

# **Update of the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care**

Health and Adult Social Care Committee 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## **1. Purpose of the Cabinet Member update**

- 1.1. This paper provides a short round of updates from across the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care. It presents an opportunity for the cabinet member to speak directly to the HASC Scrutiny Committee and highlight key pieces of work, both to share successes and identify challenges and opportunities in the coming months. The Committee are invited to consider the information below and ask questions of clarification at the meeting subject to the Chair's discretion. Requests for additional information can be addressed to the relevant director/s outside of the meeting. The Committee may also use the cabinet member updates to inform their scrutiny work planning for the coming year.

## **2. Adult Social Care**

### **2.1. Adult Early Help**

- 2.2. Work is underway to review our organisational approach to early intervention and prevention, examining what more we can do to provide early help for adults. The concept of 'early help' is well understood and valued in the work we do with children and families, where Camden has a proven model of early intervention and prevention. We are now thinking about where there are opportunities to take a similar approach for adults. There are a range of services commissioned and provided by both the Council and borough partnership that deliver targeted preventative support, but these can be delivered separately from one another with the risks of people falling through gaps. If we can unify our Adult Early Help offer, enhancing prevention and early intervention whilst addressing disproportionality and reducing duplication, we can reasonably expect to improve resident outcomes and reduce spend.

- 2.3. A project team has been established to explore the potential of Adult Early Help, looking at what we do well already across departments and wider council partners, and what we might be able to change or improve through this work. Over recent weeks the team has been focused on research, both on existing enablers for preventative work in Camden and learning from similar initiatives elsewhere. This has included conducting interviews with a range of stakeholders to build a picture of what a cohesive Adult Early Help offer could look in Camden. A more thorough phase of speaking to staff, partners and residents will follow from this, and a range of options developed for taking the work forward.

### **2.4. Care and Support at Home**

- 2.5. Camden continues to develop a transformational project to consider how care and support at home is offered to our residents in the future. This innovative approach will test new ways of designing, commissioning and delivering care

and support. A range of options are being considered which will align with other key developments in Camden, for example, integrated teams in neighbourhoods and the Accommodation Plan (please see below).

2.6. To consolidate current provision of care and support whilst the council embark on the transformation, a recent tender was undertaken for two short-term reablement services and one long-term care service (home care). The successful providers are local Camden-based organisations and contracts will begin in October/November 2023. These services will test new ways of working with residents over the next few years and aim to improve the quality of care that residents draw on and the employment standards for care workers.

2.7. Mora Burnet House

2.8. Camden Council staff are on site at Mora Burnet House on a weekly basis to engage with residents and staff. A positive meeting has taken place with Origin Housing to review both the service level agreement and a 'way of working' document to ensure roles and responsibilities are clear. In addition to preparing and mapping out how Camden will implement a wellbeing model of care, staff are developing how they will work jointly across teams and key partners to ensure that the needs of the residents at Mora Burnet House are understood and met throughout the insourcing process and beyond. A visit has been planned to Charlie Ratchford Court with Origin on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August and an event for Mora Burnet residents is organised for the 6<sup>th</sup> of September. Origin has also appointed a community development manager who will support the transition period itself and continue to engage with the community at Mora Burnet going forward.

2.9. Accommodation Plan

2.10. A comprehensive update on the Accommodation Plan was recently presented and endorsed at the Supporting People Connecting Communities Board and was felt to be making good progress. It is expected that a draft plan will be presented to the November board with a view to it being formally initiated by January 2024. The plan takes a whole Council approach to meeting residents' accommodation and support needs, moving beyond bricks and mortar to ensure early intervention and wellbeing are embedded in the plan's delivery and intended outcomes. The ambition is to support people to remain in their own homes for as long as possible and well connected to their communities.

2.11. The vision and six strategic ambitions of the Plan have been agreed by the Board, following a cross-departmental workshop and range of discussions with both internal and external stakeholders during the last six months. Links have been established with other strategic transformation projects including Care and Support at Home and Adult Early Help. Work to draft and finalise the Plan is underway across four workstreams, which will directly influence future commissioning strategies, the scoping of new service models such as the development of Housing First, as well as partnership work with other departments including Housing, Planning and the Community Investment

Programme. An engagement conference is planned for mid-October and our advocacy organisations are undertaking work to engage with residents and gather their views. Identifying and addressing inequalities, as well as embedding co-production within the plan's implementation, are key areas of focus as the Plan moves towards drafting stage.

#### 2.12. ASC CQC Assessment and ASC Quality Assurance

2.13. Adult Social Care has continued to progress preparation for CQC Assessment following the introduction of the CQC's new powers to inspect Local Authorities from April 2023. There has been considerable reflection on the learning from the Peer Review undertaken in May 2023, which has further developed our Quality Assurance work as well as our CQC Assessment preparations.

2.14. We have undertaken an extensive internal quality assurance exercise, including completion of 36 checklists representing staff experience, views and evidence gathered against the 81 CQC statements by which councils will be assessed by the CQC. Four internal validation meetings were held at which all levels of staff were represented across ASC to inform the next stage of our assessment preparations. Detailed self-assessments are in development aligned to the four CQC themes of: working with people; providing support; ensuring safety; and, leadership. This work will lead to the drafting of a single CQC self-assessment underpinned by evidence and robust engagement with staff, residents, and partners. This stage of preparation is likely to be complete early in 2024.

### 3. Public Health

3.1. **COVID-19 – variant update:** There are numerous different Covid-19 sub-variants currently in circulation in the UK. More recently there has been the growth of the EG.5 subvariant (now estimated to account for 15% of cases in the UK) and emergence of the BA.2.86 subvariant. Both of these variants are being monitored by the WHO and UKHSA due to their mutations. However there have been no reported changes in disease severity to date and at this point these variants are not expected to behave significantly differently to other Omicron variants in circulation.

3.2. **COVID-19 booster:** The UK COVID-19 vaccination programme will soon be entering its third autumn season. Similar to last season, the JCVI has advised offering an autumn booster for those most at risk of severe illness, including care home residents, adults aged 65 years and over, frontline health and care workers, those in clinical risk groups or are household contacts of people with immunosuppression. Many of these groups are also eligible to receive an annual flu vaccine.

3.3. **Measles:** Nationally, there has been a rise in measles cases this year. From the 1 January to 30 June 2023 there have been 128 laboratory confirmed measles cases in England. 66% of the cases have been in London, and

UKHSA modelling suggests that due to low vaccination rates in London remains at risk of a large outbreak, and therefore efforts are underway to increase MMR immunisation. The MMR vaccine is highly protective against measles.

- 3.4. **MMR campaign:** There is an extensive comms campaign to increase measles uptake: with letters to schools and early years settings, articles in the local press, and comms to parents, 19-25 year olds, ethnic minority populations, council tenants and GPs. A childhood immunisations catch-up clinic is running at the Peckwater Centre and MMR vaccines are also being delivered on a walk-in basis on Camden's vaccine bus, which will be travelling around children and community centres on particular dates. Two vaccine sessions were also recently delivered at contingency hotels for asylum seekers.
  
- 3.5. **The MMR vaccine bus:** The bus has been mobilised to deliver vaccinations to Camden residents around the borough, with a focus on areas that our data shows has the lowest MMR uptake. The vaccine bus locations are in areas with higher concentration of parents, like children's centres or with community partners who have activities for children and families. In areas of deprivation, learning from Covid-19 vaccination has taught us, that the bus is seen as a non-judgemental space to access health care information. Communications and the vaccine bus team will promote of the vaccine bus via social media (NextDoor, Facebook and Twitter), the resident newsletter, the Council website, posters, flyers and partners who have direct contact to families/parents, including community partners, faith organisations, children's centres, schools and primary care network partners like health centres and GP surgeries. UCLH provide 2 healthcare professionals and 1 floor walker to staff the bus. The healthcare professionals offer advice and perform the vaccinations, as well as offering advice on other health issues like smoking cessation, signposting to other health venues and providing advice on registering with a GP. Once the autumn term starts, the bus will visit some schools to trial uptake. The team will monitor areas where there has been more interest and potentially return for further engagement. A full list of vaccine bus dates and locations can be found on the Council's dedicated measles webpage ([www.camden.gov.uk/measles](http://www.camden.gov.uk/measles)) - with further dates being finalised now for September

**REPORT ENDS**