

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024

MEMBERS: Councillors Lee Chamberlain (Vice-Chair), Nawshad Ali, Hannah Dyson, Chris James, Eylem Yuruk and Edward Smith

Officers: Doug Wilson (Director of Health & Adult Social Care), Jonathon Toy (Head of Community Safety), Stacey Gilmour (Governance & Scrutiny Officer)

Also Attending: Cllr Alev Cazimoglu (Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care), Dr Nnenna Osuji (Chief Executive, NNUH, NHS Trust), Heather Gallagher (Interim Director of Midwifery), Professor Lenny Byrne (Chief Nurse, NNUH, NHS Trust), Trisha Webbe (Divisional Director of Operations for Women's, Children's Cancer Diagnostics), Dr Dhruv Rastogi (Divisional Clinical Director WCCD) and Inspector Wayne Matthews (Neighbourhood Policing), Local Press Reporter.

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Cllr Chamberlain, Chair of the meeting in Cllr Rye's absence, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Michael Rye who was substituted by Cllr Edward Smith.

Apologies for absence were also received from Cllr Gina Needs (Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Cohesion) and Ivana Price (Head of Service, Young People & Community Safety).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Hannah Dyson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item No: 4 of the agenda as she works for the Royal Free Hospital in Hampstead.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED the minutes of the Healthy & Safe Communities Scrutiny Panel held on 25 September 2024.

4. NORTH MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL MATERNITY SERVICE - CQC UPDATE

Professor Lenny Byrne, Chief Nurse, NNUH, NHS Trust, introduced the report which provided an update on the actions taken in response to the Maternity Services Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection in May 2023, carried out at North Middlesex Hospital. The report was received in December 2023, in

HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - 27.11.2024

which the service was rated inadequate for the domains of Safe and Well Led, following the focused review.

Representatives of North Middlesex Hospital attended the Health & Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel meeting on 24th April 2024 to discuss the QCQ findings and the actions being planned and taken to address them.

The maternity services were onboarded into NHS England's Maternity Safety Support Programme (MSSP) on 29th July 2023 for intensive support, in response to the CQC report. The MSSP Maternity Improvement Advisor (MIA) began supporting the services on 1st March 2024. The MIA has been visiting monthly to offer on-going improvement support.

A 132-point Action Plan was tabled at this evening's meeting which provided details on what action has been taken and how it has been delivered and it was advised that there has been a significant response across the whole of the Maternity Service in engagement to the Action Plan.

Members of the Panel were asked to note the progress made on the actions taken in response to the CQC 'Must and Should Do' recommendations and to make any comments in response to the report. The Panel were also asked to consider if any further scrutiny of the issue is required and, if so, to identify the focus and timescale.

Questions were invited from Members.

Members sought further information on what action had been taken and how it has been delivered and it was advised that there are multiple streams of improvement work on-going including Obstetric Triage, Fetal Surveillance, Maternity Experience, Risk Assessment, Governance and Wellbeing and Culture. All the workstreams and action plans are being compiled into one large overarching Perinatal Improvement Action Plan.

In response to Member's questions regarding leadership and culture improvements, it was advised that the Maternity Service has had a change in senior leadership, having been without a Divisional Director of Midwifery since July 2024. However, a new interim Director of Midwifery with significant maternity improvement experience has been appointed and started in post at the beginning of November. The CQC improvement workstreams have already been taken over by the Director of Midwifery.

New Professional Midwifery Advocates are supporting cultural improvement activities and wellbeing initiatives for staff. A suite of cultural improvement training has been and continues to be offered and a communication strategy has also been developed and implemented to improve staff engagement, feedback and staff involvement in co-designing improvements.

In response to Members' questions regarding equipment it was advised that there are improved processes in place for monitoring equipment. Additional Dawes Redman CTGs have been purchased and a full new digital 'Badgernet'

HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - 27.11.2024

IT maternity and neonatal electronic patient record (EPR) system is being procured with expected early 2025 roll out. This will enable improved data quality and access, improve the services ability to audit at pace, and better monitor performance and compliance than mixed paper and electronic systems.

In response to a question regarding Medicine Management, which had been identified as one of the themes of the 26 Must Do's and 8 Should Do actions from the CQC, it was explained that this had been to do with the storage of medicines. This issue has been addressed and there is now a check list in place which Matron uses to undertake daily rounds to ensure that all medicines are stored in the correct place.

Following questions regarding staffing and absence levels, Members were advised that the direct midwifery to mother rate is currently 4% which is in line with the national average rate if not slightly better. A Birthrate Plus (BR+) establishment review was commissioned and completed. The Trust has the funded establishment for more midwives than the BR+ review recommended for clinical activity, this allows support to the improvement journey and enables additional training. Vacancy rates are minimal compared to a lot of organisations around the country. There is an improving position for midwifery recruitment and key specialist midwifery posts have been agreed and are being recruited to. Furthermore, Members were advised that monitoring staffing metrics was critical for the Trust and that staffing levels were measured against how many patients there were on any given day so there are numerous elements in place to ensure that midwifery staffing is safe and it is constantly monitored and constantly overseen.

In response to a question regarding the skill mix of staff, especially around night shifts, Members were advised that staffing establishments are regularly reviewed, and rotas are set to ensure an adequate mix of staffing, which includes experienced staff to support any newly qualified practitioners. A Practice Development Team is also in place to offer regular support.

Members asked further questions regarding the allocation of staff training days and were advised that the current staffing position allows for midwives to be out of direct care so they can then undertake training.

Members sought further information regarding patient feedback and Professor Byrne reported an 88.1% satisfaction rating among patients when asked if they would recommend the unit to friends and family. He added that the unit's staff had created a 'formal committee' which has a seat on the Trust's 'Improvement Programme' as well as various other boards so they could represent any concerns they have on behalf of the staff and tell managers what their wishes are.

Members raised concerns with regards to the report as they felt it lacked detail and failed to address key issues such as medicines management, staff engagement, the organisation's culture, staffing levels and risk assessment. It

HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - 27.11.2024

was also felt that there seemed to be little progress on the identified issues and that the actions were being implemented too slowly.

Professor Lenny Byrne, Chief Nurse, NMUH, defended the Trust's work and said it hadn't been entirely clear what Members wanted to see in the report and therefore a summary had been provided which indicated "where we are at" compared to last year.

Dr Nnenna Osuji, Chief Executive, NMUH said that she hoped the answers provided this evening had addressed some of the questions quite specifically however she did acknowledge that there will be a range of opinions as it is quite a sensitive area. She added that there is a lot of oversight of this nationally, regionally, and locally so there is considerable improvement in the way the Trust have articulated, it is not a single journey and improvement will continue.

Members sought clarification on the Action Plan tabled as there were no timescales against the actions that had not yet been completed. It was advised that there is short-, medium- and long-term goals for each of the 26 'Must Do' actions, but in terms of closure dates the expectation is that by 31st December 2024, all actions will be closed.

AGREED that the completed Action Plan would be circulated to the Panel at the end of this year.

Action: Dr Nnenna Osuji/Professor Lenny Byrne

The Panel agreed:

- i. to note the report and the tabled Action Plan.
- ii. that a further update come back to the Panel as part of its 2025/26 Work Programme.

Action: Governance & Scrutiny Officer

The Chair thanked all those who attended.

5. SAFER STRONGER COMMUNITIES PERFORMANCE REPORT

Jonathon Toy, Head of Community Safety, introduced the report which set out performance against the agreed priorities of the Safer and Stronger Communities Board Plan. The key points in the report were highlighted and it was noted that Total Notifiable Offences in Enfield decreased by 5.9% in the year ending September 2024 when compared to the previous 12 months. London saw a 4.1% decrease over the same period. Further data, comparisons and trends were provided for each category.

Questions were invited from Members.

Members requested an update on Operation Pisces and were advised that the focus on the Upper Edmonton and Edmonton Green area has continued. Two further partnership enforcement operations have taken place since the last Healthy & Safe Communities Scrutiny Panel report, resulting in the

HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - 27.11.2024

closure of a cuckooed address and private housing premises which was being used for drug supply.

In response to Members' concerns regarding the increase in drug offences in September 2024, it was advised that this relates to the increased Police and Council enforcement activity related to Operation Pisces, covering the wards of Upper Edmonton and Edmonton Green. The Community Safety Partnership are looking at how they can take the learning and best practice from this multi-agency approach and apply it across the borough.

Members were further advised that since Operation Pisces commenced in June 2024 there has been a 35% reduction in all reported crime across the five wards which make up the Operation Pisces footprint. Priority offences including robbery, and theft person has reduced by 50% for the Upper Edmonton area and Enfield Borough has recorded a 25% reduction in all reported crime between June 2024-end of September 2024. The intention is to continue the enforcement action under Operation Pisces until the end of December 2024, The Safer Enfield Partnership Tasking and Enforcement Group is expanding its remit to cover a wider area than the Operation Pisces footprint with the aim being to develop this into a boroughwide Tasking and Operations Group.

Members were pleased to see that Domestic Abuse incidents have decreased in Enfield by 11.7% in the 12month period to September 2024 and acknowledged that this demonstrates the good work taking place to address this issue.

In response to Members' concerns regarding the increase in Robbery offences in Enfield, Officers acknowledged that this remains a challenge in the borough. December 2023 saw a significant spike in Robbery offences, which accounted for half of the 16.6% increase in the 12 months ending September 2024. The Community Safety Partnership is looking at the causes of those increases and planning actions to ensure there is not a similar increase in 2024.

In response to a question regarding the number of non-criminal hate offences recorded in the borough, Inspector Wayne Matthews (Neighbourhood Policing) said that this was not his area of expertise but could obtain this information from the relevant analyst and circulate to Members.

Action: Inspector Wayne Matthews

Members noted the significant increase in gun crime offences in 2023/24 and were concerned to see offences had risen by 52%, while the overall increase across London was nearly 13.2%. Officers advised that although the numbers are very low (11 offences), Lethal Barrel Discharges also doubled during this 12-month period compared to 2022/3. Members sought clarification on the reasons for this and were advised that the increase is in the main, connected to organised, sophisticated criminality and rivalries across established groups, which is not limited to the Enfield area.

HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - 27.11.2024

In relation to knife crime, Members raised concerns that these figures continue to increase and further discussions took place regarding the drivers behind this type of offence. Officers acknowledged that this remains a challenge and advised that again, this was often related to conflict between gangs where drugs are the driver and currency of nearly all criminality in London.

Following comments regarding robberies around schools and the action being taken, Inspector Matthews advised that there is a big focus on prevention which includes Safer School Officers going into schools to raise awareness and offer advice on staying safe. The 'Look Up. Look Out' campaign which runs alongside operational activity provides advice on what everyone can do to make themselves less vulnerable to crime and reminds young people to always protect their valuables.

Further discussions took place and Officers advised that a new measure of 'Youth Violence has been introduced by the Metropolitan Police, following the move to the new crime recording system. Youth Violence is defined as 'a count of victims aged between 10 and 24 years of any offence of Homicide, Lethal Barrelled Firearms Discharge, Knife Crime, Robbery or Violence with Injury'. In the last 12-month period, Enfield recorded 309 youth violence victims. In terms of youth population this equates to a rate of 4.8 per 1,000 youth population. This is just above the London average of 4.2 per 1,000 population and significantly lower than the Haringey rate of 6.6 per 1,000 population.

Following the above discussions Jonathon Toy, Head of Community Safety suggested that the Panel may be interested in receiving a 'deep dive' report on 'Youth Violence up to the age of 24' and Members **AGREED** that they would like this to come to the January 2025 meeting.

Action: Governance & Scrutiny Officer

The Chair thanked the Officers and the police for the report and their attendance at the meeting.

The Panel agreed:

- i. To note the report.
- ii. That the above actions be implemented.

6. **WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25**

The Panel **AGREED** that the SSCB update item scheduled for the January 2025 meeting would focus on Youth Violence up to the age of twenty-four.

With the above amendment, the Panel **NOTED** the Work Programme 2024/25.

7. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL - 27.11.2024

NOTED the next meeting of the Panel would be held on Monday 27 January 2025 at 7:00pm in the Conference Room at the Civic Centre.

The meeting ended at 9.00 pm.