

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Somerset STP Plan Report by the working group of Dorset Health Scrutiny Committee
Cllr Robin Legg, Cllr Nick Ireland, Cllr Jill Haynes

Date of Meeting: 28 November 2019

Portfolio Holder: Cllr L Miller, Adult Social Care and Health

Local Member(s):

Director: Mathew Kendall, Executive Director of People - Adults

Executive Summary:

The working group found there were many similarities between Somerset and Dorset in both the issues facing the health sector and the approach to the two STP's. Both STP's seemed to be at a similar level of maturity.

The working group found no evidence at this stage that there was any concern about the future care of Dorset residents attending Somerset health or care facilities. The drive to provide a holistic approach, supporting prevention and intervention at an early stage, and trying to provide care and support as close as possible to people's homes was to be welcomed.

Equalities Impact Assessment: n/a

Budget: n/a

Risk Assessment: n/a

Climate implications: n/a

Other Implications: n/a

Recommendation:

For the committee to note and comment on the paper.

Reason for Recommendation:

Appendices: None

Background Papers: None

Officer Contact:

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1. Introduction

The working group having read the Somerset STP plan and refresh then had a telephone interview with Mel Lock, who is Assistant Director for Adult Social Care at Somerset County Council, and the councils lead on the STP. (It should be noted that the chair of the STP board is the CE of Somerset County council, Pat Flaherty.)

The purpose of the scrutiny was to see if there were any changes that the STP refresh, (Fit for My Future) would make to the health services that Dorset residents receive cross border.

Members also wanted to understand how the STP's of Dorset and Somerset worked together.

Along with the rest of the country's 44 CCG's the Somerset STP was launched in 2016, below is an extract of the kind of changes that they were looking to make.

"Somerset's ageing population means more people are living longer and managing multiple complex illnesses like diabetes and hypertension. These are costly to support and require more integrated care from a range of different organisations.

At the same time, Somerset has higher than average levels of obesity and lower levels of activity which, together with more people moving to Somerset, will create an increasing demand for health and care services.

Health and social care are struggling to recruit staff across the board. This requires us to think and work differently. All the organisations with the Somerset 'footprint' are finding it difficult to keep spending within existing budgets. However, even if more money was found, there are still not enough qualified staff to continue to work in the same way.

The plan looks to 'flip' the current system from one where time, effort and money are focussed more on treatment, to one where the emphasis is on prevention, avoiding illness and helping people to stay independent and in control of their health and wellbeing.

It will mean the entire system – from GPs and hospitals, to mental health and social care workers – working more closely together to provide easier access to care and support closer to home. It will mark a move away hospital-based care towards care and support provided in people's own homes and communities."

2. STP update

"The Fit for My Future" strategy updates and progresses the original STP, it is work in progress and runs from the end of 2018 to 2023. The plan clearly states "there is no overarching vision for Somerset" rather that it will be a development of ideas and that the plan will change as integration develops. The link to the original STP is at the bottom of this paper.

The members of the working group questioned Mel Lock about the STP refresh. In particular, they were all concerned about the lack of detail in the document. There is plenty about the aspirations but little about how this would be achieved.

The Councillors were informed that it was still very early days in the integration work although this was already proving successful. Somerset, like Dorset, had recently set up their Primary Care Networks and this had helped with their Neighbourhood approach. Each Neighbourhood will have multi-disciplinary teams sitting with the GP surgeries and consist of health professionals, social workers and input from the wider community like schools and the voluntary sector.

Initially they are starting a trial of three Neighbourhoods which will be launched on 25th November this year. One of these trial areas will be Chard Crewkerne and Ilminster which also serves a number of Dorset patients. The three areas will be a trial to test the model.

There currently is an intended merger between the Taunton and Somerset Hospital Trust and Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Although not complete they now have one Chief Executive and one Board. This would be like Bournemouth and Poole hospitals merging with our Health Trust. This merger includes some GP functions. Yeovil Hospital remains a stand-alone trust and the small size of the hospital and its distance from Taunton and the main hospital makes this a concerning situation. As in Dorset it would be difficult to put the hospitals into one trust due to the merger and competition legislation. Like Dorset they currently operate 13 community hospitals.

Somerset are performing well in stopping people coming into the system and in their discharges from care. It is felt that this is due to the more integrated team approach and putting resources into prevention. The one front door approach has teams managing about 80% of patients out in the community and only 20%

coming forward for assessment. £1.6M of the Adult Social care budget is being spent on prevention.

In Somerset the HWBB acts as the main board for the STP. The executive team of the board meets monthly and with the whole board 6 times a year. In addition, the executive team reports into Cabinet on a monthly basis and STP progress is a regular item on the Health Scrutiny agenda thus giving a democratic input into the development of the STP.

[Read the full copy of the Somerset Sustainability and Transformation Plan \(STP\)](#)