

**Adult Social Care and Communities Scrutiny Committee**  
**Report from the Director of Public Health - 24 January 2023**  
**Public Health & Communities Update**

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**1. Community Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Services for Adults**

The Committee have previously been briefed on the Black Review of Drugs and the new National Drugs Policy which launched in December 2021 and will be aware that there are strong policy drivers for continuing to invest in drug treatment and recovery services. Importantly, drug and alcohol services support some of our most vulnerable residents and help to reduce harm and improve outcomes. The social and economic return on investment for drug treatment services is 4:1 (i.e. every £1 spent on drug treatment is associated with a social and economic return of £4) and we know that housing, health, and social care services all benefit when drug treatment services are working effectively.

It is a condition of the Public Health Grant to take steps to improve the take up of, and outcomes from, its drug and alcohol misuse treatment services. The current contractual arrangements for the current service end on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 and to enable the continued delivery of a community drug and alcohol recovery service beyond this date, Public Health commissioners are asking Cabinet, at their meeting in January, for permission to conduct a competitive procurement process.

The proposed contract is for an initial period of five years with options to extend its term either for a further period of four years on its fifth anniversary, or two further periods of two years on its fifth and seventh anniversaries respectively (i.e., 5+4 years or 5+2+2 years). Commissioners are working with a range of experts and stakeholders to finalise the Service specification, but it is proposed that the new contract does not fundamentally change the Service model from the current model. The Service should however continue to evolve, taking into consideration the ambitions of the national Drugs Strategy, and building on improvements to date, such as better integration across health, social care, and criminal justice; closer working with children's services; and a greater emphasis on achieving and sustaining recovery.

Subject to Cabinet approval, the Invitation to Tender (ITT) will be published in May 2023, and the award will be made in September 2023, allowing for a comfortable mobilisation period before the new contract commences on 1st April 2024.

**2. Oral health promotion update**

At the Full Council meeting on 9 November 2022, members considered a motion relating to NHS Dentistry, where members expressed concern about the quality and cost of dentistry in

Gloucestershire and believed every Gloucestershire resident should have a right to a 'healthy mouth' at affordable NHS rates. As part of this motion, Council asked the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Director of Public Health to bring a report on our oral health promotion activities to the Gloucestershire Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). This report outlines what is being done to promote good oral hygiene, particularly in children and young people and our vulnerable residents and was presented alongside a report from NHS England colleagues regarding access to dental treatment services.

GCC-led oral health promotion activities include:

- Distribution of toothbrushing packs and oral health advice by health visitors
- Oral health promotion in schools
- Annual oral health survey. 2022/23's oral health survey is of Year 6 children.
- Oral health training for care home staff

Both the oral health promotion report and NHS dentistry report are available [here](#).

### **3. HLS consultation**

As part of the Council's statutory duty to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce health inequalities, the Council commissions a healthy lifestyles service, which supports individuals to make lifestyle changes (i.e., to quit smoking, increase physical activity, reduce alcohol, and lose weight). The current contract for the Gloucestershire Healthy Lifestyles Service expires on 31st March 2024, which gives us an opportunity to review the range of support we need to provide in the future.

To inform this review, we have been given authorization to conduct a public and wider stakeholder consultation exercise on draft proposals for a new Healthy Lifestyles Service model from April 2024. The consultation will take place between January and March 2023 and will be used to influence any future service delivery model and what it provides. A report on the findings of the consultation will be published on the county council website.

### **4. Childhood Obesity Levels in Gloucestershire (National Child Measurement Programme update)**

The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) measures the height and weight of children in reception class (aged 4 to 5) and year 6 (aged 10 to 11) in state schools across England every year. Trained nurses take the measurements, which are used to calculate a child-specific BMI score based on the child's age and gender. Data presents the proportion of children who are an unhealthy weight in England and within each region and county. The data is used to plan services for children and families.

Data for the 2021/22 school year was published in December. This was the first full year of data collection since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. We previously reported a significant increase in levels of obesity and severe obesity in 2020/21 compared to pre-pandemic levels. The 2021/22 data indicate that rates have now decreased, compared to last year, but are still significantly higher than pre-pandemic levels among Year 6 children (age 10 to 11 years). These data, in line with national trends, show a continuing long-term trend of increasing obesity prevalence, associated with poverty and health inequality.

#### **Snapshot of 2021/22 obesity data**

Table 1 below shows the prevalence of obesity and severe obesity among Reception and Year 6 children in Gloucestershire, compared to England averages. It also provides a comparison of obesity rates in Gloucestershire with England averages.

Table 1: Prevalence of obesity and severe obesity

(Source: National Child Measurement Programme; 2018/19 – 2021/22)

Year group	BMI category	Gloucestershire			England		
		2021/22	2020/21	2018/19	2021/22	2020/21	2018/19
Reception	Obesity	8.7%	13.5%	9.1%	10.1%	*14.4%	9.7%
	Severe obesity	2.3%	4.2%	2.3%	2.9%	*4.7%	2.4%
Year 6	Obesity	20.7%	*21.1%	18.2%	23.4%	*25.5%	20.2%
	Severe obesity	4.6%	*5.0%	4.0%	5.8%	*6.3%	4.4%

\*Data incomplete so less confidence the data is representative of the whole year group.

**Reception** - obesity and severe obesity levels among Reception age children in Gloucestershire have reverted to pre-pandemic levels according to the 2021/22 data (8.7% with obesity and 2.3% with severe obesity). These levels are significantly lower than England averages (10.1% with obesity and 2.9% with severe obesity), which remain above pre-pandemic levels despite showing some recovery.

**Year 6** – while showing some recovery compared to 2020/21 data, obesity and severe obesity levels among Year 6 children in Gloucestershire remain above pre-pandemic levels in 2021/22 data (20.7% with obesity and 4.6% with severe obesity). These levels are significantly lower than England averages (23.4% with obesity and 5.8% with severe obesity), but remain a cause for concern.

The place where a child lives continues to impact on their weight status. In England 31.3% of children living in the most deprived neighbourhoods have obesity compared to 13.5% in the least deprived. Public Health and Communities officers will update our local obesity inequalities report by March 2023.

## 5. Children and young people's healthier lifestyles programme update

In September 2022 Cabinet gave approval to tender for a provider to deliver a countywide healthier lifestyles (healthy weight) service for children and young people aged 4-17 years old (up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disability). Cabinet also delegated the decision to award a contract to the preferred bidder to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Lead for Public Health and Communities.

The competitive tender closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 and commissioners are in the process of evaluating bids and meeting with prospective providers. We aim to award a contract to our preferred provider in February 2023 pending the appropriate decisions. The contract will run from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2028 and will include the option to extend for a further three years. Service delivery will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2023, though the reach and range of offers provided will develop during the initial year of delivery.

The Service will work closely with children and families, and with local communities. It will provide a menu of support to enable sustainable changes to eating and physical activity habits, to achieve a healthier weight. It will support families to address the wider practical issues affecting their lifestyle choices, for example signposting them to cost-of-living support and other advice and support as needed. It will work in conjunction with other children and families'

services and the clinical weight management service (commissioned by the Integrated Care Board), to ensure a coherent offer to children and families. The service will utilise and support the development of existing assets within communities and the wider health and care system.

The service will provide:

- A universal offer, utilising digital technology to provide evidence-based information and support for children and families to achieve a healthier weight status, accessible to the whole population of Gloucestershire
- A range of targeted, tailored, age-appropriate support (including face-to-face support) accessible through both professional, and self-referral, for children and young people and their families most affected by obesity and weight-related inequality.

## **6. Future delivery arrangements for Public Health Nursing Services**

Permission is being sought from Cabinet on January 25<sup>th</sup> to continue with the current delivery arrangements for Public Health Nursing Services.

Gloucestershire's Public Health Nursing (PHN) Service offers universal support to all families and targeted support to families with additional needs or vulnerabilities through their health visiting and school nursing teams, provided by Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (GHC). The Council is required, as a condition of the Public Health grant, to offer five visits in early years and to deliver the Healthy Child Programme for families and children aged 0 to 5 years and 5 – 19 years. The Council also has a responsibility to deliver the annual National Child Measurement Programme which is carried out by the school nursing team.

The service is currently commissioned via a Collaborative Commissioning Arrangement, whereby the Council transfers funding for the commissioning of the service to NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB). Cabinet approval of the current arrangements continues until 31 March 2024. Permission is requested to extend this arrangement for a maximum of 9 years (2024 – 2033). The length of the agreement aligns to the Family Hub proposals, which will see our Children and Family Centres focus more on early support to families and will enable greater integration of services through aligned service specifications.

The current service continues to perform well, and performance is consistently above the national and statistical neighbour benchmarks. In August, GHC received a 'Good' CQC rating and the provider continues to work in a collaborative way with commissioners and the wider health and care system in Gloucestershire. As the PHN teams sit within GHC there is stronger integration between the service and the other community physical and mental health services that GHC also provide.

## **7. Future delivery arrangements for the Specialist Sexual Health Service**

Permission is being sought from Cabinet on January 25<sup>th</sup> to continue with the current delivery arrangements for the Specialist Sexual Health Service.

As part of its statutory responsibilities, the Council makes arrangements for the provision of the Specialist Sexual Health Service. The service provides testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), contraceptive services, provision of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) for HIV prevention and psychosexual services. It has a particular focus on more complex and/or specialist cases, and individuals at higher risk of poor sexual health.

The service is currently commissioned via a Collaborative Commissioning Arrangement, whereby the Council transfers funding for the commissioning of the service to NHS Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB). Commissioning the service in this manner

allows for better integration of a number of wider sexual health services, which the ICB commission under one contract (currently held by Gloucestershire Health and Care).

The Specialist Sexual Health Service performs well and the integrated pathway of care across sexual health services is advantageous for patients. Permission is being sought from Cabinet on January 25<sup>th</sup> to continue with the current arrangements for a maximum of 9 years (2024 – 2033).

## 8. One Gloucestershire Integrated Care Strategy

Under *The Health and Care Act 2022* (section 26) and *Health and social care integration: joining up care for people, places and populations* (DHSC, 2022) there is a statutory duty to form an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). Our ICP is referred to as the **One Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Partnership (HWP)**. The HWP is made up of a broad range of organisations who will work together to improve the care, health and wellbeing of the people who live in Gloucestershire.

Statutory guidance (*Guidance on the preparation of integrated care strategies*, DHSC 2022) sets out that an **Integrated Care Strategy** should be produced and published by December 2022. The One Gloucestershire Interim Integrated Care Strategy was agreed by the HWP and published on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022.

The interim strategy is an overarching system strategy and 'blueprint' for delivering better health and care for the people in Gloucestershire. It builds on existing work and momentum to further the transformative change needed to tackle challenges such as reducing disparities in health and social care; improving quality and performance; preventing mental and physical ill health; and maximising independence and preventing care needs, by promoting control, choice, and flexibility in how people receive care and support.

The interim strategy will inform the direction of travel for integrated care organisations in Gloucestershire. The HWP will lead and oversee delivery and agree the mandate for key work programmes, and will hold system delivery infrastructures to account as well as ensuring that the involvement and intelligence from localities, districts and communities is core.

The engagement process in preparation for forming the interim strategy, was built upon a comprehensive public engagement which was undertaken during January- March 2022 (Part 1) and asked local people to say how they would like to be involved and the areas or issues they wanted considered in the development of the strategy. Further engagement to develop the interim strategy was targeted at stakeholder partnerships and organisations in September – November 2022 (Part 2).

The strategy provides the case for why we need change in the short, medium, and long term. Although the requirement is to write a five-year Integrated Care Strategy, the HWP wants to go beyond this and set the direction for the next ten to twenty years with a commitment to continue to evolve and develop, harnessing further opportunities as it grows and develops. It incorporates the following:

- Vision and principles for working
- Pillar 1: Making Gloucestershire a better place for the future – focusing on long term action
- Pillar 2: Transforming what we do – focusing on medium term action including:
  - Community and locality focused approach
  - Achieving equity
  - Creating a One Gloucestershire workforce for One Gloucestershire
  - Achieving quality and outcomes across the whole person journey
- Pillar 3: Improving health and care services today – focusing on short term actions

- Creating conditions for change:
  - Strengthening communities and person centred approaches
  - Evidence based practices, research, and innovation
  - Digitally enabled services
- Call to action and our commitment.

National guidance states that 2022 to 2023 will be seen as a transition period. This recognises the time and resource limitations posed by the task of publishing the strategy in December 2022 and the impact this has on the ability to engage people and organisations in in the preparation of the initial integrated care strategy. The One Gloucestershire Interim Integrated Care Strategy is the initial version and further engagement and refinement of the strategy will take place in 2023. The strategy will need refreshing as the One Gloucestershire Health and Wellbeing Partnership develops and matures.