

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

Health and Adult Social Care Committee 7th January 2025

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 (ASC)

2.1. Waiting Lists

- 2.1.1. Since the last update in December, we've seen some small increases in people waiting for initial assessments and this is due to a continued rise in the number of requests for support at the ASC front door.
- 2.1.2. The number of people whose review is overdue continues to decrease, as has the number of people waiting for an Occupational Therapy assessment.
- 2.1.3. Completing timely carers assessments and reviews remain a key priority, however we recognise that this continues to be challenge in the context of overall increase in new requests for support.

2.2. Safeguarding

- 2.2.1. Our safeguarding work continues to take priority and the numbers of safeguarding referrals and enquiries remain consistent across the year. We continue to ensure that waiting times are kept to a minimum, that we respond to concerns in a timely way and that we take action to minimise risks for people.
- 2.2.2. We continue to strengthen our approach to quality assuring our safeguarding work by carrying out regular case file audits and by talking to individuals about how well we have met their goals and outcomes during any safeguarding process.
- 2.2.3. Safeguarding young people as they transition into adulthood. We have brought together colleagues from Children's and Adults' services to form a new Transitional Safeguarding Forum, aimed at facilitating work to support young people transitioning between services. This is a strategic, multi-agency case decision making forum for young people with complex needs that sit outside the children with disabilities pathway. The purpose is to ensure that multi-agency communication and information sharing happens on a regular basis and to support professionals in care planning for young people, particularly those with the most complex needs. Membership is evolving but currently includes

representatives from Family Early Help, Youth Justice and Probation, alongside Adults' services colleagues from Safeguarding, Adult Social Care Neighbourhoods, Mental Health services and expert lead practitioners.

2.3. Care and Support at Home

2.3.1. Commissioners in Adult Social Care have been working with an organisation called Fora Design since October 2023. Fora Design are helping us consider new perspectives about how we offer care and support to residents in their homes. Their work has been led by direct engagement with residents, care workers, providers and other members of the care system. Fora have carried out more than 100 interviews and attended care visits with workers. The insights they have gained through this work have led to new and creative ideas, which we plan to roll out from 2025. These include:

2.3.2. Resident Isolation and impact on wellbeing

2.3.3. With Fora, we are exploring how we can create better and more meaningful connections between residents and care workers to boost a resident's sense of purpose, aspirations and hope. We plan to focus on the impact of loneliness and isolation for residents' wellbeing who are drawing on care and support. We know that loneliness can exacerbate mental health issues and cognitive decline. For residents drawing on care at home, their only source of social connection might be with their care worker who they see every day, and there is an added level of dependence with these relationships.

2.3.4. Care Workers

2.3.5. Central to our work with Fora is the principle that Camden's values need to extend through providers to all their care workers. Care workers are often in vulnerable positions themselves and work in incredibly difficult circumstances. Through the year, Fora have been running a Care Worker Forum where they have heard directly from care workers about the importance of peer support, the need for confidence building and about how systems can impact on the quality of care. Responding to this, we are developing peer support mechanisms and testing new training approaches with Fora. We are also pin-pointing operational practices that could compromise care quality so that these can be changed.

2.3.6. In 2025, Fora will shape larger experiments around an innovative 'Care Quarter' project which builds on learnings, and closely aligns with the new Adult Social Care Neighbourhood approach.

2.4. The Carers Action Plan and Borough Partnership Carers Board Development

2.4.1. Since its launch in July 2024, the Carers Action Plan has focused on establishing the Borough Partnership Carers Board, which will drive delivery of the plan. Co-chaired by carers and including senior leaders from Camden Borough Partnership organisations, the Board will ensure carers' voices are central.

2.4.2. Extensive co-production has informed the Board's development, including focus groups with community organisations, workshops on success measures, and discussions on governance and priorities. Recruitment for carer roles on the Board begins in December

2024 and will conclude by February 2025. A planning meeting on 18 December will finalise membership, Terms of Reference, and workstreams, with the first full meeting planned for March/April 2025.

- 2.4.3. A website has been developed to improve visibility and transparency, sharing updates and opportunities for involvement. Recruitment for staff to manage the plan's delivery is complete, with the full team in place by winter 2025. Insights from the action plan co-production process have shaped a new model for commissioned carer support services, with the new contract starting in April 2025.

2.5. Cancer screening for people with learning disabilities (LD)

- 2.5.1. This project aims to increase uptake of cancer screening for people with learning disabilities across Camden and Islington. A Health Facilitator has conducted focus groups with people with learning disabilities to obtain qualitative data around understanding of cancer screening, barriers to cancer screening and how we can improve cancer screening for people with learning disabilities. Quantitative data from North Central London Integrated Care Board (NCL ICB) around cancer screening uptake for people with learning disabilities as well as data around uptake across ethnic groups will serve as a baseline and be used as an outcome measure.
- 2.5.2. The Council's Health Facilitator is continuing to deliver personalised support for people with learning disabilities to access and engage in cancer screening, enabling a number of individuals to complete or be booked in for cancer screening who otherwise were not attending.
- 2.5.3. Training will be delivered with supported living staff in the new year around bowel cancer screening and how to complete bowel cancer screening kits. Breast cancer training is currently being planned to enable supported living staff to learn more about the process of a mammogram. The Health Facilitator is also working with GP practice nurses across North Central London (NCL) and the NCL cancer alliance to develop guidelines around supporting people with learning disabilities with cervical screening and guidance around the Mental Capacity Act.
- 2.5.4. The targeted lung health checks will also be a national screening programme in the new year and the first new cancer screening programme in 20 years. The Health facilitator is working with the lung health check team at University College London Hospital (UCLH) to ensure the needs of people with learning disabilities are considered within this programme.

2.6. National Children and Adult Services Conference 2024

- 2.6.1. The National Children and Adult Services (NCAS) Conference 2024 took place from Wednesday the 27 to Friday the 29 of November 2024. Colleagues from Adults and Health as well as Children and Learning attended along with the Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Social Care. This annual conference is an opportunity to meet with colleagues across the sector, including provider partners, to share local, regional and national practice and innovation. Every workshop at the Conference that related to Adult Social Care included people who draw on care and support or unpaid

Carers. The active involvement of people with lived experience on panels and in discussions through the Conference emphasised the importance of power-sharing, and resonates with our commitment in Camden to genuine co-production with our residents.

- 2.6.2. The conference was opened by the current President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), Mel Williams, as well as her counterpart in Children's Services and Chairs from the Local Government Authority. The Conference was closed by Jess McGregor, the current vice-president of ADASS and Executive Director of Adults and Health, who will be the ADASS president for 2025/26. There was a keynote speech, followed by a question and answer session with the Minister for Care, Stephen Pinnock MP.
- 2.6.3. Attendees from Camden were able to engage with a wide range of discussions, including the [Time to Act Roadmap](#)¹ and how Adult Social Care enables people to live [Gloriously Ordinary Lives](#)². Workshops covered a broad range of areas, including Safeguarding, Mental Health, Learning Disability, Co-production, Workforce, Waiting Lists, Supported Housing, CQC Assurance and Homelessness. Particular workshops of note included a focus on self-directed support through Direct Payments, Digital Innovation and the ethical use of Artificial Intelligence. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion were themes throughout, with a session focused on Women in Care and Inequalities as well as a session that centred on including diverse voices in co-production opportunities. Participants also spent time considering a range of pressures that the sector is attempting to navigate, including waiting times, finance and the recent increase in National Insurance contributions for employers.

3. Health and Wellbeing (Public Health)

3.1. Heart Health London wide health priority programme (Million Hearts and Minds)

- 3.1.1. This is a new London wide campaign in development to improve the heart health of Londoners. The campaign is in its early stages of development with a communications campaign expected from Summer 2025. Linking with that campaign, a new NCL Heart Health delivery group has been established to bring together partners across the integrated care system on this agenda. Analysis indicates that a focus on the detection and treatment of high blood pressure would have the greatest population health impact.
- 3.1.2. A launch workshop was held on 26th November which brought together public health teams, clinicians and voluntary and community sector partners working on heart health to form connections at borough level, for example the Camden mobile health bus, Healthwatch, public health and pharmacy colleagues.
- 3.1.3. Building on this work the Health and Wellbeing team have been engaging with primary care to promote delivery of NHS Health Checks, and producing materials for residents to raise awareness of the health check-ups available across primary care, the health bus and blood pressure checks available in community pharmacies.

3.2. Look After You – Adolescent Health campaign by “Camden Youth Tell Them”

¹ <https://www.adass.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/adass-time-to-act-april-2023-1.pdf>

² <https://www.gloriouslyordinarylives.co.uk/>

- 3.2.1. Camden Youth Tell Them (CYTT), a voice for young people in the Borough have launched the 'Look After YOU' health campaign. It is targeting young people aged 11 to 25 as well as the people who work with young people, to signpost them to the right health care.
- 3.2.2. The campaign includes bus stop adverts, posters and social media content, it went live in October and will run for 3 months. The focus is on primary care, sexual health, mental health and substance misuse services. Look After YOU is performing well, with 800 visitors to the Camden Rise website in the first six weeks of activity.
- 3.2.3. Members from CYTT recently spoke at a full council debate on the NHS 10 year plan and said they don't feel like they've had the information they need about accessing healthcare and improving their physical and mental wellbeing and that they would like to see national initiatives like this.
- 3.2.4. *"We know that there are so many services to help under 25s in Camden – we met with them to develop our campaign – but that young people don't always know about them. Young people can also be put off getting health care because they feel embarrassed, are worried about costs or their parents finding out. We hope that Look after YOU not only helps Camden young people to easily find the free healthcare they need, when they need it, but that they feel comfortable and confident using these services."* (Camden Youth Tell Them)

3.3. **Healthy Weight Acceleration Plan**

- 3.3.1. Camden has developed a Healthy Weight Acceleration Plan this year in response to the health and wellbeing crisis linked to population levels of overweight and obesity. The Plan is overseen by a multi-agency leadership group from across the Council, NHS, Schools, and Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations. The Plan has five workstreams, focusing on: Early Years; Schools; Organisations and Place Shaping, Weight Management Services; and Population Groups with greater needs.
- 3.3.2. Significant progress has been made in the first year of the plan. A deep dive on action linked to schools was reported to November's meeting. Themes included:

Improving food and nutrition in schools – through the Healthy Schools whole school approach to food, continued support for school breakfasts, an updated specification for the school meals service, free school meals for all primary school students, free fruit and vegetables at breaktime in secondary schools, and the ongoing Holiday Activity & Food programme.

Healthy weight and nutrition support at key points – updating the support on healthy habits and services after the National Child Measurement Programme.

Investing in the Secondary School eating infrastructure. £500k capital spending is available through the Community Infrastructure Levy to improve the eating infrastructure across Camden's ten secondary schools. Proposals are in development for six schools currently.

Food & Health Student Champions. This student advocacy programme is returning at Hampstead School in 2025, after the last programme at Regent High in 2019.

Children and Young People Physical Activity Strategy. Whole school approaches to physical activity are part of the Healthy School programme. A range of new approaches to promoting physical activity through schools are being considered, including how to best address the drop off in physical activity levels typically seen among teenagers, and particularly among teen girls. Schools have developed their own programmes, and there are also schemes running across schools, such as The Daily Mile.

Healthy Travel Camden – behaviour change initiatives. Three key active travel behaviour change initiatives are run with schools - the “Travel for Life” sustainability programme, [bikeability](https://www.bikeability.org.uk/)³ sessions, and pedestrian skills training. The offer is being reviewed to enable a more widespread offer.

³ <https://www.bikeability.org.uk/>