

# Health and Wellbeing Board

**Tuesday 19 October 2021 at 4.00 p.m.**

**Venue: Town Hall, Lichfield Street, Walsall.**

**Present**  
(in person) Councillor S. Craddock (Chair)  
Councillor R. Martin  
Mrs K. Allward, Executive Director, Adult Social Care  
Mr. S. Gunther, Director of Public Health  
Mrs S. Rowe, Executive Director, Children's Services  
Ms C. Jennings, Housing Sector (substitute)  
Ms S. Samuels, West Midlands Fire Service

**Present**  
(Remote) Councillor I Robertson  
Mr. G. Griffiths-Dale, Managing Director, Clinical Commissioning Group  
Ms. M. Poonia, Chair, Healthwatch Walsall  
Chief Supt. P. Dolby, West Midlands Police  
Ms. M. Foster, Black Country Healthcare NHS Trust  
Mr M. Sharon Strategic Director Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust  
(Substitute)

**In Attendance:**  
(In Person) Mrs H. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

**In Attendance:**  
(Remote) Mrs A. Farrer, Healthwatch Walsall  
Mrs C. Williams, Specialist Project Manager, Public Health.  
Mr M. Dodd, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

## 751. **Welcome**

Councillor Craddock opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining the rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held. He said that he would consult all Board members on their views if a vote was required however, only those Board members present in the Council House were able to vote and that this would be done by a show of hands which would be recorded.

Members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage.

## 752. **Sir David Amess MP**

At this point, Councillor Craddock made the following statement.  
"Before the meeting starts, I wish to say that the tragic death of Sir David Amess MP in Leigh-on-Sea on Friday will have shocked and saddened us all. I would like to offer my sincere condolences to Sir David's family and also to his wider Houses of Parliament colleagues".

753 **Apologies and substitutions**

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of:  
Dr A. Rischie, Dr M. Lodhi, Ms F. Shanahan, Prof. David Loughton and Ms R. Davies.

Substitute members:

Ms C. Jennings for Ms F. Shanahan, Housing Sector representative  
Mr M. Sharon for Prof. David Loughton, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

754 **Minutes**

(a) **Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2021, copies having been sent to each member of the Board be approved and signed as a correct record.

(b) **Local Outbreak Engagement Board Sub-Committee**

The minutes of the meeting of the Local Outbreak Engagement Sub-Committee held on 6 July 2021 were submitted for information:

**Resolved**

That the minutes be noted.

755 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest

756 **Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

757 **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**

In attendance: Mrs E. Thomas, Public Health Intelligence Manager

Mrs Thomas presented a report which provided the emerging key findings of the Walsall Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

(see annexed)

Members discussed the report and comments included:

- West Midlands Police had identified crime involving under 25's as one of its key priorities however, there was a recognition that offenders needed support in addition to the victim.

- The JSNA was only as good as the information put in and members were urged to make sure that they had appropriate representation and expertise from their organisation on the Walsall Insight Group.
- The increase statistically on the numbers of missing children was not necessarily a negative trend, it meant that there was heightened awareness through more effective joint work and information sharing between West Midlands Police and the Council's Children's Services to support children and young people.

Mrs Thomas summed up and reiterated the need to ensure that the data was read and understood in context.

Councillor Craddock thanked Mrs Thomas and her team for their work and it was:

**Resolved:**

- 1) To note the emerging findings of the JSNA for the purpose of identifying priorities for the Walsall Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy.
- 2) To agree to further contributing to, and utilising Walsall's JSNA to help inform organisational priorities and action.

**758 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

The Director of Public Health, Mr S. Gunther, presented a report which set out the intention for the development of the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Walsall Plan) for 2022-25

(see annexed)

**Resolved:**

That the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees to the proposal for the approach to structure and format for the updated Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (Walsall Plan) for 2022-25

**759 Healthwatch Walsall (HWW) Annual Report**

Mrs M. Poonia and Mrs A. Farrer, Healthwatch Walsall, presented the Annual report of Healthwatch Walsall.

(see annexed)

Councillor Craddock said that he was pleased to see that one of the priorities was Young Peoples Mental Health. He also thanked the volunteers at Healthwatch Walsall for their support.

Mrs Poonia and Mrs Farrer responded to questions during which time members were advised:

- Healthwatch Walsall volunteers had been undertaking virtual visits to social care establishments during the pandemic however, they were intending to resume their Enter and View visits towards the latter part of the month having regard to protocols and guidance in place at the time.
- GP access had been a difficulty for HWW being mindful of significant digital exclusion cohorts however, the Board should be assured that HWW

worked actively with individual cases, linking closely with the CCG. The work to understand the findings relating to the increase in footfall to the Urgent Care Centre was being mobilised towards the end of the year and that the manager of the centre was being engaged to make arrangements to undertake a survey at the centre.

The Group Commander, WM Fire Service, Ms S. Samuels complemented the detailed work undertaken by HWW and said that the Fire Service were focussed on health outcomes so would be keen to connect with HWW to work better together in the future.

A discussion then ensued in relation to the Covid vaccination take-up. Members took the opportunity to stress the importance of vaccinations to protect the individual themselves and to lessen the wider societal impact. It was noted that the HWW quarterly newsletters replicated the CCG messages in this respect. Members were concerned about the low take-up from 12-15year olds and the importance of understanding the reasons for this. The use of the fire service 'brand' and stations as a different vaccination venue was offered, as was raising the issue with Walsall school governors at their collective meeting.

Councillor Craddock thanked the presenters for their report and it was:

**Resolved:**

- 1) To note the key messages from the Annual Report.
- 2) To thank the Healthwatch Walsall volunteers for their contribution
- 3) To note the work priorities for 2021/2022.

## 760 **Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy – progress update**

In attendance: Mrs A. Aitken, Senior Programme Development and commissioning manager, Health and Wellbeing.

Mrs Aitken presented a report, the purpose of which was to provide the Board with an update of the progress of the Walsall Multiagency Mental Wellbeing Strategy.

(see annexed)

Mrs Aitken responded to questions and points of clarification during which time she advised that to be successful in delivering the actions, it would need the multi-agency partners working closely together and aligning linked strategies to recognise mental wellbeing and incorporate into their organisations' policies, identifying impact using the mental wellbeing impact assessment tools. She confirmed that local residents would be able to contribute to the strategy and also the housing sector partners.

In response to a question from Councillor Craddock, Ch. Supt. Dolby advised that over 25% of everything the police deal with was mental health related. He said that the police were being increasingly called upon, particularly at night, to deal with issues requiring mental health support to both victims and criminals which required more expertise than the service was always able to provide at the time.

Members welcomed the production of the strategy as a preventive approach to improving mental wellbeing. Councillor Craddock reported that the Council's Cabinet was being asked to approve spend of a £1m of funding which would provide a momentum.

Members thanked Mrs Aitken for her presentation and it was

**Resolved**

- 1) That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the progress of the Walsall Multi-Agency Mental Wellbeing Strategy.
- 2) That the Health and Wellbeing support the approach to the development and completion of the Walsall Multi-Agency Mental Wellbeing Strategy.

**761. Walsall Together Progress Report**

In attendance Matthew Dodd, Director, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

Mr M. Sharon, Director, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust presented a report which provided an overview of the progress of the partnership since the previous report was presented in October 2020 and outlined the potential to establish assurance reporting arrangements through the Health and Wellbeing Board in the future.

(see annexed)

In responding to questions from members, Mr Dodd advised that the inequalities work was being fed into the public health team through professional and clinical leaders group linkages and that objective measures were being put in place to monitor impact. It was noted that Walsall Together should be taking its strategic direction from the Health and Wellbeing Board and this would be managed between the two bodies through those members who were involved in both boards. Mr Dodd confirmed that whilst it was the intention to strengthen the current governance arrangements through the alliance agreement, there would be no change to the Section 75 agreement.

Councillor Craddock thanked Mr Sharon and Mr Dodd and it was

**Resolved**

That the report be noted

**762 Better Care Fund – update on submission of plan for 2021/22**

In attendance: Ms S. Thompson, Better Care Fund Manager

Ms Thompson presented a report which updated on the recently published 2021/22 Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework and planning requirements to complete the local BCF plan for financial year 2021/22 in line with compliance.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Ms Thompson advised that in view of the lateness in publishing their requirements, dates and templates, the national BCF team had agreed to the plan being submitted to the regional team on 16 November in advance of the submission to the Health and Wellbeing Board in January although it would not receive national approval until it was confirmed that the Health and Wellbeing Board had agreed the plan. She confirmed that the report to the January meeting would explain the assurance mechanisms which included prior submission and agreement through the Joint Commissioning Committee.

### **Resolved**

- 1) That the Health and Wellbeing Board receives and notes requirements and responsibilities in relation to submission of the Walsall BCF 2021/22 plan.
- 2) That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes timescales for submission of the 2021/22 BCF plan, and acknowledge the completed plan will be presented in January 2022 for approval.

### **763 Work programme**

The work programme was submitted and noted. Councillor Craddock asked members to check when their reports were due for submission so that they comply with the relevant deadlines.

Date of next meeting – 25 January 2022.

The meeting terminated at 6.05.p.m.

Chair:

Date: