore, the directorate held £4.215m as ring fenced Public Health reserve from activity paused during COVID and outbreak/contractual pressures. There are plans to use £1.4m of in 2023/24. The directorate has clear plans for the use of the balance of this reserve over the subsequent two years to meet public health local and national priorities, alongside supporting the Councils Transformation programmes and activities where the focus is on achieving improved health outcomes taking a prevention and demand management approach.

The directorate also brought in specific grant funding of £1.669m to enhance its public health activities in 2023/24, having secured approximately £5m in external funds to support activities between 2022/23 to 2024/25. For example, in drugs and alcohol spend, the Council has received an additional £0.8M in 2022/23 and £1.3m in 2023/24 for this area compared to its normal core spend of £2.7m (therefore nearly 50% additional funding for this area in 2023/24).

While spend on Public Health has increased over the past decade, there has been a 27% real-terms per person cut in the value of the grant between the initial allocations for 2015/16 and 2024/25 due to inflation and population growth.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

The climate crisis is a serious threat to the lives of millions of people globally, nationally and locally. The mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation measures to build resilience is now urgent and essential to prevent the worst outcomes. Even if we are successful in mitigating the worst effects, we will continue to experience more pronounced and frequent episodes of extreme weather. The much greater frequency of extreme weather events will significantly increase insurance risks and threaten the health, wellbeing and future resilience of our communities.

Shropshire Council declared a climate emergency in May 2019 and in December 2020 adopted a Climate Strategy and Action Plan, which establishes the objective of achieving net-zero carbon performance for Shropshire Council by 2030. The Climate Change Task Force was established to lead the Council's response in November 2019, supported by an internal officer working group. A Climate Change and Carbon Reduction Advisory Board was established in September 2022 to act as a 'critical friend' and to assist the implementation and review of the Council's Climate Strategy.

The climate crisis is already recognised as a significant strategic risk to Shropshire and the delivery of Council and public services. This risk is most likely to manifest itself in terms of financial impacts (e.g. operating costs, impacts on the Shropshire economy) and impacts on the health and well-being of staff and residents as service users.

Climate action and carbon reduction are integral to all aspects of the Shropshire Plan:

Healthy People – Extreme weather associated with the climate crisis will adversely affect vulnerable residents and service users disproportionately. This is likely to drive significant future growth in the demand for social care services as well as generating significant impacts on the physical and mental health and wellbeing of staff.

Healthy Economy – The recent energy crisis illustrates potential impacts on the Shropshire economy from the climate crisis. However, there are also significant opportunities for growth and skilled employment in new technologies, renewable energy and the rural economy.

Healthy Environment – The climate crisis has very serious implications for biodiversity and food production. However, as a large rural area, Shropshire is also in an excellent position to take positive action to help mitigate these effects.

Healthy Organisation – Extreme weather associated with the climate crisis may significantly disrupt the delivery of Council services through damage to physical infrastructure such as roads and power infrastructure, and through impacts on staff health and wellbeing. Demand for services and service delivery costs such as highway maintenance are likely to increase significantly.

Taking active steps through the implementation of a corporate Climate Strategy and Action Plan and supporting wider community efforts allows the Council to make a demonstrable contribution to reducing the carbon footprint of the wider county, as well as 'leading by example' by reducing its own carbon footprint. Through its regulatory role and procurement decisions, Shropshire Council is in a position to make a strong positive contribution to help the wider Shropshire community make a positive transition to a low carbon future.

Individual Council services will progressively need to engage with their staff and service users to explore the need for, and implications of, service changes which may result from the adoption of carbon reduction measures. The Council will need to adopt an agile approach keep abreast of national good practice in order to maximise opportunities for equality and social inclusion within the overall policy context of addressing the climate emergency.

During the last year, the efforts of the Climate Task Force have been directed towards continuing to embed climate change as a key consideration in the Council's corporate governance systems and to widen ownership of the issue through accredited carbon literacy training. A range of projects and initiatives continue to be developed and implemented to help

the Council improve its own performance and to help foster similar action across the wider economy and communities in Shropshire, including:

Renewable Energy - Shropshire Council is developing a 2MW solar farm on a former landfill site which lies within a large industrial area in Oswestry and is considering a number of other sites on Council-owned land for similar opportunities.

Low Carbon Community Buildings – the design of new buildings such as the new swimming pool at Whitchurch is increasingly being informed by information about lifetime energy and carbon performance to minimise carbon emissions and running costs.

Electric Vehicle Chargers – Shropshire Council has one of the largest EV charging infrastructure programmes in the Midlands and will soon own and operate over 300 chargers in its car parks, with a further 500 to come in future years!

Business Support – Shropshire Council is working closely with community climate organisation and local businesses to offer free climate advice and training for local firms and to free consultancy advice on the installation of solar panels on large industrial buildings.

Biochar – Shropshire Council recently approved £2m capital funding to develop a demonstrator plant to test the use of pyrolysis to ‘cook’ (rather than burn) natural woody materials from highway maintenance and garden waste to reduce it to pure carbon ‘biochar’ which can be used to store carbon in a stable form, improve soil quality and for the manufacture of low carbon building materials such as bricks and asphalt.

Green hydrogen feasibility – current battery technology is unsuitable for many of the heavy goods vehicles which are used to deliver Council services in Shropshire because of the long distances which they need to travel. The Council is therefore working with a range of commercial and academic stakeholders to develop a small scale demonstrator hydrogen fuel manufacturing facility, co-located with renewable energy generation on Council owned land near Shrewsbury.

Adult services recognise its role in reducing carbon emissions and it forms strategy and commissioning approaches to ensure Provider services across the county deliver services with consideration to its impact upon the climate.

Public health recognises the importance role it needs to play in promoting both activities to reduce carbon emissions, through its strategic influencing, service delivery and commissioning activities, and through its work to build resilience and response via the emergency planning functions. These activities form a core part of the public health function and are embedded within service delivery and improvement plans.

7. Background

Adult Social Care – Transformation

ASC has embarked on an exciting transformation programme. Our overarching ambition for this programme will be for advice, information, and support to be available for people to maximise their independence, prevent ill health, allowing people to live safely in their own home for as long as possible.

We want to identify what is important to people and will help shape our care market vision for the future ensuring high quality home care is readily available across all areas of Shropshire, delivered; through a sustainable market, resilient to future demands and challenges, by workers who are recognised and valued fully for the work that they do.

Care at Home:

The programme has 2 key areas and several other interdependent projects and programmes that support and are key to the successful delivery of the Care at Home transformation. All have actions, outcomes along with ensuring they link to the Shropshire Plan. This is to ensure people are receiving the correct service and seeking alternatives to paid care where possible through a robust reviewing process by social work teams.

Acknowledging the significant challenges, we face with rurality and an ageing population. A key focus will look at/work alongside care providers, service users, unpaid carers, communities, social care and partners to identify issues/risks and to ensure we have sustainable and reliable care market and thriving communities that can meet future demand for people who will require to have a paid care service in their own home.

Reablement:

The reablement project is a transformational change project focussed on supporting people in the right way, at the right time, and in the right environment to help more people regain and maintain their health and wellbeing.

Our ambition is to create an integrated approach to Reablement with effective ways of working between the Council and Health services, with a clear delivery model.

Increasing the numbers of people accessing reablement is an outcome based approach and reduces the likelihood for long term or ongoing care. This aim to move away from bedded provision models of care to the least amount of required support at home.

8. Integrated Community Services (ICS)

Hospital Discharge has seen increased demand over the past 3 years and more recently a 24% increase in Demand. Discharge activity has increased 13.5% since July 2023, nearly 80% of people have been supported 'Home First'.

Challenges remain with the 'No Criteria to Reside' numbers increasing to pre-summer levels after a significant reduction in July and August, however, this aligns with the increased demand.

We have increased complex discharges from hospital setting by 13.5% since July 2023. The percentage of people returning home after hospital has increased, with the current trend

being 80%. The length of stay in hospitals from referral to discharges for residents who need support from Shropshire Council has reduced to 1.6 days on average.

The ICS team are working within the Reablement Transformation programme to deliver an improved 'Home First' discharge offer which will build on the work we have already completed to reduce the length of stay for people who need support. The trial will see O.T.'s working closely with START and ICS to provide efficient and safe access to support, with the reablement being prescribed and monitored by an O.T. once home. The purpose of this is to achieve the best outcomes for people, support individuals to be as independent as possible and enable people to have the right support to remain in their local community with their existing support networks for as long as possible. This will also support Shropshire Council to manage demand for care home beds post discharge from hospital.

9. START

START (Short Term Assessment and Reablement Team*) is Shropshire Council's frontline reablement care provider. It offers a unique service within the Domiciliary Care Provider market. The service works with people in their own homes, utilising a person centred, approach to enable and support independence

People supported through the START reablement programme have significantly improved outcomes and remain more independent in the community for longer. The service has grown significantly in the last year with improvement in recruitment and retention rates. On average START are providing 65% of Reablement packages in Shropshire with a reduced length of stay of around two weeks. This has resulted in significantly lower pressure on the ASC demand pressure and proves the effectiveness of the reablement programme with approx. 65% needing no further care. The service is developing expertise to support more complex needs making it more widely available to people in Shropshire.

10. Community Social Work Team (Adults)

Demand into ASC in Shropshire has been steadily consistent over recent years, however a recent increase in demand and people presenting with have complex needs. To respond to this, we have focussed on reducing our response time, improved how we triage referrals and maintain contact with people waiting. Over the last 3-6 months there has been a significant reduction in the number of individuals waiting to be assessed.

Waiting times are the lowest they have been in over 4 years and the aim at the end of 2023 was for people to be assessed within 4 weeks of contact.

Teams have been trying new ways of working to improve efficiency and manage demand. A recent Innovation Week took place where teams worked closely to learn from each other, implementing different ways to support demand, such as 2 workers in a car, increasing visits, providing people with information and signposting them to services that could also help. A key focus is on early intervention and prevention and how people can link within their local community, reducing the need for formal care as appropriate.

There is clear evidence that the changes made over the last 12 months are having a positive impact.

Our data systems have been developed and improved so they are more accessible to support continuous improvement in performance, understanding demand to be able to support people at the right time and ensure resources are used in the right place by informing our commissioning intentions.

We are working with our colleagues in children's services and public health to look at the family hub offer recently launched by Early Help, building on from our successful Let's Talk Local model. Encompassing a family approach across the People's directorate and recognising the need to get involved with families as early as possible to reduce the risk and effects of the cost of living, risk of neglect, homelessness etc.

We are incorporating a Neighbourhood focussed approach in our locality areas, creating a multiagency approach to early intervention and prevention, a real focus on dementia, self-neglect, substance and alcohol misuse and those with co-morbidities. This will involve regular local Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDT) where agencies can share concerns and information about residents they are working with.

We continue to support individuals in their own homes and consider a care home placement only when all other options to safely support individuals in their own homes (or a community setting) have been explored.

11. Direct Payments

The direct payment team is now well established and provide support and guidance to operational staff, direct payment recipients, and others. Direct Payment Board is chaired jointly by an individual who receives a direct payment and the Assistant Director for Adult Social Care. Membership of the Board includes both staff and experts by experience.

Following the 'mend the gap' project a number of improvements have been made to the direct payment offer within the Council. These include improved and more personalised communications, the development of a direct payment policy, the development of the direct payment website and the development of the personal assistant noticeboard. The proportion of people receiving long term support via a direct payment is steadily rising with some teams achieving over 30%.

Direct payments not only provide people with the flexibility to meet their care and support needs they are also recognised as a cost-effective way of providing social care and staff are being encouraged to consider direct payments first and supporting people to utilise this method of support where appropriate.

12. Principal Social Worker Professional Development

The Principal Social Worker and professional development service have delivered training to operational staff on community led support, strengths-based practice, person centred assessments and reviews. A Practice Framework was also developed, aligned to our priorities and delivery model.

A Quality Improvement and Service Development board will provide the governance to evaluate quality of practice and service delivery.

In 23/24 The professional development team:

- Supported 14 SW students on BA/MA/Step-up courses
- Supported 13 Social Work apprentices in training; three of whom are due to qualify in early 24
- Supported 18 newly qualified social workers
- Sponsored 6 members of staff to complete their pre-AMHP training
- Supported and assessed three members of staff during their AMHP training and have identified a further two to complete their qualifying training in 2024
- Supported and Assessed 4 practice educators in training.
- Supported and Assessed 4 Social Care Practitioners.

13. Carers

Adult carer support in Shropshire had traditionally been outsourced to an external provider however the service was brought in-house in February 2021. The (Adult) Carer Support team is made up of 3.4 FTE carer support practitioners (CSP); a team coordinator, Information officer and Shropshire Carer Manager, who is also the Carer Lead for the People Directorate. The Carer Support service offers carers 1:1 support, information and advice, support line, regular wellbeing calls, peer groups, planning ahead, events, Carer Feedback and Carer Register, a tool to share relevant information with carers and where they receive an Emergency/ID carer card and emergency plan. 1437 carers on now on the register with support groups in place across the county.

The Hospital Carer Support practitioner (HCSP), supports carers through the discharge process while their cared for person is in a hospital setting, providing information and advice and signposting to other support. The HCSP raises awareness of carers with teams/wards within the secondary care sector, to enable NHS staff to identify carers and offer to signpost to support.

The commissioned digital carer support service, delivered by Mobilise, is continuing to exceed targets of carers reached. Statistics show that carers all over Shropshire are accessing the digital carer support, predominantly through mobile phones. This includes over 21,000 visits to the site, 4185 accessing information for example the carer allowance checker and 1,000 people supported 1:1 coaching, virtual cuppas as some examples.

The All-Age Carers strategy 2022-2027 was ratified by Cabinet in March 2023. The strategy has been co-produced with carers, former carers and key organisations representing carers spanning all carer age groups. The action plan supplementing the strategy demonstrates how we will deliver the priorities and what measures are in place to monitor success.

14. Preparing for Adulthood Team

We are currently supporting over 190 young people. We have a target to become involved with young people at a younger age, currently this averages in the 17th year, the aim is to incrementally lower this age to ensure a positive impact for adult life. This will complement the 0-25 years pathway.

Last autumn we began a new project with IMPACT (Improving Patient Care Together), funded by the NDTi exploring community support and early information for young people who may require adult social care support in future. The objective being young people and families receiving information and signposting at the time that is right for them, reducing dependence on social care services and improving outcomes for young people.

15. Mental Health Team

The mental health social work team working in the community of Shropshire have developed following adult social care's innovation week, a restructured front door experience for individuals being referred into mental health social worker- reducing the time it takes to receive an assessment. With a robust duty system, individuals are supported to access the most appropriate services at the most appropriate time.

We have reduced waiting time to zero and have plans to sustain this, over 52% of contacts to the team are concluded successfully and are not requiring further assessment or support.

Work is planned in the next period to review models of support with commissioning colleagues to ensure the right service, right time and right place is used. We have a target to increasingly meet need closer to home, in a way that maximises independence.

We continue to work with partners in MPFT (Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust) to improve outcomes for individuals.

16. Adult Safeguarding Team

The team has a countywide remit to explore safeguarding concerns. The team explores all concerns on daily basis undertaking same day visits when required. The team has experienced an increase in demand however the team have been able to manage this with support from both First Point of contact and Community Social Work teams.

In addition to the direct work with residents our team holds strategic responsibility as a key partner for Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership (SSCP) to prevent and tackle Child and Adult abuse in Shropshire.

17. Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)

The volume of requests remains a challenge to the service. Numbers have risen over the years from 1857 in 2019/20 to 2516 in 2022/23. Shropshire referrals are higher than the national average however in line with West Midlands figures. Work is underway with acute trust colleagues to ensure appropriateness of hospital referrals. An action plan is in place to address the waiting lists and will be an area of focus this year.

The Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) has been postponed indefinitely by central government however work is underway with regional partners to reduce system challenges to assist with meeting a higher proportion of referrals.

18. Four Rivers Nursing Home

Four Rivers is the only nursing home run by Shropshire Council. Their last CQC (Care Quality Commission) inspection in April 2019 rated the home as good in all five of the assessment

areas and a recent CQC desk top review in 2023 did not identify any concerns. Four Rivers are now utilising an electronic care planning system, and this has improved monitoring and recording processes in the home.

There has been continued development with using IT for several tasks from food ordering, medication monitoring, recording and ordering and case records. There are now two deputy managers to support Four Rivers, following analysis of tasks, roles and business need. Apprenticeships are being introduced to encourage the recruitment and retention of staff. The home also has difficulties recruiting nurses so we are exploring how we can demonstrate a clear career path of development.

19. Making it Real (MiR)

Shropshire's Making it Real board is made up of Experts by Experience (EbE), practitioners, council officers, managers and representatives of voluntary organisations. It uses the principles of the Making it Real framework to ensure that people who are Experts by Experience are at the centre of the design and delivery of care and support. This can be either at a personal and individual level or working together on developing policies and strategies.

The board strongly supports the principle of including EbE and their families as equal partners in the planning, design, development, and evaluation from the outset and throughout the life of all adult social care services.

EbE, their families and the local community should be involved at the earliest and all stages of service development journey as equal partners. They are the experts in knowing what support and services are needed to ensure individuals and families can live full and independent lives in a way that is genuinely "person-centred".

Locally, MiR continue to work with EbE to coproduce the development and transformation of ASC. This includes the development of several forward-thinking documents such as a Remuneration Policy, Co-production Framework and Experts by Experience Guide. Furthermore, this will be supported into 2024 with the introduction of Coproduction Champions. The MiR webpages have also been redesigned to ensure they're assessable and up to date and the Local Account has provided another powerful way of celebrating the impact that ASC's broad remit has on people's lives. MiR has also assisted other department within the council to improve the literature that is communicated to residents, removing jargon and improving the tone. Making it Real Shropshire has grown its Board membership over the last 12 months and continues to develop its membership of both EbE and council officers.

20. Day Opportunities

This year has seen an emphasis placed on person centred support that flexibly and creatively helps people develop their belonging and connections in their chosen communities.

Early in 2023 a wide range of stakeholders came together (guided by the NDTi) to understand how younger and older adults can best be supported and empowered to reach their full potential. Discussions involved people who draw on support alongside council run and independent providers, representatives from health, education, the police, and the voluntary sector.

Messages shared show that people want to “live a gloriously ordinary life”. Day opportunities play an important role in understanding people well and responding to strengths, dreams and needs, while on that journey.

Providing Community based day opportunities in the right place and at the right time helps individuals find and build relationships and good support in their own communities. Highlights have included the relationships built with community-based organisations such as OsNosh (Oswestry) and Shrewsbury Town in the Community. This year we have seen the offer of weekend and evening events, new activities and a stronger link to young people leaving school education.

Links with the Healthy Lives project run through Actio (involving PACC (Parent and Carer Council) and Taking Part) have helped raise access to, and the importance of, ongoing health checks for members of the learning disability community.

Connections, friendships and opportunities have been communicated through ‘The Rainbow Times’, a publication that arose during Covid as a way of keeping people in touch. It continues with input and stories from the learning disability community.

21. Joint Training

The Joint Training team has recently been amalgamated with some officers from the children's team to form one People's Directorate training team. The new team are going through a transformation process to be rebranded and relaunched to support social care services and wider partners in Shropshire. The changes will ensure that social care provider services both within and commissioned by the Council can have all their training needs met to ensure compliance with CQC and Ofsted regulations. Partners such as Police, Health, Fire and Ambulance will also be able to access training to support their staff. The new training team will be formally launched early in 2024.

22. Enable (Supported Employment Services)

Enable helps a wide variety of disadvantaged people in Shropshire find paid work, training and education, as well as providing long term post-employment support to ensure sustainable outcomes. The service contributes to the prevention and delay of people accessing council services and benefits.

The team have grown again in the last year, taking on several new contracts. These include working with clients accessing substance misuse services, clients accessing talking therapies and supporting with employment and retention and working with any economically inactive people on a self-referral basis whilst still supporting priority client groups such as those not in education, employment and training and those aged over 50.

Enable are working on several projects to continue growth and to save more money through prevention. They are working hard with the SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) team to increase travel training which will reduce the council's transport costs and are continually bidding for new funding to support more people.

23. Market Engagement and Commissioning

Adult Social Care consulted with Partners in Care (Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin) and providers regarding the overarching fee uplift for 2022/23. We recognised the significant

challenges faced by the market providing care with rising prices and workforce pressures and therefore, in order to utilise our limited resources to the greatest effect and support a sustainable market, the decision was made to uplift domiciliary care rates by 12%, a 7% uplift to supported living, alongside a 7% increase on standard rates to residential and nursing homes. The fee review for 2024/25 is currently being reviewed based on affordability, provider feedback, current pressures and benchmarking activity.

The Council is in the process of undertaking a root and branch review of supported living, which is detailed later in the document.

A celebration event recognising the contribution of our residential and nursing providers also took place in November.

Adult Social Care engaged with care home and domiciliary care providers in order to meet the DHSC (Department of Health and Social Care) requirements for receiving additional funding, in order for Council's to move towards paying providers a fair cost of care. The fair cost of care exercise was undertaken over the summer period and the results published along with the market sustainability plan in October. The additional funding received from the DHSC was used towards the increase in provider fees set out above. We are now working through actions specifically in relation to the care home rates.

Engagement commenced in January with providers and stakeholders in order to identify issues relating to supporting individuals within their own homes with an ambition of appropriate support to be available to all across the breadth of Shropshire. We are currently seeking the views of people receiving care at home, Providers and care workers and gathering data to inform the future model of home care across the County.

Work is being developed across all ages with additional capacity put in place for Childrens commissioning; further work is currently underway to focus on children and young peoples commissioning and those transitioning into adult services to ensure smooth transfer.

The Commissioning Teams continue develop effective joint commissioning. Examples of this is include joint contracting of our Two Carers in a Car Service, joint brokerage functions on behalf of health to commission at scale and develop the market collectively. A system wide Strategic commissioning board with joint commissioning intentions to focus on areas of focus for joint commissioning.

In Autumn 2023, the Contracts and Compliance Team for Adults and Children's Social Care moved from the Resources Directorate to the People Directorate, streamlining processes and improving efficiency. Further work on roles and responsibilities to develop a comprehensive quality assurance process will be a key focus for the teams along with additional support for children's commissioning.

24. Supported Living

The Council continues to maintain an excellent track record of supporting individuals under 65 outside of residential and nursing care settings through its offer of Supported Living. We currently have over 200 individuals in over 120 properties.

The Council is in the process of undertaking a root and branch review of Supported Living processes in Shropshire, following a commitment to providers detailed in the 23/24 uplift

position. The root and branch review will explore best practice, benchmarking across other Local Authorities, process and contracting review alongside a review of existing rates paid across the sector. Consultation with Providers on the rates was completed Autumn 2023.

Our aim is to support a sustainable and vibrant market across Shropshire that are able to recruit and retain the best workforce and give the best quality service provision, using different methods of support such as technology. This is an area of focus and development within the market as we know we benchmark higher in spend on working age adults than similar local authorities and an efficiency review forms part of the transformation work.

The Council continues to work closely to develop its overall shared framework, the Flexible Contracting Arrangements, with Telford and Wrekin Council and are planning joint engagement events with supported living providers in early 2024.

25. Care Quality Commission (CQC)

CQC have just announced that Shropshire will receive its assurance visit, we are awaiting confirmation of timescales.

Adult social care had a quality assurance visit which was organised through ADASS with a team on site on the 30 and 31 March. A self evaluation was prepared in advanced against the draft framework which focusses on 4 domains; assessments will focus on how local authorities discharge their duties under Part 1 of The Care Act (2014). The 4 themes include:

- 1. How local authorities work with people
- 2. How local authorities provide support
- 3. How local authorities ensure safety within the system
- 4. Leadership
-

LAs will be rated; **Outstanding, Good, Requires Improvement or Inadequate.**

The teams have been working through improvements including a clear prevention strategy, improving data and information dashboards, monitoring and reporting impact through case studies, feedback as well as performance such as waiting lists which was described above. Further actions are in place to prepare for its assurance visit. We are attending regional meetings and have recruited to a role to support the co-ordination of the CQC preparations.

PUBLIC HEALTH

26. Public Health and Good Health and Wellbeing is a shared responsibility

This section of the report provides an overview of the context and delivery of public health outcomes in Shropshire. It summarises Public Health's key health and wellbeing priorities and the work over the past 12 months.

Public Health is "The science and art of promoting and protecting health and well-being, preventing ill-health and prolonging life through the organised efforts of society". Public Health addresses the health of the population. Importantly, Public Health focuses on

preventing illness and promoting health to reduce the need for hospital or long-term care. It is about good health and wellbeing in our communities and tackling inequalities in health and care outcomes. The Faculty of Public Health defines nine key areas of Public Health practice:

1. Surveillance and assessment of the population's health and wellbeing.
2. Assessing the evidence of effectiveness of health and healthcare interventions.
3. Policy and strategy development and implementation.
4. Strategic leadership and collaborative working for health.
5. Health improvement
6. Public Health Intelligence.
7. Health and Social Service quality.
8. Health protection
9. Academic Public Health.

In local authorities, public health's functions focus mainly on areas 1 to 8 with support from partners and joint working to deliver these functions. These are prioritised according to needs and resources within each local area.

Many factors can have either a positive or a negative effect on a person's health. These include our age, family history, friends, our lifestyle choices, income, housing conditions, access to services and education; little as 10% of our health and wellbeing is linked to access to healthcare. Therefore, to improve health outcomes, action is required not just at the individual level but also in communities and through the work and living environment.

27. Public Health Outcomes/Priorities

A comprehensive list of Public Health Outcomes is available on Public Health England's Fingertips website (<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/>). This is monitored on a routine basis with key indicators being included in [The Shropshire Plan](#), [Director of Public Health Annual Report](#), Integrated Care Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Strategy; a directorate dashboard is also currently being built containing high level outcomes as listed below alongside more detailed service KPIs.

Overall, health and wellbeing in Shropshire is above the national average. Healthy life expectancy for females in Shropshire remains significantly better than England for females in Shropshire (67.1 years; England 63.9 years) and similar for males (Shropshire 62.8 years and England 63.1 years). However, there are several outcomes where, overall Shropshire continues to underperform as a County. Furthermore, significant inequalities remain across the County. This requires local, targeted response and delivery based on best practice. The table below illustrates this trend.



Considering all the information above, national and local policy drivers, Public Health focuses on several outcomes in its work outlined in this report; a continued focus on smoking including smoking in pregnancy, alcohol, mental health including excess mortality from serious mental illness and diabetes. Additional focus will be on work to monitor road traffic accidents (RTAs), cancer screening coverage and children and young people's health including school readiness. Targeted work will also be undertaken to understand inequalities in local areas and action required to tackle those outcomes.

Details of the public health offer in Shropshire are given below, grouped into the following themes.

- Public Health Intelligence
- Partnerships & Communities
- Healthy Population
- Inclusion Health
- Inequalities
- Healthcare Public Health

Health protection will be covered under the Annual Report of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regulatory Service.

28. PUBLIC HEALTH INTELLIGENCE

There are two Statutory duties in relation to Public Health Intelligence produce an annual report and prepare the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) in addition to the requirements to support the evidence base for commissioning, population health management (NHS) and monitoring of outcomes.

JSNA

Local authorities and health have equal and joint duties to prepare JSNAs and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies, through the health and wellbeing board. The JSNA seeks to identify current and future health and wellbeing needs in the local population and identify strategic priorities to inform commissioning of services based on those needs. In practice, in Shropshire, these duties are led by Public Health to deliver on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board and are available [here](#).

Since 2019, Shropshire introduced a comprehensive programme to meet these duties and supported evidence-based commissioning and work to tackle inequalities. This was paused temporarily during COVID. It is managed as three separate workstreams:

- Placed-based JSNA: Supporting the development of the integration and transformation work as part of the Shropshire Plan. A Place Based Profile is developed followed by an action plan, which is put together and supported by local stakeholders and takes account of local inequalities including rural factors. The aim is to have all 18 Place Plan JSNAs completed by end of summer 2024.
- Web-based JSNA: Shropshire's suite of web-based needs assessments present key data for Shropshire's population, its communities, and the wider determinants of health, following a life-course approach, new datasets and dashboards continue to be developed.
- Thematic JSNAs: Including the Statutory pharmaceutical needs assessment 2022/23 which describes the current pharmaceutical services in the county, systematically identifies gaps, unmet need, and in consultation with stakeholders made recommendations on future development. Currently the team are leading a comprehensive Children and Young's People's Needs Assessment and recently published the Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment.

Annual Report

Directors of Public Health have a statutory requirement to write an annual report on the health of their population. It describes the health of the population, is evidence based and is a way of informing local people about the health of their community. It also provides necessary information for decision makers in local health services, authorities and communities on health gaps and priorities that need to be addressed. The reports also include an update of progress against recommendations from previous reports and areas for priority actions. Three reports have been published since 2019 which can be found [here](#).

Evidence Based Decision Making

In addition, the directorate leads the population health management agenda for STW ICS as part of its core offer to the STW ICS. Recognising good decision making is based on a good strong evidence base and understanding of the population needs, the team have a focus on improving integration across health and social care and making better use of health and social care intelligence and evidence to drive and underpin decision making. This will include the use of predictive analytics to allow services to be targeted to need and help to reduce inequalities in Shropshire.

29. PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITIES

Health & Wellbeing Board (including Healthy Lives Steering Group)

The Shropshire Health and Wellbeing Board acts to ensure that key leaders from the health and care system work together to improve the health and wellbeing of Shropshire residents. The Board is now co-chaired by the Portfolio Holder and the accountable officer for the ICS with a revised format which is aligned to scrutiny to maximise our outcomes. Board members collaborate to understand their local community's needs, agree priorities and work together to plan how best to deliver services. The board meets [five times a year](#) and works to deliver the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) published in 2022.

The vision is for Shropshire people to be healthy and fulfilled. The aims are:

- To improve the population's health and wellbeing
- To reduce health inequalities that can cause unfair and avoidable differences in people's health
- To help as many people as possible live long, happy and productive lives by promoting health and wellbeing at all stages of life
- To ensure that prevention is at the heart of improving health and wellbeing, and to reduce ill health and the associated demand on health and care services

The Healthy Lives Steering Group brings together partners from across the system and enables sharing of current workstreams and relationships to be built to coordinate delivery. This has included warmer homes through the Marches Energy Agency, enabling links to train a wide range of professionals on what can be offered to families, as well as highlighting issues that may contribute to poor outcomes for children. Other areas of collaboration have included youth vaping, social prescribing, oral health, food banks and tier 3 weight management.

Shropshire Integrated Place Partnership

The purpose of Shropshire Integrated Place Partnership (ShIPP) is Shropshire's Place Partnership Board. Established in March 2021, it is a partnership with shared collaborative leadership and responsibility, enabled by the Health and Wellbeing Board and the ICS governance and decision-making processes. Clinical/care leadership is central to the partnership, to ensure that services provide the best quality evidence-based care and support for our people, improving outcomes and reducing health inequalities aligned to delivery of outcomes in the HWBB and ICP Strategies. It is expected that through the programmes of

ShIPP routine involvement and coproduction with local people and our workforce is prioritised so that our residents and staff can feed ideas and information to inform and influence system strategy and priority development.

Key successes for ShIPP include driving the Personalised Care (Person Centred) approach for Shropshire, including Social Prescribing & Health Coaching, Creative Health & Community Led approaches for health improvement, community led approaches for improving outcomes for SEND, action on falls prevention and embedding trauma informed approaches. Other activities and outcomes are documented through this report. The Strategic Plan for 2023/24 includes delivering an all-age Local Care Programme across communities in Shropshire and improving access to health, care and wellbeing services and community support.

Prevention Framework & One Shropshire

To support our population to lead healthier lives public health have led the development of a prevention framework, drafted during 2023. This is an ambitious approach to prevention at scale across the life course, it builds on the effective work already established across the County and the Integrated Care System, recognising that all key partners, communities, and individuals have a role in improving the quality of lives and health of our population. The [draft framework](#) has been developed through working with system partners. It highlights the needs of our communities (our case for change), our vision and our plans to embed prevention activity across all our services as a system; through a holistic community offer that supports people to take charge of their own health and wellbeing. It is recognised that the Framework is, and will be a, living document.

Community Health and Wellbeing Hubs

Our work on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Place Plan areas demonstrates the variation in outcomes across local areas and variation in assets within each area, levels of need and service provision. It is important to therefore take a place-based approach to delivery of services to tackle inequalities and focus on prevention and early intervention. Through the work programme focused on Integration and the [approach to integration](#), we have been able to articulate our person-centred approach for Neighbourhood working, that includes the development of community and family hubs rooted within local communities. These hubs will be places where people can access a local venue where they can get help to navigate the health, care and community system. The hubs will also be enhanced by the work to develop integrated practitioner teams, with consultation panels operational to discuss the needs of children and young people and families where support from a multi-disciplinary perspective would be helpful. The work is being developed on a rolling programme based on need. The hubs model will be finalised during early 2024 and will build on the delivery of Early Help Family Hubs moving towards an all-age approach.

Women's Health Hubs

A new national initiative to develop Women's Health Hubs with the expectation that there will be at least one hub in every ICB area. This is currently being explored with Telford & Wrekin Council, ICS, and primary care to identify opportunities and options incorporating existing models of care supported by the team.

Healthy Lives Social Prescribing Service

In Shropshire, our Healthy Lives Team delivers Health checks and Social Prescribing. Social prescribing uses a person centred, preventative approach by intervening early, before problems start to escalate, or to support people alongside other services. In Shropshire, people referred have the space to talk one to one with a trained Social Prescribing Advisor and come up with a plan of action together, to help resolve health and wellbeing concerns and help put the person back in charge of their life, shown [here](#). In 2022/23 there were 3343 referrals to adults Social Prescribing, and in 2023/24 (April to September) there have been 1,708 referrals so far. This is a service that is maintaining a high level of support for people and gathers excellent satisfaction reports from people who have been supported.

In addition to an adult social prescribing, Shropshire now offers a Children and Young People's Social Prescribing which is offered across Shropshire for those aged 11 (in school year 7) and above. The service would usually meet children and young people at the school they attend or maybe in a community venue or at home. Again, it is a non-medical approach to helping children and young people feel better and find out what matters to you. If you would like to feel happier, make friends where you live, reduce anxiety, improve mood, try something new or get fitter. In 2022-23 there were 249 referrals to the Children and Young People's Social prescribing, and in 2023-24 (April to September) there have been 254 referrals so far. This service has seen a rapid increase over the past year and achieves high satisfaction feedback from young people in the county.

Community Outreach Wellbeing Team

This team focusses on 4 key areas, health promotion, health protection, place based Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and supporting emergency support (e.g. Flooding). The team have supported the development of the Place Based JSNAs (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment), including a key element of the Place Based JSNA is to develop action plans to address key issues in local communities. The team has also started delivering mini-health checks in local communities, including the farming community and with other marginalised groups. The Team is working with other local health and community organisations across Shropshire to deliver preventative blood pressure checks in local communities. This includes working with teams of Blood Pressure (BP) Champion volunteers who are connecting with people in local areas to offer free blood pressure checks. By providing BP checks at locations that are convenient to local people, such as Livestock Markets, food banks, coffee mornings and veterans' groups, the programme hopes to prevent complications associated with high blood pressure in the population. The work with farming communities works across our Animal Health and Mental Health teams, to deliver improved health and mental health outcomes. Additionally, the team works with the Environment Agency and our Emergency Planning team to support during flooding events and other emergency situations to support communities.

30. HEALTHY POPULATION

The public health team leads a number of health improvement functions and public health mandated services:

Best Start for Life Programme

In line with the national vision to promote every child to have the [Best Start for Life](#), with evidence identifying the first 1001 days of a child's life as critically important to outcomes in

later life. During 2023 a comprehensive Best Start for life programme was formed which focuses on laying the best foundations for cognitive, emotional, and physical development, this will continue into 2024. The work to date includes a systematic review of the evidence, work to publish the best start in life offers to parents, carers and practitioners to increase awareness of the support available, development of a new universal parent course to be delivered perinatally to first time parents, developments to the early years speech language and communication offers through new interventions such as the Talkboost programme, coproduction of the programme with parents and carers, and enhancements to data collection and reporting so we can track outcomes. This is also part of the Council's Childrens transformation programme.

Healthy Child Programme

Public Health is responsible for ensuring the provision of the Healthy Child Programme including the weighing and measuring of children, through the commissioning of the Public Health Nursing Service (PHNS), delivered by Shropshire Community Health NHS Trust. PHNS includes health visiting, school nursing and family nurse partnership. The Healthy Child Programme mandated contacts have continued to be delivered through the Public Health Nursing service (PHNS), and there has been a significant increase in uptake in all contacts post-pandemic. The service is continuing to develop its offer to families and the following are examples of work undertaken during the reporting period: a school readiness leaflet has been produced, a focus on Healthy Start- to encourage the uptake of healthy start vitamin and food vouchers has been prioritised, along with work to promote Measles, mumps and rubella vaccination uptake for families, public and professionals. There has also been a focus this year on safer sleeping due to concerns locally and nationally over sudden infant deaths. In addition, the service supported a call to action to safeguard our youngest residents aged 0–4-year-olds and this led to piloting a drop-in clinic at Sunflower house. The team are also providing a response to Entitled Persons at Nescliffe through weekly clinics. Ensuring the strengthened resilience of the PHNS to respond has been achieved through implementation of its workforce development plan which included the service focusing on the training of new workforce through a grow your own model. Key measures are monitored at regular contracting meetings and routinely reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board and ICS Quality Committee.

Healthier Weight Strategy

Supporting our population to achieve a healthier weight and reducing rates of overweight and obesity is a H&WBB (Health and Well Being Board) and ICS priority for Shropshire. Public Health have led the development of a Healthier Weight Strategy for Shropshire, which was endorsed by the H&WBB at its November 2023 meeting and supported by cabinet. Actions will be monitored going forward.

NHS Health-checks

Public Health have the responsibility for commissioning the mandated NHS Health Check programme which offers an opportunity to identify many of the hidden health risks helping prevent heart attacks, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease and vascular dementia. In Shropshire the service is delivered through general practice, supported by the Healthy Lives delivery team. Covid-19 had a profound and continued impact on the total number of people receiving their health check. Pre-Pandemic 2,000 checks were being delivered each quarter. During 2022-23 we have seen a recovery with approximately 1,100 checks achieved in Q2 of 2023. Work is also underway with general practice and Primary Care Networks (PCN's) to

support areas yet unable to return to pre pandemic levels, and efforts are continuing to focus on those most at risk in our communities.

Smoking cessation

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable illness and death, and reducing smoking rates in Shropshire remains a priority for the public health team. Public Health are members of the ICS Tobacco Dependency Treatment pathway Steering Group which is focused on stop smoking provision in acute settings, mental health in-patients and pregnant women working with midwifery. In addition, the Shropshire Public Health team deliver the mental health in-patient offer for community step down via our Healthy Lives team (or via the national community smoking cessation pharmacy scheme if preferred). A new webpage is available under Healthy Shropshire focusing on Stopping Smoking that describes the offer to Shropshire residents to aid them to stop smoking available here: [Stopping smoking | Shropshire Council](#)

During 2024/25 Shropshire will receive an allocation of national funding to support further enhancements to the smoking cessation offer. Work is currently underway to develop an enhanced delivery plan and further communications will be issued regarding this in due course.

Youth Vaping

A Task and Finish group has been established to improve local understanding and intelligence of underage (youth) vaping in Shropshire and to develop clear comms for professionals, practitioners, parents and carers and young people. A new Youth Vaping schools lesson programme has been designed in partnership between the Task & Finish group and the Public Health Nurse team that promotes conversation in the classroom and for students to consider their own attitudes and beliefs about vaping and vaping harms. The Director of Public Health, jointly with the Director of Children's Services and the Chief Medical Officer of the ICB published a position statement on vaping and young people which summarises the current evidence and understanding of risk associated with young people and vaping. It promotes a message that vaping is not for children and the safest, healthiest option is not to vape or smoke. The statement is available from the following link: [shropshire-position-statement-on-underage-vaping.pdf](#)

31. INCLUSION HEALTH

Public Mental Health and Mental Health Prevention

Mental health is a key area of improvement focus for Shropshire. The vision of the Shropshire Public Mental Health offer is for every resident in Shropshire to have the best mental health they can at every stage of their life to thrive, not just survive. To support this vision, the Healthy Shropshire webpage was updated with a dedicated Mental health and wellbeing site providing quick links and information for a range of support. A multi-agency programme focused on improving the health outcomes of the Shropshire farming community was launched in 2023, providing health checks to those in attendance of livestock markets.

Shropshire Council has invested one off funding and grants in the online TogetherAll mental wellbeing platform which provides 24/7 free, confidential access to peer support and resources to express feelings, managed round the clock by trained professionals. The Shropshire Bereavement Co-ordinated offer was launched in 2020 to address concerns from the pandemic on the impact of unexpected death and disruption to usual grieving processes

due to lockdowns. During this time, it has been identified there have been many of our residents who have complex bereavement, grief and loss needs which have not previously been addressed and who were not sure where to access support. Public Health continue to support and promote programmes such as Future in Mind and Mental Health in Schools Teams. Public Health is also developing our programme in support of local delivery of the Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health.

Suicide Prevention

A new Shropshire Suicide Prevention Strategy was published in September covering period 2023 to 2026. The focus of the strategy is to expand beyond the universal offers from the previous Strategy and explore with system partners how to target support to higher risk cohorts for suicide to ensure the most appropriate messages, support and impact can be connected. The Action Plan is currently being refreshed on how the above will be delivered with new workstreams created to invite those who already work with these cohorts to advise most appropriate approaches or to connect with existing programmes of work.

Tackling Drugs and Alcohol

Public Health services are responsible for ensuring the provision of drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services for their population. In Shropshire, core substance misuse treatment service delivery in Shropshire is delivered by a single third sector treatment provider, known as With You (WY). WY also deliver appropriate treatment services to children and young people. Shropshire Council also commissions a range of both inpatient detoxification services and residential rehabilitation placements for those assessed as suitable and requiring these interventions and has contracts with some GPs and pharmacies as part of its recovery services. This is routinely reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board and Shropshire Community Safeguarding Partnership.

During 2022 public health lead a bid for external funding to provide enhanced services for people who use drugs who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. £1.4m was awarded to the Council and a multi-disciplinary team established, known as RESET. The team is made up of staff from Shropshire Council, With You, Midlands Partnership Foundation University Trust, Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service, the Shrewsbury Ark, and Intuitive Thinking Skills. The programme provides opportunities to improve access into treatment services for rough sleepers which otherwise can often be complicated by changes in their personal circumstances.

Public Health have also led the production of a new partnership action plan to deliver the aspirations of the national drugs strategy. This plan is focused on breaking drug supply, improving drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services, and ensuring a generational shift in demand for drugs.

32. INEQUALITIES

Health in All Policies

Public Health continues to work across with colleagues across the Council to embed health in all policies. We do this through a screening tool, Equality Social Inclusion and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA), the tool is used by teams to screen their own policies/strategies. Public Health have worked extensively with Place colleagues in specific areas including Economic Development, Severn Water Management and UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Public Health are currently supporting planning in the development of

Healthy Place through health impact assessment in the planning process. This approach is embedded in the Local Development Plan.

Shropshire Inequalities Plan

Health inequalities are defined as avoidable, unfair, and systematic differences in health between different population groups. At a high-level, health inequalities are measured by differences in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between different population groups. Mortality rates and healthy life expectancy reflect a social gradient where people living in more deprived areas live shorter lives. Action to reduce health inequalities requires action to improve outcomes across all the factors that influence our health, including wider determinants of health such as education, employment, income, and housing. Only around 10% of our health is impacted by the healthcare we receive. The development of the Shropshire Inequalities Plan has been led by Public Health to address avoidable differences in outcomes for our population to reduce the inequalities that exist. Further information on the plan is available at the following link: [shropshire-inequalities-plan-executive-summary.pdf](#) This will be routinely monitored and reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board and ICB Inequalities and Prevention Group.

Shaping Places Programme

Shaping Places for Healthier Lives is an externally funded programme of work by the Local Government Association, in partnership with the Health Foundation, seeking to promote access to affordable and nutritious food, to help Shropshire residents live a healthy life. There are 4 workstreams that are being progressed:

1. Communities and Organisations working together. Over the last 12 months, we have been working in partnership with the Hardship and Poverty Group, Social Task Force, Cost of Living Communications Group, Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly, Food Partnership Advisory Group and Community Connectors.
2. Maximising Income including the successful development and ongoing support of a pilot training scheme in SW Shropshire for the Citizens Advice Bureau First Aiders (FPOC (First Point of Contact)).
3. Re-framing food insecurity. We have been working with the Design Council on improved visuals and communications to highlight the experience of residents experiencing food insecurity and reduce any stigma when seeking support.
4. Co-producing solutions which aim to reduce food insecurity: We have developed a town collaboration group in Church Stretton, to discuss and take action on the issue of food insecurity. This group comprises the local foodbank, the town mayor, town councillors, healthy lives advisor, the local Rotary Club and community members

Cost of Living Crisis

Shropshire's Cost of Living Social Taskforce supported by Public Health, has brought together a wide range of organisations from across the public, community, and voluntary sector, as well as business representatives to create a joint local response to the cost-of-living crisis. The taskforce has been meeting regularly since March 2022, building on the partnerships established and learnings gained in response to COVID. Membership of the Taskforce and Sub-groups (Hardship and Poverty Group and Cost of Living Comms) group incorporates representatives from over 20 organisations including Shropshire Council, Citizen's Advice Shropshire, Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin, Marches Energy Agency, Community Resource, Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance, Shropshire Mental Health

Support, Shropshire *Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly*, *DWP (Department for Work and Pensions)*, Shropshire Association of Local Councils and local NHS trusts.

33. HEALTHCARE PUBLIC HEALTH

Specialist Public Health Advice to Integrated Care Board

Public Health services have a mandated requirement to provide specialist public health advice to Integrated Care Boards, to support them with the planning procuring and monitoring of health services. This requirement is achieved through the core public health offer. This offer covers specialist public health advice regarding intelligence and insight, evidence reviews of best practice, service and pathways evaluation and redesign and strategy development amongst others. During 2023/24 this work has continued including Public Health advocacy at system strategy and transformation boards (including: Integrated Care Partnership, Local Maternity & Neonatal System, Cancer Strategy Board, Inequalities & Prevention Board, Mental Health Boards, CVD Prevention etc) and providing support, guidance and input for reviewing applications as part of the NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Individual Funding Request panels for consideration of exceptional clinical circumstances.

CVD (cardiovascular disease) Prevention

High blood pressure affects almost one in three adults in the UK, and many are unaware that they have it as there are often no symptoms. Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin's Hypertension Case-finding Pilot is a collaborative 12-month pilot funded through Health Innovation West Midlands. It aims to increase the detection of hypertension of targeted groups (20% most deprived areas, ethnic minority groups and those living in rural areas), narrow the diagnosis gap between the target groups and the general population, increase the proportion of patients being appropriately treated for high blood pressure, reduce heart attacks and strokes, and increase a network of CVD champions to raise community awareness.

Child Mortality

A report to the September 2023 ICB showed an overall increase in numbers of deaths across all perinatal, neonatal and child mortality in 2021/22 and 2022/23, public health is working with ICS colleagues to monitor 2023/34 closely. We recognise that every child's death is a tragedy and therefore more detailed work is being undertaken to review local evidence and actions. While there are already lots of activity in place across STW to address these issues, following additional investigation and actions have been agreed.

Oral Health

Shropshire Telford and Wrekin oral health network meet quarterly to discuss oral health improvement generally as well as the performance of the commissioned oral health improvement programmes, ensure that programme delivery is as effective as possible. Public Health supports this network which is led by the NHS dental team including a Dental Consultant in Public Health based with NHS England. There are issues with levels of hospital admissions for extractions. The team support action to improve uptake of dental health survey and ongoing monitoring of all and improvement plans as required.

34. Conclusions

This report has presented the work undertaken by adult social care and public health to meet the statutory and mandated functions of the local authority for these services. It demonstrates the range of work undertaken to provide care and support for our vulnerable residents and communities and outlines the model of delivery for Public Health across Shropshire.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Local Member: *All Members*

Appendices [Please list the titles of Appendices]

None