

Health and Wellbeing Board

Tuesday 26 January 2021 at 4.00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

Held in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020; and conducted according to the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings and those set out in the Council's Constitution.

Present: Councillor S. Craddock (Chair)
Dr. A. Rischie, Clinical Commissioning representative (Vice-Chair)
Councillor R. Martin
Councillor I. Robertson
Mr. S. Gunther, Director of Public Health
Ms T. Simcox, Adult Social Care
Ms. S. Rowe, Executive Director Children's Services
Mr. G. Griffiths-Dale, Managing Director, Clinical Commissioning Group
Ms. M. Poonia, Healthwatch Walsall
Chief Supt. A. Parsons, West Midlands Police
Ms. D. Lytton, One Walsall
Mr R. Beeken, Chief Executive, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
Ms. M. Foster, Black Country Healthcare NHS Trust
Ms. F. Shanahan, Housing Sector

In attendance: Mr. D. Fradgley, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

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

At this point, Councillor Craddock also welcomed Ms. C. Williams who would be helping with the development of the Board and resetting priorities in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Williams explained her role and said that she would be working closely with Board members on the governance and structure of the Board to ensure that the Board was fulfilling its statutory duties; and would be working on refreshing priorities in the Walsall Plan: Our Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

715 **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Wilson, Ms. J. Holt, Walsall College; Ms J. Malone, West Midlands Fire Service.

716 **Minutes**

(a) **Health and Wellbeing Board**

Councillor Craddock moved approval of the minutes of the meeting on 13 October 2020 which was put to the vote by way of a roll-call of Board members.

The motion subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2020, 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 on 6 October, 20 October, 16 November, 3 December 2020 were submitted for information:

(see annexed)

Councillor Craddock took the opportunity to thank the members of the Outbreak and Engagement Board for their work. He said that this had been a difficult time for everyone and recognised the work of the members of the board who had given up their time to work on the Outbreak Plan.

Resolved

That the minutes be noted.

718 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

At this point At this point, Councillor Craddock said that he would bring forward item 8 – a report on the Walsall Plan – Health and Wellbeing Board priority 2 – improving wellbeing and getting Walsall ‘on the move’ as the presenter had another diary commitment

720 **Walsall Plan – Health and Wellbeing Board Priorities 2019/20 – Priority 2: Improving Wellbeing – getting Walsall ‘on the move’.**

Mr R. Beeken, Chief Executive, Walsall Hospital’s NHS Trust presented a report which updated on progress on the delivery of this priority

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Mr Beeken said that this was a holding paper as the need to focus effort on managing the Covid-19 pandemic has been paramount and that being able to devote meaningful time to medium to long term improvement activity to drive forward the Walsall plan priorities in general had been difficult. He went on to explain the three key priorities of the workstream and the progress that had been made so far as possible and sought the thoughts and suggestions of Board members on how, in an immediate post-Covid environment, this could be taken forward.

The Board discussed the report during which time Ms D. Lytton advised that “Black Country Together” which One Walsall was part of, had received funding from Sport England for an Active Black Country Lifestyles project which included a co-ordinator to work with people who were least active. She invited Mr Beeken to link with that work.

Resolved (by assent)

That the report be noted

At this point, Mr R Beeken left the meeting

721 **Walsall Children’s and Adults Safeguarding Partnerships.**

The annual reports were submitted.

(see annexed)

The Chair of the Safeguarding Partnership Boards, Ms. L. Murphy responded to questions and points of clarification during which time she pointed out that these reports mainly comprised the period before the current Covid-19 pandemic however, work was still being done to assess the impact. It was noted that work was also being done as part of the place-based Incident Management Team to look at mental wellbeing of local residents however, sub-analysis was not yet completed in terms of impact on specific groups of people and communities.

In response to a question from the Director of Public Health about concerns around the lockdown and ensuring safeguarding oversight, Ms Murphy explained these reports only covered two weeks of the lockdown however, she assured the Board that both safeguarding partnerships had robust processes for monitoring and for referrals monitoring to be aware of harm that is unseen, unheard/told, or unknown, particularly around neglect of children, exploitation of adults, abuse, and consequences of self-isolation around self-neglect. With regard to the progress

towards adopting the Domestic Violence Strategy, Ms Murphy said that this workstream was led by the Community Safety partnership

Comments in response to further questions from the Board included:

- The Local Authority had robust arrangements in place to track missing children involving a range of partners and this was led by the Executive Director of Children's Services, Mrs S. Rowe.
- Homelessness was a function of the Council and that there was a good set up in Walsall to support the needs of that cohort. In addition, The Safeguarding Adults Partnership was meeting the following day which would pick up the issue of safeguarding homeless, helping to ensure that services were more accessible, and supporting them on vaccinations.
- In terms of awareness and understanding of acuity of abuse, an increase in referrals was not necessarily negative as it could be that people feel more confident coming forward. This linked to the earlier agenda item on the Family Safeguarding Model so that there was a preventative approach in addition to responding to those individuals being harmed
- A range of activity was taking place to support service users to have their voices heard and that Healthwatch Walsall would have a key role to play in this.

The Chairman thanked Ms Murphy for her reports.

722 **Family Safeguarding Model**

In attendance: Ms H. Billings, Family Safeguarding Programme Lead.

A report was submitted which appraised the Board of the Model, its context and current position.

(see annexed)

Ms Billings and Mrs S. Rowe presented the report and highlighted the opportunities that this provided across partnerships in Walsall. Ms. Rowe explained that Walsall was one of only a few authorities which had received funding from Government to develop and introduce this model however, this funding was time limited and that further discussion would be needed with partners about how this model was sustainable and how this model opened up opportunities for further funding bids to provide sustainability and support Resilient Communities.

Mrs Rowe and Ms Billings responded to questions from members during which time it was noted that although Walsall did have a high number of children in care per 10,000 of the population, this included a number of children who had left care but had not yet been formally recorded as such. In addition, the family safeguarding model would enable risk to be managed in a different way which could enable children to stay in families with appropriate support. Mrs Rowe

confirmed that detailed analysis was undertaken on ethnic representation to ensure that appropriate support for the different communities was provided.

Councillor Craddock asked members to share this report with their organisations to think about how this model could be supported.

723 **Walsall's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment**

In attendance: Ms E. Thomas Public Health intelligence manager.

Ms Thomas presented a report which updated on the progress of the ongoing JSNA refresh.

(see annexed)

Members noted that there was no 'target date' for the refresh as it was an ongoing process however, the current Covid-19 pandemic had exposed a number of impacts across the borough and that spending time looking at those impacts would be critical for the forthcoming year and for the longer term Walsall Plan.

Resolved (by assent)

- 1) To note the JSNA related material on the Walsall Council Insight Website page
- 2) To note the indicators on the Public Health Outcomes Framework 3x3 performance matrix.

724 **Better Care Fund 2020/21 Assurance Update**

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

Ms Thompson presented a report which provided an assurance update in relation to the 2020/21 Walsall Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund Programme.

(see annexed)

Ms Thompson confirmed that the Joint Commissioning Committee were happy with the progress of the programme and its governance and monitoring arrangements. Members were also assured that the offer was tailored and revised to meet the priorities of the current Covid-19 pandemic, learning from local experiences, regional and national peers.

Resolved (by assent)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board receives the update and is assured that the Walsall Better Care Fund programme (BCF) has been subject to review of

performance and spend during financial year 2020/21 in the absence of normal reporting requirements.

725 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Local Area Improvement programme

In attendance: Ms H. Kucharczyk, Head of Performance Improvement and Quality, Children's Services.

Ms Kucharczyk presented a report which provided assurance in relation to progress against the statement of action.

(see annexed)

Board members noted the report.

726 Black Country Strategic Child Death Overview Panel

In attendance: Ms E. Higdon, Senior Public Health Programme Development and Commissioning Manager, Children and Young People.

The Director of Public Health, Mr S. Gunther and Ms Higdon presented a report which updated on the progress of establishing a Black Country Strategic Child Death Overview Panel, outlined some of the challenges that remain and provided a summary of data from 2019-2020.

(see annexed)

Mr Gunther reminded members that the responsibility for oversight of child death review processes transferred from Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to local Health and Wellbeing Boards; the Black Country Child Death Overview Panel Strategic Business Partnership providing oversight on behalf of the partners, and also providing six monthly reports to Health and Wellbeing Boards.

During the ensuing discussion, members were advised that notwithstanding that numbers of unexpected deaths were above national average, numbers were still small and so were not attributable to any particular groups or communities. However, there were complex reasons and factors involved in each case. With regard to child suicides, members were advised that the numbers were again small across the Black Country, however, analysis was being carried out on children's mental health in Walsall and that Walsall would be contributing to a piece of work across the Black Country to look at specific changeable actions that could be taken to mitigate this.

Cllr Craddock urged people to look at the video on the link set out in the report which the Bham safeguarding partnership had recently released entitled "Who's in charge?" which highlighted the risks of alcohol consumption with caring for a young child and raised awareness of safer sleeping practices.

Resolved (by assent)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Notes the update and challenges
- 2) Accepts future reports from the Strategic Child Death Overview partnership any accompanying recommendations for learning
- 3) That Board members relate relevant learning from unexpected deaths to their organisations.

727 **Work programme**

The work programme was submitted and noted. Councillor Craddock mentioned that reports to the Board were being received in different formats and asked members to ensure that reports follow the agreed template which should provide purpose and clarity about how the Board could add value to the matter.

The meeting terminated at 5.25 p.m.

Chair:

Date: