
To: Renfrewshire Integration Joint Board

On: 28 August 2020

Report by: Chief Officer

Heading: COVID-19 Response, Recovery and Renewal update

1. Summary

1.1. The report provides detail to the IJB on Renfrewshire HSCP's COVID-19 response, recovery and renewal activity, focusing on activity undertaken since the last IJB meeting on 31 July 2020. In particular, further information is provided on:

- Service operational updates
 - Activity under Strands 1 and 2 of the Recovery and Renewal programme
 - An update on the current COVID-19 financial position
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2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the IJB:

- Note the contents of this report
 - Note that further updates on Recovery and Renewal activity will be brought to the IJB at the next meeting in October
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3. Service Operational Updates

3.1. A detailed operational update on HSCP services was provided to the IJB at the last meeting on 31 July 2020. This paper provides an update on key developments which have occurred following that update, with a particular focus on (i) Testing; (ii) Care Home visiting; and (iii) Day services and planned respite for older people and people with learning disabilities.

Testing Update

- 3.2. All staff in older adult care homes continue to be tested weekly through the Government's Social Care Portal. Staff in our 4 Adult Care Homes are tested weekly through the NHSGGC Central Hub. Any staff who tests positive through the Government's Social Care Portal are retested by the local HSCP team. To date all repeat tests have been negative.
- 3.3. Symptomatic residents continue to be tested through the HSCP Hub. The Hub also carries out all care home pre-admission tests, with support from the Care Home Liaison Team, and all tests for symptomatic housebound patients, with support from the District Nursing Team. No care homes have reported residents with symptoms of COVID-19 or reported as symptomatic or confirmed since 19th June 2020.
- 3.4. Regular testing also continues for staff in Mental Health wards to help protect the most vulnerable, in particular those over 65 and who have stays of longer than three months. Within Renfrewshire this incorporates five wards, including four Older People Mental Health wards and our longer stay Mental Health Rehabilitation ward.

Care Home and Extra Care Visiting

- 3.5. Following the last update to the IJB on 31 July 2020, further relaxations of lockdown rules and guidelines for visiting arrangements to older people's care homes have been announced.
- 3.6. On 8 August 2020, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport wrote to Registered care home providers (adults), Chief Executives NHS Boards and Local Authorities Executives of Health Boards, Chief Officers Health and Social Care Partnerships and Directors of Public Health to set out the next steps and supporting guidance to increase the level of visiting to care home residents, for both outdoor and indoor visits and also the re-introduction of health care services to homes.

Outdoor visiting

- 3.7. From Monday 10 August 2020, outdoor visits have been extended to three individuals at a time, from no more than two households, with the same frequency as before. The safeguards and conditions that require to be met in order for this to happen remain unchanged. The criteria include:
- Being COVID free / or fully recovered as agreed with the local health protection team for 28 days;
 - A risk assessment and visiting protocol that has been signed off by the local Health Protection team;
 - Care homes must be fully participating in resident and staff testing programmes;
 - Care homes must participate in the use of the Safety Huddle Tool.

Indoor visiting for residents by a designated visitor

3.8. In order for indoor visiting to residents to take place, the guidelines state that care homes need to develop a plan that meets certain criteria that will allow this to happen as safely as possible. This will include for instance:

- A need to complete individual Care Home risk assessments and make arrangements for the physical space to be ready to allow indoor visiting
- Ensure there is adequate PPE to support safe visiting
- An appropriate cleaning regime, in line with health protection guidance should be in place
- Duty rotas must be sufficient ensure that there are staff in place to manage indoor and outdoor visiting simultaneously, all the required cleaning regimes etc
- Families must be notified so they can prepare for visiting and the necessary arrangements

3.9. Each Care Home's Plan for Indoor Visits requires to be signed off by the Health Board's Director of Public Health or their designated lead who will, in considering each plan, need to take account of the COVID context and prevalence within the respective area prior to approval. In Renfrewshire, the HSCP Oversight Group is working across our local Care Home Sector, alongside Public Health, to safely introduce visiting in line with guidance.

Extra Care Visiting

3.10. Within Renfrewshire a decision was taken in March 2020 to align the care and support within the extra care services to the care homes, including the use of PPE and visiting. This sector is not formally covered by the national guidance which is focused on older peoples care homes. It is important to understand that the residents within extra care have high levels of need and are vulnerable in terms of the impact of the virus. However, they are also tenants living in their own homes. A risk assessment has been carried out for each establishment with a view to moving to indoor visiting in addition to the existing external visits but unlike the care homes this does not require agreement from Public Health. A review of the proposed risk assessment and visiting protocols is being carried out with the service through the District Nursing leads. Further work is now also taking place with the- housing providers to support the operation of the tenancies and the care support services.

Respite and Day Services: Older People and Learning Disability Services

3.11. The Scottish Government issued an update on next steps for the local re-establishment of respite and day care services on 3 August 2020. This update stated that further guidance on residential respite provision and adult day centre services would be published in late August. It was

also stated that residential respite and day centre provision could be restarted in advance of the publication of this guidance, providing this provision has been adapted and risk assessed in consultation and agreement with the Care Inspectorate and local Health Protection teams.

- 3.12. The HSCP has taken the risk-assessed decision, in agreement with the Chief Social Work Officer, to await the release of this further guidance prior to finalising plans for reopening services. Consequently, the current closures of day centres for older people and people with learning disabilities will remain. The four-tier model of support within Learning Disability Services will continue to be delivered. In adult services support continues to be provided in line with the eligibility criteria for people with the most critical level of needs.

Test and Protect

- 3.13. The HSCP's Health Improvement Team continues to support the delivery of NHS GGC's Test and Protect programme. This has been identified as a priority area of focus, recognising the importance of Test and Protect in maintaining low rates of infection. This input has currently been extended to October 2020 and may extend further.

4. Recovery and Renewal Planning

- 4.1. Since the last update to the IJB in July 2020, the HSCP has continued to progress work under the two strands of the Recovery and Renewal programme: (i) Community health and wellbeing under Strand 1; and (ii) Internally focused organisational change and additional priority commitments. Sections 5 and 6 outline the progress made, recognising that work has focused primarily on Strand 1 activity.

5. Strand 1: Community Health and Wellbeing

Strategic Planning Group

- 5.1. Over the summer period, the HSCP's Strategic Planning Group has met twice to recommence work on the development of a strand of work seeking to support the improvement of health and wellbeing in communities across Renfrewshire. These sessions have confirmed that existing priorities remain valid and have been reinforced by the learning from the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the following priorities are now agreed and will form the focus of this health and wellbeing strand:

- Loneliness and social isolation
- Lower-level mental health and wellbeing, including bereavement support
- Housing as a health issue
- Inequalities
- Early years and vulnerable families, including a focus on child poverty
- Healthy and active living

- Collaborating for greater impact, including aspects such as communications, capacity building, funding, and linkages with other fora
- 5.2. Discussions to date have been highly collaborative with all partners showing clear commitment and enthusiasm for working together to address these priority areas, and lead organisations have been identified to convene discussions on the identification of (i) the three most important outcomes that need to be addressed in relation to each priority; and (ii) to identify any additional factors or areas of work outwith the control of the SPG but which partners want to use our collective voice at different fora to influence.
- 5.3. The group has also considered the content of a Terms of Reference to underpin this joint working, and to key criteria and required processes for identifying and selecting community-led projects which align with these priorities. Discussions have also taken place with third sector partners on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to underpin the principles within which we will work together.
- 5.4. Further work will now be undertaken in advance on the next meeting scheduled for October 2020. This will focus on progressing a number of key actions:
- Developing more detailed recommendations on (i) three specific areas for this year's projects to focus on under each priority and (ii) wider factors we want to influence as a group which impact the populations' health and wellbeing such as transport;
 - The development of a draft Terms of Reference for this collective response;
 - Further work on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding between third sector partners and the HSCP;
 - Development of the approach for project proposals to be developed and evaluated in a fair and transparent manner, and the criteria to be used to do so; and
 - The HSCP will confirm funding being made available to support agreed projects through this strand of work.

Renfrewshire Bereavement Network

- 5.5. The full impact of COVID-19 will not be known for some time. However, we do know that many people have lost loved ones or are experiencing levels of grief or hardship that were not anticipated only months ago. In recognition of this, local organisations have come together to pilot a new grief and bereavement service for families in Renfrewshire.
- 5.6. The group of organisations, known as the Renfrewshire Bereavement Network, includes local hospices Accord and St. Vincent's, as well as the Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP), and RAMH. Collectively, the network aims to provide support to anyone in the Renfrewshire area who is experiencing loss or dealing with grief - by offering access to the most appropriate advice, guidance and counselling available – from a single point of access. This access is for

those over 16 and includes residents, those employed within Health and Social Care in Renfrewshire, and Renfrewshire Council employees. Contacts from or regarding children will be signposted to the appropriate support.

- 5.7. People who need support will be able to contact a new helpline where they can discuss the help they need. After an assessment, staff who have been trained to manage calls, will aim to make sure they receive the most appropriate support for their individual circumstances.
- 5.8. The project launched on 17 August 2020 and is initially scheduled to run for a six-month period. Following a review of the pilot, there is potential for the service to continue beyond the initial period to become a more permanent feature.

Hear for You Helpline

- 5.9. As part of the initial COVID-19 response phase, Renfrewshire HSCP worked with Recovery Across Mental Health (RAMH) to implement a helpline facility for vulnerable individuals looking for support with their mental health. Individuals were referred to RAMH having contacted Renfrewshire Council for support.
- 5.10. In anticipation of an increase in mental ill-health in the next year, from the week commencing 24 August 2020, this service has been extended to provide a free, direct access telephone support line ('Hear for You') in partnership with RAMH, to help people talk about how they are feeling during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 5.11. This support line will enable as many people as possible to get in touch without cost. Trained and experienced staff will be on hand to offer a supportive ear and will be able to assist by putting people in touch with resources, information and additional assistance through, for example, statutory services or the bereavement network.

Implementation of a Mental Health and Wellbeing Steering Group

- 5.12. The services being developed as described above highlights the view of the HSCP and partner organisations that mental health and wellbeing support will be a critical strand of activity over the next 12 months and beyond, reflecting the expected increase in mental ill-health caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and the spectrum of experiences and impacts it has and will have.
- 5.13. To ensure that the provision of mental health and wellbeing supported meets future needs and demand for the people of Renfrewshire, a Mental Health and Wellbeing Steering Group is currently being implemented, to identify and review all current internal and external support provided in this context, including the new areas of provision outlined in this paper and also including Doing Well, the RAMH First Crisis and Hear for You Helplines, the Renfrewshire Bereavement Network and other community support. Linkages with the wider role of

the Neighbourhood Hubs and Community Link Workers will also be considered.

- 5.14. This steering group will seek to create a support framework for the next 12 months and beyond, to ensure that mental health and wellbeing support is holistic, has an improved customer experience and benefits from reduced silo working as a result of clear pathways, referrals and linkages between all support services.
- 5.15. The group will also consider the possible benefits of a single tender or commissioning approach which brings together these strands of activity and encourage greater collaboration amongst partners and community service delivery. These considerations will have clear linkages with the community-led health and wellbeing work being undertaken by the Strategic Planning Group, and these will be actively managed and maximised wherever possible.
- 5.16. The steering group described above will focus on the necessary support framework for adults with mental ill-health. In addition, the HSCP is convening a meeting with Children's Services partners within Renfrewshire Council to consider current and planned provision of Children's Mental Health support programmes and identify any remaining gaps in the support available which can be prioritised for action in the next 12 months.

6. Strand 2 – Internally-focused change

- 6.1. The HSCP has continued to develop its approach to delivering internally focused change and priority projects with its Recovery and Renewal Programme. Further work is underway to develop the necessary governance structures to manage the breadth of this work, supporting processes for progress monitoring and risk management, and to determine with partners effective mechanisms for managing linkages between related recovery programmes. A more detailed update will be brought to the IJB on these aspects at the next meeting on 2 October.
- 6.2. In addition to the above work on governance, service areas have continued to recommence transformational activity and progress additional priority projects for the HSCP. The following paragraphs provide an update on two such areas: (i) Flu vaccination planning and (ii) Development of a Recovery Hub.

Flu Vaccination Planning

- 6.2. The scale and scope of this year's 2020/21 adult flu vaccination programme is significant, following confirmation of the Scottish Government's key objectives which expand the target groups for vaccination with the aim of ensuring that the impact of potential co-circulation of flu and Covid-19 is kept to an absolute minimum. The programme aims to build on lessons learned from previous years and experience of COVID-19 to deliver at scale:

- Increased flu vaccine uptake across all eligible groups with particular focus on those who are aged 65 years and over; those aged 18-64 years in clinical risk groups, as well as pregnant women (at all stages of pregnancy) and children.
- An extension of the national programme to offer vaccination to households of those who are shielding, social care staff who deliver direct personal care and all those aged 55-64 years old. Some of those aged 55-64 are otherwise eligible due to qualifying health conditions or employment.
- To maximise uptake amongst frontline health and social care workers which may require creativity and innovation but is critical to safeguard staff, but also those in their care.

6.3. The HSCP's planning for roll out of the programme is progressing well, and we continue to work with partners across NHS GGC. Modelling work has been undertaken to determine the required number of vaccinations to be undertaken, and the staffing that will be required to deliver these. We will face significant challenges in progressing this year's flu programme given the increased number of people to be vaccinated, the limitations of the system in how we must operate in delivering the vaccine (e.g. infection control, social distancing) and securing the right level of staff/staff hours to undertake the programme – all without any material impact on other service delivery.

6.4. Recognising the increased scale of this year's programme, a number of critical success factors have also been determined to assist in the shortlisting of suitable venues and a shortlist of locations has been drawn up, which are subject to further assessment for their suitability.

Recovery Hub

6.5. The HSCP continues to work with a range of key partners to enhance recovery opportunities in Renfrewshire as part of the implementation phase of the Review of Alcohol and Drug Services. One of the key achievements is the provision of a Recovery Hub, which will offer a unique opportunity for individuals affected by drugs and alcohol and/or mental health to access dedicated support to enhance their recovery. The Whitehaugh Centre on Glasgow Road in Paisley has been secured and is currently being refurbished, reflecting the views of individuals with lived experience and key stakeholders to ensure we provide a safe and therapeutic environment.

6.6. Sustaining and maintaining recovery is the key aim of the Recovery Hub. This will be enhanced with the provision of in-reach services from local partners such as the local Job Centre, West College Scotland, the Partnership Health Improvement Team and input from the local Advocacy Project. A programme of activities will also be developed, tailored to promote growth in recovery.

6.7. Refurbishment works at the recovery hub site were placed on hold in March in line with lockdown guidelines however great progress had been made up until this point. Alcohol and Drug Recovery and Mental

Health Services have used this time to continue to plan for the opening of the hub by liaising with partners and communities to gather their needs and ideas and to begin to develop a programme of recovery activity. The Recovery Manager post is currently out for recruitment.

- 6.8. Building works recommenced at the beginning of August 2020 and the service is now working closely with contractors to finalise the colourings and furnishings, ensuring the building has the right look and feel and is one which is conducive to recovery.

7. Finance Update

- 7.1. A summary of the financial impact of COVID-19 was provided to the IJB in July 2020. This summary set out the costs incurred to date and estimated future costs. At the time of the July 2020 update, £2.36m additional funding had been allocated by the Scottish Government to Renfrewshire IJB to assist in funding our response to the COVID-19 emergency.
- 7.2. On 3 August 2020, the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport announced an additional tranche of funding up to £50m to meet reported and ongoing costs. This additional funding is subject to the ongoing provision of evidence and assurance from the IJB in respect of actual expenditure, which the HSCP continues to provide through monthly financial tracker updates to the Scottish Government.
- 7.3. To date, £25m of this funding has been allocated on the same basis as the initial £50m provided. This equates to £0.834m for Renfrewshire IJB, which once received will bring total additional funding from Scottish Government to £3.194m. The estimated overall cost of COVID is currently £25.417m, resulting in a current funding gap of £22.223m.
- 7.4. In addition, it was confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary that the principles for social care sustainability payments to providers have been extended by two months until the end of September 2020. The financial implications of this extension are currently being assessed by the HSCP. It is also noted that the potential for the period of the sustainability payments to be extended further beyond the end of September, and for related financial pressures to increase, remains.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – financial implications of COVID-19 will continue to be monitored and managed and further updates brought to the IJB.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** – the work being undertaken under Strand 1 community health and wellbeing activity is strongly linked to Community Planning and these relationships will continue to be actively managed.

4. **Legal** – Supports the implementation of the provisions of the Public Bodies (Joint Working) (Scotland) Act 2014. Legal guidance will be sought at appropriate junctures throughout the delivery of the Transformation Programme.
5. **Property/Assets** – None
6. **Information Technology** – None
7. **Equality and Human Rights** – None
8. **Health & Safety** – Health and safety procedures will continue to be reviewed to ensure safe and effective joint working as the COVID response and recovery continues.
9. **Procurement** – Procurement activity will remain within the operational arrangements of the parent bodies.
10. **Risk** – None
11. **Privacy Impact** – None

List of Background Papers – None

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