

## **Director of Adult Social Services report to the Health and Wellbeing Board: January 2019**

### **Better Lives Better Outcomes:**

The Better Lives Better Outcomes transformation programme in Adult Social Care continues to focus on creating strengths-based and community-led practice which is underpinned by our 4 themes: Prevention, Community Connections, Independent Lives, Choice and Control. The Community Together Surgeries are rolling out across the city and during February we will introduce people with mental health needs to the model of community-based conversations.

Care and support providers are key partners in developing services which better support people to promote independence and reduce reliance on residential care. An engagement event on 17<sup>th</sup> January shared the Better Lives strategy and commissioning intentions and kicked off a conversation about how the City Council and providers work together to achieve this change.

A similar event will be planned with housing providers to secure the tenancies which citizens will need to move on from, or avoid using residential care where this is appropriate.

### **Areas of pressure:**

The increase in attendances and admissions at Nottingham University Hospital has created an increased demand for social care support for discharge from hospital. Our Integrated Enablement Team works closely with partners in the NHS in the integrated discharge function to manage transfers from hospital, with a clear 'Home First' focus i.e. our priority is to support people to be back at home wherever possible. An action plan to increase home care availability has been facilitated by the temporary additional Winter Funding to local authorities and we have seen an increase in capacity with our independent providers and in the City Council's own reablement service.

The significant increase in demand for Mental Health Act assessments continues to be a cause for concern. It creates a significant pressure on Approved Mental Health Professional capacity including the need for assessments outside of usual working hours. There is concern that the number of assessments is exacerbated by the lack of available beds where this resource is needed. In addition, the increase in demand may reflect that the system is missing opportunities to intervene earlier to prevent crisis.

Recruitment is a challenge across the social care workforce, both within NCC and in external providers. Our risk assessment is that Brexit will impact, not in terms of our direct provider employees, but in terms of increasing availability of vacancies in competing industries which employ more EU staff e.g. hospitality.

There are a range of measures taken to address this including:

- A home care recruitment campaign, in partnership with Nottingham Jobs, which will continue through 2019 on a periodic basis and will piggy-back on a national social care campaign. The dedicated page is on the Nottingham Jobs website: <https://www.nottinghamjobs.com/employment-support-care-sector-1.html>.
- Our grow your own initiatives have been successful, retaining skilled staff into registered posts. The AMHP programme will see a cohort of new AMHPs this year.

**Catherine Underwood**

**Interim Director of Adult Social Care**

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