

Health and Wellbeing Board

Tuesday 23 June 2020 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)
- Councillor R. Martin
- Councillor I. Robertson
- Miss K. Allward, Interim Executive Director, Adult Social Care
- Ms. S. Rowe, Executive Director Children's Services
- Mr. S. Gunther, Director of Public Health
- Dr. A. Rischie,] Clinical Commissioning
- Mr. G. Griffiths-Dale] Group representatives
- Ms. M. Poonia, Healthwatch Walsall
- Chief Supt. A. Parsons, West Midlands Police
- Ms. D. Lytton, One Walsall
- Ms. M. Foster, Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Ms. J. Holt, Walsall College
- Mr R. Beeken, Chief Executive, Walsall NHS Trust

In attendance: Mr M. Axcell, Black Country NHS Foundation Trust

693/20 Welcome

At this point, the Chairman 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.

He also welcomed new members Geraint Griffiths-Dale, Davina Lytton and Marsha Foster to the Board and thanked former members Paul Tulley and Mark Axcell.

All Board members introduced themselves.

694/20 Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor Wilson and Ms. F. Shanahan.

695/20 Substitutions

The Board noted that Ms. C. Jennings had been nominated as substitute for Ms. F. Shanahan, Housing Sector for this meeting however, Ms. Jennings had been unable to join the meeting due to technical difficulties despite a number of attempts during the meeting.

696/20 Minutes

Councillor Craddock moved approval of the minutes of the meeting on 3 March 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 3 March 2020 copies having been sent to each member of the Board be approved and signed as a correct record.

697/20 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

698/20 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items to be considered in private session.

699/20 Health and Wellbeing Board – Revised remit and development

Councillor Craddock introduced the report which proposed a revised remit for the Board based on previous discussions and views of the Board members. He advised that the report had been previously circulated to members in draft form in April and again in June and no adverse comments had been received.

(see annexed)

Mr. S. Gunther, Director of Public Health presented the report and highlighted the key areas of consideration. He responded to points of clarification in relation to governance matters and confirmed that any revisions to the remit of the Board would need the approval of the full Council. It was noted that the next Council meeting was being arranged for September.

Councillor Craddock moved the approval of the recommendations which was put to the vote by way of a roll-call of Board members and subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved (unanimously)

(1) To recommend to Council

- (a) That the frequency and start time of Board meetings for the Health and Wellbeing Board be amended to meet quarterly.
 - (b) That the commencement time for Board meetings be amended to 4.00 p.m.
 - (c) That the Remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board be amended as set out in Appendix 2
- (2) That the proposals to deliver a Development Plan for the Board as set out in Paragraph 3.6 be approved.

700/20 Covid-19: Local Outbreak Engagement Board

Councillor Craddock introduced the report setting out the arrangements to comply with the Government's expectation that every area in England should create a Local Authority member-led Outbreak and Engagement Board to provide political ownership and public-facing engagement and communications for outbreak response. He said that it is proposed to set up a sub-committee of the Board to act as that engagement Board so that it could be focused, flexible and responsive for this work rather than increase the number of whole Board meetings.

(see annexed)

Mr. S. Gunther, Director of Public Health presented the report in detail. He thanked everyone involved in helping to shape and develop the outbreak management plan and setting up the associated governance structures. Mr Gunther confirmed that all members of the board had received an updated plan that day which could also be found on the Council's website.

In response to questions, Mr Gunther advised that the plan was an iterative process and that his team would be working together with health partners and the community and voluntary sector to make sure the necessary arrangements were in place to manage any outbreaks. He said that data feeds were being received from Public Health England to inform the local Test Trace and Isolate response and that extra staff had been employed to manage this. In respect of data sharing with GPs, Mr Gunther said that he was exploring how best to share intelligence across the borough having regard to information governance.

Mr Gunter also advised that businesses, schools and care homes had been e-mailed and letters sent offering information support and guidance; and that regulatory services enforcement officers, together with police colleagues, were visiting local businesses to offer guidance. With regard to Care Homes, the Interim Executive Director, Adult social Care, advised that every care home in Walsall was contacted every day by the service and any suspected outbreaks were followed up by Public Health teams.

Councillor Craddock moved the approval of the recommendations which was put to the vote by way of a roll-call of Board members and subsequently declared carried and it was:

Resolved (unanimously)

- (1) That the Cabinet report setting out arrangements for the Walsall Local Outbreak Plan Governance and Delivery arrangements, attached at Appendix A, be noted.
- (2) That the Local Outbreak Plan attached at Appendix B, as updated and circulated that day be noted.
- (3) That a sub-committee of the Health and Wellbeing Board be established to act as the Local Outbreak Engagement Board with the remit as set out in Appendix C.

701/20 Better Care Fund Quarter 4

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

Councillor Craddock introduced the Quarter 4 performance report with regard to the delivery of the Better Care Fund Plan:

(see annexed)

Ms. Thompson explained the report in detail. In presenting the report, she advised that the National Better Care Fund Board had previously given a submission deadline of 5 June 2020 however, due to the current pandemic, this had been paused and a revised deadline awaited.

Ms K. Allward emphasised the benefit of the investments previously made through the Better Care fund prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, including the intermediate care service which had stood Walsall in good stead when having to rapidly discharge patients from hospital to increase capacity; and also the quality and care team which had enabled the Council to support the care homes with capacity, advice and staff absences. She was keen to impart this good news and thank the Board for its decisions to invest in these services.

In response to questions around the capacity to deal with the backlog of admissions to hospital and the capacity issues with the onset of winter pressures, Mr R. Beeken said that this was a complex picture of predicting underlying chronic demands on the service and at the same time determining what could be delivered on space, workforce, and health and care financial availability. He added that at present, the Manor Hospital was managing to restore most of the elective work but not all and was looking to deliver best-in-class day case services to free up overnight beds, however he stressed that it would be many months before the levels were back to those prior to the pandemic. Mr Beeken concurred with Ms. Allward in that the investments in the immediate care service had enabled the winter service pressures to be less, thereby enabling the hospital to better cope with the initial wave of Covid admissions.

With regard to mental health services, the Director of the Black Country NHS Foundation Trust, Mr Axcell, advised that the Mental Health service had managed reasonably well through the initial phase of the pandemic and had been able to offer services to the hospital, Adult Social Care and to nursing homes. In addition he said that modelling of the next wave of mental health demands had commenced which was anticipated to highlight demand around social isolation, economy and education. He said that he would share information with GPs through Walsall Together. Ms Allward emphasised that the support to care homes in Walsall had been recognised as best practice both regionally and by the Care Quality Commission and she thanked Mr Axcell for his contribution to the mental health side of this.

In answer to a question around any changes to suicide statistics, the Board was advised that incidents continued to be monitored closely and no spikes had been seen at present as a result of the pandemic. It was noted that this would be managed through the Suicide Prevention Group. It was also noted that the Black Country had a relatively low level of suicides compared to the rest of the country.

The Interim Director of One Walsall, Ms. D. Lytton reminded the Board of the role that the voluntary sector could play in working with statutory organisations to offer early intervention and prevention work in respect of mental health matters.

Councillor Craddock thanked everyone for their contribution and it was:

Resolved (by assent)

That the Better Care Fund Quarter 4 return be received.

702/20 Delay in production of statutory work: Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Walsall Plan and Board developments

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

Councillor Craddock introduced the report which explained the current position with regard to a number of pieces of statutory work which were scheduled to be reported to the Board this year but which had been postponed. Ms. Thomas advised that the Department for Health and Social Care had suspended the review of the PNA for 12 months.

Resolved (by assent)

- (1) That the Board note the update from the Department of Health and Social Care regarding the suspension for the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment to be published but be assured that timely supplementary statements will continue to be published on the Council website in response to local changes and pharmaceutical needs during this time.
- (2) That the Board note the delay in a refresh of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and that some planning work has commenced to date.

- (3) That the Board note that as a result of the JSNA postponement, current and future Walsall Plan priorities will not all be progressed as previously expected.
- (4) That the Board note that Board development plans will be delayed.

703/20 **Work programme**

The work programme was submitted:

(see annexed)

Councillor Craddock introduced the current work programme. He said that it would need to be refreshed in light of the national situation with regard to the Covid-19 pandemic and that a Board Development Session would be arranged in September to discuss this further. In this respect, Councillor Craddock advised that the Local Government Association had produced guidance on Board reset meetings and what the Board may focus on as a result of Covid-19 in terms of its priorities, post-emergency phase, emerging issues, what positives had come out of the emergency and what could be improved.

Resolved (by assent)

That the work programme be noted.

The meeting terminated at 5.03 p.m.

Chair:

Date: