



Report to Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

14th October 2020

Report of: Policy & Improvement Officer

Subject: Continence Services Scrutiny Working Group – Final Report

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Summary:

In October 2019, the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee started a piece of task and finish work looking at Continence Services in Sheffield, through the Continence Services Scrutiny Working Group. The working group was due to report its findings and recommendations to the March meeting of the Committee, however this was cancelled as we went into lockdown.

The group's draft final report, setting out the process the group went through, and its findings and recommendations, is now attached for the Committee's comment and approval.

Once approved, the report will be submitted to the relevant bodies for a response.

Type of item:

Reviewing of existing policy	x
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The Scrutiny Committee is being asked to:

- Consider, comment on, and approve the report of the Continence Services Working Group.
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Category of Report: OPEN

1. Introduction/Context

1.1 In October 2019, the Healthier Communities and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee started a piece of task and finish work looking at Continence Services in Sheffield, through the Continence Services Scrutiny Working Group. The Working Group set out to:

- Consider how current continence services are commissioned and delivered, how people access services and how care pathways work.
- Consider people's experience of incontinence and using continence services.
- Consider how services promote independence, dignity and fairness; particularly the number and quality of continence pads provided.
- Consider ways of improving prevention, and access to preventive services with particular reference to tackling health inequalities.

2. Continence Services Scrutiny Working Group Report

2.1 The working group was due to report its findings and recommendations to the March meeting of the Committee, however this was cancelled as we went into lockdown. The Working Group's report is now attached. The report sets out the process that the group undertook, as well as their findings and recommendations. Once approved, the report will be put to the relevant bodies for a response.

2.2 Summary of Findings and Recommendations.

The findings are grouped into four themes: Prevention, inequality, a person centred approach and communication. The recommendations are summarised below.

2.2.1 Prevention

- The Health Service should give consideration to taking continence prevention services out into communities, especially in areas where there is low take-up, and work with the Council and the VCF to develop approaches to delivering continence prevention services that are tailored to the needs of local communities.
- The Health Service should ensure that consistent messages about continence prevention come from all parts of the health service that come into contact with new mums – particularly health visitors and community midwives - and that they are equipped to support and signpost people to the appropriate services.
- The Health Service should consider how it could work to target pelvic floor education and raise continence awareness in schools by working with organisations such as Learn Sheffield, and Sheffield City Council.

2.2.2 **Inequality**

- The Health Service should consider how it can address inequalities in accessing continence services, and look at how working with the Council and the VCF, as well as through the developing Primary Care Networks – who are experts in what works in their local areas - could help.

2.2.3 **A Person Centred Approach**

- The Health Service should consider how it can resolve the tension medical service model which focusses on the clinical effectiveness of products, and the lived experience of service, users to ensure a person-centred approach.
- The Health Service should consider how it could encourage better feedback from service users, and use existing forums to gather evidence and intelligence to inform service development.

2.2.4 **Communication**

- The Health Service should consider how it can promote and incentivise take-up of continence product training amongst care providers.
- The Health Service should consider how it could improve people's experience of waiting for a continence assessment after being discharged from a hospital stay.
- The Health Service should consider what actions could be taken to raise awareness and tackle stigma around incontinence.

3. **Recommendation**

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to consider, comment on, and approve the report of the Continence Services Working Group.

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