

SE6. Falkirk Integration Joint Board: Annual Performance Report 2016-17

The committee considered a report by the Chief Officer, Falkirk Integration Joint Board which provided performance information in respect of services delivered by the Falkirk Integration Joint Board. Patricia Cassidy provided an overview of the report together with contextual background in the Integration Joint Board and the services provided.

Joe McElholm provided detailed information on the performance in regard to 23 national indicators. He also gave detail in regard to local indicators citing as an example two indicators which focussed on self management and on autonomy and decision making. In regard to the latter the Service's focus area was on supporting individuals not going into care homes and not in increasing the number of care homes available.

Members discussed the Integration Joint Board's delayed discharge policy. This was welcomed with members highlighting previous concerns in regard to bed blocking. Patricia Cassidy explained the composition of the Board and the need for consensus in decision making where this is not reached a matter could be escalated to the Scottish Government but this was not beneficial and the Board sought consensus where possible.

Patricia Cassidy then responded to a question on the availability of GPs noting that a new national model was likely to be agreed shortly. A new model of service delivery had been tested in Forth Valley which centred on multi-disciplinary teams, including triage, which would reduce pressure on GPs.

The committee commented on the content of the Annual Report and drew comparisons with Local Government Benchmarking Framework information which had been considered by the Scrutiny Committee on 17 August 2017. The latter contained year on year contrast which allowed performance to be compared with previous years and against other local authorities. Members asked that the format of subsequent reports is reviewed to allow similar comparisons and trends analysis to be made.

The committee discussed cultural shifts in regard to carers. Patricia Cassidy cited 3 critical cultural shifts which impacted on the extent to which carers are relied upon – an increase in the over 85 population, the rise in the age of carers and the available work force. As a consequence there was a need to enable patients to self manage and be independent. Joe McElholm stressed the importance of reablement. The drive was not to save money but to be able to focus resources on those who need it. It wasn't possible to grow resources at the same rate as the growth in demand. He summarised the on-going work to support reablement.

He cited grass cutting as an example where resources need to be focussed on those who need the service. In changing the eligibility criteria for this he conceded that people who had previously received the service would lose out. However it was necessary to focus resources on those in society who need the service based on individual level of need.

The committee considered care homes for adults. There was 11 independently run care homes in the area. Bed capacity was 159 in 2016/17. Reviews of 4 adult care homes had resulted in grades of 5/6 (very good) for care support. Patricia Cassidy gave an overview of the support and care provided in care homes and explained that 1% of places were vacant. She cited a care village in Stirling which would be open in 2018 as an innovative model. Joe McElholm explained that £29m was spent on residential respite care. It would not be possible to make budget savings without looking at this and again emphasised the need to enable and encourage independence.

Decision

The committee noted the report and acknowledged progress by Integration Joint Board in meeting its priorities.