

Title of report: NHS White Paper: Integration and Innovation

Meeting: Adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee

Meeting date: Wednesday 24 March 2021

Report by: Assistant director, all ages commissioning

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

All Wards

Purpose

To consider the attached report on the NHS White Paper from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (HWCCG) and to determine any recommendations the committee wishes to make.

Recommendation(s)

That the committee:

- (a) considers the report on the NHS White Paper from the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (HWCCG) (appendix A); and**
- (b) determines any recommendations it wishes to make to the executive and / or a responsible NHS body.**

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options, the NHS White Paper is a proposal issued by the UK government detailing the planned new arrangements for the NHS, public health and social care services.

Key considerations

2. The adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee has powers including the review and scrutiny of any matter relating to the planning provision and operation of council, public health or health services (not reserved to the children and young people scrutiny committee), affecting the area and to make reports and recommendations on these matters.
3. The White Paper: *Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all* was published on 11 February 2021 and sets out the direction for implementing new arrangements from 1 April 2022. These changes will affect both local NHS funded, public health and social care services.
4. The purpose of the legislation is to remove the barriers that prevent local NHS, public health, social care and voluntary sector services from being truly integrated. It will create the opportunity to plan and deliver services that are wrapped around the needs of individuals, rather than the situation we have now, where organisational boundaries and contracting regimes can result in competition rather than collaboration.
5. There is significant evidence underpinning the case for delivering improved care. Not only are outcomes improved, but it has also been shown to be a more cost-effective delivery model. Care will be improved because partners in the ICS will be focused on improving the health of the whole population, not just those in need of bespoke health or social care. By focusing on the wider determinants of health such as good housing, employment, education, healthy lifestyles and good community facilities, local health and care partners will be far better equipped to help the population achieve better health outcomes.
6. The new approach will enable us to deliver integration *“because the system enables it”*, not *“despite the system”*, which has often been quoted as a barrier to improvement in the past.
7. The Integrated Care System (ICS) will replace the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP).

Community impact

8. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council achieves its intended outcomes by providing a mixture of legal, regulatory and practical interventions. Determining the right mix of these is an important strategic choice to make sure outcomes are achieved. The council needs robust decision-making mechanisms to ensure its outcomes can be achieved in a way that provides the best use of resources whilst still enabling efficient and effective operations and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review.

9. This scrutiny activity contributes to the corporate plan – county plan 2020-24 ambition “strengthen communities to ensure everyone lives well and safely together”.

Environmental impact

10. There are no general implications for the environment arising from this report.

Equality duty

11. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the ‘general duty’ on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
12. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying ‘due regard’ in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.

Resource implications

13. As a report informing the scrutiny process, it has no direct implications for resources.
14. The report has no direct resources implications for the council as it sets out a general strategic direction for the whole local system, which will be dependent on the existing resources of multiple partner agencies.

Legal implications

15. No direct legal implications at this time. The White Paper sets out the government’s proposals for changes in legislation.

Risk management

16. No risks are identified specifically in relation to this covering report; scrutiny is a key element of accountable decision making and may make recommendations to certain NHS bodies with a view to strengthening mitigation of any risks associated with the proposed decisions. The committee may make reports and recommendations to certain NHS bodies and expect a response within 28 days.

Consultees

17. The White Paper has been widely circulated across stakeholders and a response to the Department of Health and Social Care has previously been submitted by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).

Appendices

Appendix A NHS White Paper: Integration and Innovation

Background papers

None