

# NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group

## Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 March 2017

---

Author:	Executive Nurse, Swindon CCG
Wards:	All Wards
Locality Affected:	All Locality Area
Parishes Affected:	All Parish Area

---

### 1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 This report provides the Children's Health, Social Care and Education O&S Committee with an update of performance and key issues relating to Swindon CCG.
- 1.2 A key purpose of the Children's Health, Social Care and Education O&S Committee is to hold Commissioners of Health and Social Care Services to account.
- 1.3 Any Commissioner of Health and Social Care Services in Swindon is required to provide information on the planning and provision of health and social care services within the Borough and consult with the Committee on any planned substantial changes or developments to service provision.

### 2. Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the report.
- 2.2 Identify any areas of concern that require further investigation.

### 3. Detail

- 3.1 We updated the committee at the January 2017 meeting on the work being undertaken to improve the Children's Mental Health Pathways and develop them locally in line with national ambition integrating into a tier-less service to make assessments faster and more seamless.

Autistic Spectrum Disorders

- 3.2 National data identifies that the number of children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) has doubled since 2004, highlighting a significant challenge for specialist services nationally. This is a trend that is also being evidenced in Swindon with significant wait times being experienced for children and their families in relation to ASD assessment.

# NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group

## Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 March 2017

---

### GWH

- 3.3 A full review of the ASD pathway is underway, currently, there are 470 patients waiting for their first appointment within the GWH community paediatrics clinics and 351 booked first appointments. This totals 821 with an average waiting time of 41.8 weeks. Approximately 25% of children referred to the ASD service are discussed at the complex case meetings, where diagnosis requires a multi-agency discussion and cannot be completed by one clinician.
- 3.4 In response to the increased demand for ASD assessments and to support the required reduction in wait times, the CCG has agreed **£330,610 additional funding to procure the following additional resources:**
- 3.4.1 **£37,525k** to create an additional **Educational Psychologist Post** to operate on the ASD pathway. This will improve access to assessment and help to identify issues with the assessment of attachment or Learning Difficulties by greatly increasing the sensitivity and specificity of the diagnostic process.
- 3.4.2 **£100,000k** to fund 1 WTE Paediatric Consultant post within the GWH paediatric department. This will also reduce the number of un-booked appointments and average waiting times in the department and increase clinic capacity.
- 3.4.3 In addition, the CCG has also agreed to invest an additional £65,085 into improving resources aimed at supporting safeguarding processes.
- 3.4.4 A further **£128k** will be invested into the Specialist Community Health Services at Saltway to recruit 1WTE Occupational Therapist and 1.8 WTE Community Speech and Language Therapists. These posts will provide 26 additional sessions per week for diagnosis and therapy for children with needs related to ASD.
- 3.4.5 On the 6 February 2017 there were 72 children and young people waiting to be seen for ASD diagnostic pathway assessment by Speech and Language Therapy. The average waiting time is 21.64 weeks – (range 4-55 weeks). The median is also 21 weeks wait. The average number of referrals for Speech and Language Therapy ASD pathway assessment for 2016 was 7.58 referrals per month (range 4 – 13 per month with peaks in May, September and October 2016).
- 3.5 The implementation plan aims to have cleared the existing waiting list for speech and language therapy within 20 weeks of the induction of the new post holders, with the remaining waiting times being managed within the current 13 week waiting time target.

# **NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group**

## **Children's Health, Social Care and**

## **Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee**

**Date: 29 March 2017**

---

- 3.6 On the 9 March 2017 there were 56 children and young people with ASD waiting to be seen for Occupational Therapy assessment and treatment. The current average waiting time is 16.39 weeks – (range 0-41 weeks). The median is 12.5 weeks wait. The average number of Occupational Therapy referrals for ASD for 2016 was 6.83 referrals per month (range 3– 16 per month with peaks in February, May and December 2016).
- 3.6.1 The plan for the occupational therapy waiting list is that within 9 months of the induction of the post holder all children and young people referred for assessment and treatment will be seen within the current 13 week waiting time. The additional time required for occupational therapy is because the model of care provides a package of assessment and treatment in 6 block sessions at a time, rather than a traditional assessment and diagnostic medical model.
- 3.6.2 This is subject to staffing and referral flow remaining stable.
- 3.7 Both GWH and Saltway operate a screening process where urgent referrals to the service take priority (under 5s and Safeguarding concerns). A child could be on both waiting lists if they require diagnostic input from Saltway.
- 3.8 In order to monitor the effectiveness of these additional resources, the children's services commissioner is developing detailed implementation and monitoring plans in collaboration with GWH and SBC within the next 4 weeks. The CCG will be holding providers to account in order to meet the required improvements in wait times within an agreed trajectory. A robust governance and quality monitoring framework is being strengthened, in order to oversee performance and quality data and to ensure the sustained improvement in provision of effective services is consistently evidenced.

### Children's Services Review

- 3.9 The wider Children Services Review continues to progress and the CCG has identified project management support for two key work streams. One task group is scrutinising existing funding for contracts and another task group will be focusing on further developing performance and quality outcome reporting tools across all commissioned services. There is full involvement and commitment from professionals across the children's services health and social care economy.
- 3.10 In addition, the CCG and Swindon Borough Council (SBC) are currently ensuring that JSNA refresh for 2017/18 will contain more data for children with special educational needs and disabilities.

# NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group

## Children's Health, Social Care and Education Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date: 29 March 2017

---

### 3.11 Supporting Information

3.11.1 None

## 4. **Alternative Options**

4.1 None

## 5. **Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

### Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 None

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

5.2 None

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

5.3 None

### Diversity Impact Assessment

5.4 None

### Risk Management

5.5 None

## 6. **Consultees**

6.1 The Board Director, Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## 7. **Background Papers**

7.1 None

## 8. **Appendices**

8.1 None