

Health and Wellbeing Board

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 6 December 2022 in a conference room at the Council House, Walsall at 4.30pm

Present
(in person)

Councillor G. Flint (Chair)
Councillor Elson
Councillor Nawaz
Councillor Pedley
Mr. S. Gunther, Director of Public Health
Ms R. Davies, Walsall College
Ch. Supt. Dolby, West Midlands Police
Ms S. Kelly, Children's Services Director of Access and Inclusion
Ms V. Hines, Chief Executive One Walsall

Present
(Remote)

Mr T. Meadows, Adult Social Care (Substitute)
Ms. M. Poonia, Chair, Healthwatch Walsall
Ms F. Shanahan, Walsall Housing Sector
Ms K. Kaur, Black Country Healthcare Foundation Trust (substitute)
Geraint Griffiths Dale, Managing Director, Integrated Care Board.

In Attendance:
(In Person)

Mr D. Benge, One Walsall (supporting Ms Hines)
Mrs H. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

805 Welcome

Councillor Flint 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.

He 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.

Introductions took place and a quorum of members present in-person was established.

806 Apologies and substitutions

Apologies for absence were received from Dr Rischie, Vice-Chair and:
Mrs K. Allward. Substitute: Mr T. Meadows
Mrs S. Rowe. Substitute: Ms S. Kelly
Ms M. Foster. Substitute: Ms K. Kaur

Permanent Change in Membership:
Ms V. Hines – Chief Officer for One Walsall, replacing Ms. S. Taylor.

807 Minutes

Resolved

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2022, a copy having been sent to each member of the Board be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

808 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest

809 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985

There were no items to be considered in private session.

At this point, the Chair brought forward item 8. Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report.

Assurance item:

810 Walsall Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report

In attendance for this item: Ms S. Hodges, Independent Chair, Safeguarding Partnership

Ms Hodges presented a report which provided the highlights of the Walsall Safeguarding Children's and Walsall Safeguarding Adults Annual reports.

(see annexed)

A lengthy discussion took place during which time, comments included:

- A concern around the increase in safeguarding numbers and the importance of raising awareness of support services, effective communication and signposting. Work was being done to check adequacy and to undertake a self-assessment against that inspection criteria.

- The Council's Cabinet was being asked to continue to support early help in the Walsall Council Family Safeguarding model which was important in getting the help to those in need earlier in the process.
- Individual agencies were understood to consider Inequalities between different areas of the borough, and how they were measured and addressed, as part of their service delivery mechanisms.
- Work was being done in conjunction with the Safer Walsall Partnership to consider how to challenge relevant agencies to address the high proportion of people from a minority ethnic background in the criminal justice system.
- The rate of in hospital patient admissions for mental health had fallen behind the national and regional average other authorities. In the children's world, there had been a significant increase in the challenging issues and consequently an audit was being undertaken to look and identify these earlier on. Self-reported well-being was low in the borough and building resilience in communities was a key component of the Mental Health Strategy. Emphasis was also being placed on crisis alternatives rather than hospital admissions. Young people with mental health needed a heightened focus and support so that they become healthy adults.

The Chair thanked Ms Hodges for her report and presentation.

Resolved:

- 1) That the content of the Walsall Safeguarding Children's Partnership Annual Review of Effectiveness and the Walsall Safeguarding Adults Board Annual report be noted
- 2) That the Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board consider, as part of future business, any opportunities for collaboration on joint issues.

Discussion/Decision item:

811 Black Country Integrated Care Board (ICB) – Five Year Forward Plan

The Walsall ICB Managing Director, Mr G. Griffiths-Dale presented a briefing note which updated the Board on the development of an ICB five-year Joint Forward Plan (JFP)

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Mr Griffiths-Dale said that the reporting to the Health and Wellbeing Board had been delayed due to changes to the planning footprint however, this is now a much more joined up Black Country approach with a more integrated plan which was being worked on in conjunction with Walsall Together. He pointed out that further guidance was awaited and that the final draft would be consulted upon during January, and that he would ensure that Whg were engaged in this.

It was suggested that a Health and Wellbeing Board informal workshop be arranged for January in order to discuss the draft plan in detail in advance of the final plan being submitted to the Board at its meeting in March for approval.

The Chair thanked Mr Griffiths-Dale for the progress report. He said that an informal workshop was being arranged for Health and Wellbeing Board members to consider the proposals in more detail before agreeing the final plan at the next meeting.

Assurance items:

812 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)Improvement Programme

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

The Children's Services Director for Access and Inclusion, Ms S. Kelly presented a report which updated on the delivery of the SEND Local Area Improvement Programme.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Ms Kelly advised that a new SEND inspection framework had been redeveloped by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission and had now been launched. She said that a self-evaluation against the new inspection framework would be developed and a further report submitted to the Board in due course.

A discussion took place, during which time, the representative of the Black Country Healthcare Foundation Trust, Ms K. Kaur, undertook to check the waiting times for referrals to the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (Camhs) with regard to both routine and crisis cases. Members were keen for this to be the focus of monitoring. Members were advised that self-evaluation was already ongoing and also the wider support needed as a result of an increase in Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) at a younger age.

Ms Higdon advised that a robust needs assessment was about to commence looking at the emotional health and wellbeing in young people to keep them emotionally strong and resilient, particularly those young people with special educational needs.

Also during the discussion, the relevant services were urged to consider the parents and carers of young people suffering from mental ill-health as navigating the system was a real challenge for those carers, particularly during transition from children to adult services.

Following on from this, with regard to the importance of Education Psychologists (EP) and communication with parents on the local offer, Ms Kelly stressed that there was a national shortage of education psychologists however, Walsall had

recently been able to recruit a Principal EP who was currently in the process of building a new team to increase capacity, addressing the barriers to recruitment such as pay in relation to neighbouring authorities.

With regard to the local offer, Ms Kelly advised that it was the council's responsibility to ensure that the vehicle for the local offer, a signposting website, was in place and that an officer had recently been recruited for that purpose. She stressed however, that it was the responsibility of the partners not the council to input into the local offer vehicle.

A vote was taken amongst those members present in the room following which it was:

Resolved:

- 1) That the Board confirms:
 - a) That it is assured that there are robust plans in place to achieve improvement in the two areas of concern that were found not to have yet made sufficient progress at the SEND inspection.
 - b) That it is satisfied with the robustness of the governance arrangements for the ongoing monitoring of SEND Improvement and the identification of impact
 - c) That it is assured by the plans to develop a wider robust SEND improvement plan over the next three months.
- 2) That a further progress report be submitted to the Board in 6 months time.

813 Healthwatch Walsall Annual Report

In attendance: Ms A. Farrer, Manager, Healthwatch Walsall

Ms Farrer and Ms Poonia presented the Annual Report for 2021/2022

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Ms Poonia drew attention to the numbers of people engaged during the year which she said had been over 6,000 which she said was significant in ensuring that the voice of local services users was heard.

A discussion took place, during which time The Director of Public Health, Mr S. Gunther, said that as Chair of the clinical and professional leadership group of Walsall Together, the findings of the pathway development had been crucial in informing the priorities of Walsall Together. He added that the extent of engagement undertaken by Healthwatch Walsall regarding the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, which had been the most that had ever been received, had helped to shape the recommendations taken forward with partners. In summary he said that these were two key pieces of work being reported to the right places

having an impact on the care and support of patients. In response to a question regarding the learning from the outcome of consultation, and how it had made a difference, members noted that Healthwatch Walsall were represented on a number of strategic boards to inform and influence decision making. Ms Poonia said that there were other examples and stories which she could share if requested.

Resolved:

- 1) That the key messages and the contribution made by Healthwatch Walsall Volunteers be noted
- 2) That the work priorities for 2022/23 be noted

Information Items

814 Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy

In attendance: Ms C. Williams, Public Health Specialist Advisor

The final published strategy was submitted for information

(see annexed)

Members noted that the strategy was approved at the last meeting and that this was the final version being published, which was now live and could be found on the Council's website.

815 Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP)

In attendance for this item : Dr M. Bashir, Walsall Healthcare Trust and Ms E. Higdon, Public Health Senior Programme Development Manager for Children and Young People.

Dr Bashir, lead for CDOP in Walsall, presented a report which updated on the activity of the Panel and which outlined the challenges in Walsall.

(see annexed)

The Director of Public Health, Mr S. Gunther pointed out three key areas which were the main drivers which included usage of tobacco, safe sleeping being a key programme and thirdly, alcohol and drugs substance misuse. He assured the Board that linkages were being made with the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

services with further work next year on maternity and smoking, and safe sleeping, linking to the Children's alliance and family hubs work.

Resolved:

- 1) To note the report
- 2) To agree to accept future reports and any accompanying recommendations for learning from the Strategic Child Death Overview Partnership
- 3) To agree to relate relevant learning and suggested recommendations in points 5.3 to 5.9, 6.1 & 6.2 to their organisations/directorates and implement these changes accordingly.

816 Work programme

The work programme was noted. The Chair reminded members to take note of the deadlines for reports to be submitted for publication which had previously been circulated to Board members.

Date of next meeting – 21 March 2022.

The meeting terminated at 5.45 p.m

Chair:

Date: