



Health & Wellbeing  
Board

2022/23 Annual Report

March 2023

# Message from the Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board

Welcome to the 2022/23 Health & Wellbeing Board Report.

This Report is the first update on the delivery of the three priorities agreed in the [Walsall Joint Local Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-25](#):

- (i) Mental Health and Wellbeing
- (ii) Children and Young People
- (iii) Digital Footprint / Approach

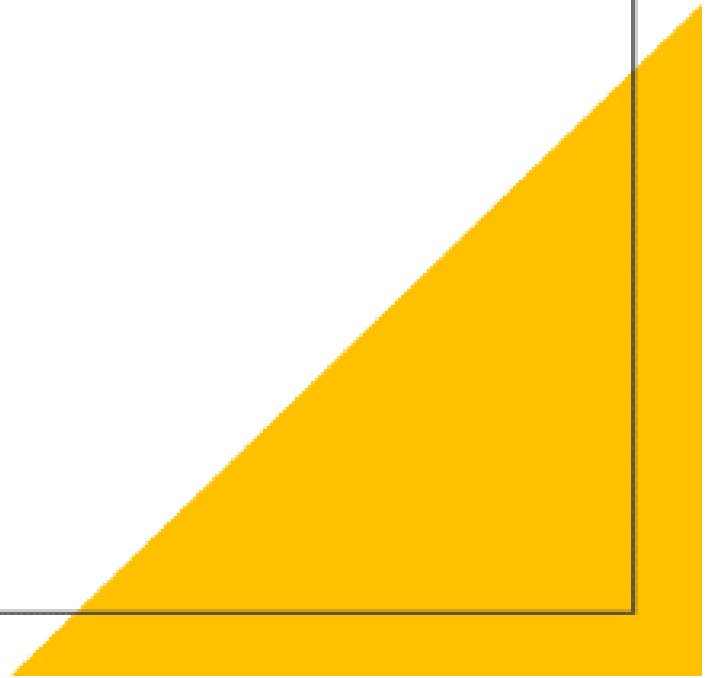
Our Board membership covers all aspects of service and, therefore, will have their own specific approach to these priorities; but all are united that the focus is on reducing inequalities and make the most of potential.

Each member has submitted an update covering four points:

- How the priorities have been approached this year
- What challenges have been identified
- What partnerships and developments have been identified
- Plans for 2023/2024



# Members' Update 2022/23



**How  
members  
have  
approached  
the priorities  
this year**



## Integrated Care Board

The Walsall Together programme launched in 2016, has brought together the providers and commissioners across Walsall to deliver three key aims:

- Improving health and wellbeing outcomes for the Walsall population.
- Improving care and quality standards in the provision of care.
- Meeting the statutory financial duties of all partner organisations.

A tiered Operating Model has been co-developed with an increased level of focus on services outside of the acute setting, to move the system towards a population management orientated model with a clear focus on prevention and early intervention.

## Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

Work has been undertaken within Walsall Together to ensure the priority areas have sufficient focus and aligned governance for assurance/oversight e.g.:

- Alignment of mental wellbeing strategy and community mental health transformation, retaining clear accountability to the Health & Wellbeing Board for mental wellbeing
- Establishment of Family Hubs programme within the governance of the WT transformation programme; membership at the Children & Young People Strategic Alliance

Continued support to the implementation of an Integrated Shared Care Record across the Black Country

## One Walsall

### Children & Young People

During the year, the Voluntary and Community sector has had significant involvement in the delivery of holiday activity and food schemes (HAF)

The sector has played and continues to play an active role in the work to develop the Family Hubs programme.

### Mental wellbeing

The sector has been involved in scoping out a pathway to support mental health and wellbeing. The sector has also been involved in research on green social prescribing, which has a mental health component.

### Digital approach

One Walsall worked with Health, helping to distribute laptops from the ICS scheme to those in digital poverty.

VCSE organisations are involved in the implementation of the Walsall Connected programme.

*The aims are to level up on social and quality of life issues and outlines the intention to invest in the Mental and Physical Wellbeing of residents.*

[ICB]

## West Midlands Fire Service

### Children and Young People:

WMFS will continue to provide interventions for referred children and young people who set fires, accepting and assessing referrals from partner agencies.

Sparks education sessions for Year 4 children will be available to Primary Schools across the Borough delivered by operational crews locally.

Schools have access to booking visits to our Safe side Education Centre subject to admission costs.

Directed delivery into Secondary schools for Year 8 and Year 10 safety sessions themed around Arson and Your Choice on the Road.

A fixed term course Fire Cadet unit providing opportunities and accreditation based at Aldridge Fire Station.

### Mental wellbeing:

Safe and Well Pathways – We continue to explore pathways with agencies/organisations that can give us access to those with mental health issues; and those who are over 60.

## Housing Sector

**Mental wellbeing:** WHG have continued to deliver the H Factor Strategy (Health Hope Happiness). Our USP is the employment of people with lived experience to work within their own communities as Champions. This year to combat loneliness and isolation WHG Kindness Champions have used random acts of kindness as a currency to connect with people and begin the cycle of behaviour change. Champions have used their day to day connections, incentives and hooks, coaching support, and opportunities to try new things to engage disadvantaged people who are lonely or isolated. To date Kindness Champions have coordinated 3,000 random acts of kindness, hosted 5 Kindness pop up shops, coordinated an on line initiative ( Kindness Rocks ) distributed Kindness Bags containing essential food and toiletries and provided digital equipment and training to enable people to access e health services allowing them to self-care. Over 90% of participants mental wellbeing scores have improved (WEMWBS)

## West Midlands Police

### Children and Young People:

Walsall Police have installed 4 new established posts for Schools and Intervention Officers, assigned to each of the 20 secondary schools in the Borough. The role of the SIP Officer is to work in partnership with key stakeholders within their locality to operationalise co-ordinated early intervention and embed our trauma informed policing as part of a holistic and structured intervention plan for children and young people. Interventions will be data led and can be on an individual level (where the most appropriate agency can also lead on the completion of an *Early Help Assessment*) or as a group intervention and/or prevention session. The completion of an Early Help Assessment supports a collaborative approach with a young person for a more formal arrangement, with measurable impact of intervention. Being part of a multi-agency team will enable the SIP to consider thresholds and pathways for involvement.

Responsibility for seasonal (or priority led) safety intervention inputs within schools, including Drugs, Criminal Exploitation, Personal Safety and Knife Crime; in line with Child Centred Policing and PHSE guidance packs.

### Mental Wellbeing:

WMP representative at multi-agency meetings centred on vulnerable pupils, to share information and assist in *Early Help Assessments* /CASS and exploitation tool submissions and further interventions (Police & Schools Panels/Sharing Panels/SEND - special education needs disabilities).

Involvement in exclusion/managed move initial risk meetings to share appropriate information and intelligence linked to the safeguarding of the incoming and outgoing students into new settings.

Assist and Support schools with SEND plans and any risk/vulnerability management of students attending AP's.

*“To reduce risk and to continue to make the West Midlands safer stronger and healthier.” WMFS*

**Mental health and wellbeing** priorities this year have been achieved partly through the delivery of the 1 year Better Mental Health (BMH) programme, which included the following projects:

- Walsall Community Bereavement Support, which was extended and is currently under tender evaluation for a new 3-year contract.
- Community Counselling which on completion was tendered for an additional 3 years and is now in contract with Mustard Seed
- Mental Health and Wellbeing Training for Leaders and Supervisors was delivered, and a new suicide prevention and mental wellbeing training contract has been tendered and is currently at award stage.
- 'Thrive' Wellbeing Mobile Unit was successfully delivered and was extended for an additional year. A new 2-year contract is currently at the tender evaluation stage.

<https://go.walsall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/health-and-wellbeing/get-support-your-wellbeing>

- The 'No Wrong Door' network developed through the BMH funding has been integrated into the Community mental health service contract delivered by Rethink.

Small grant funded projects delivered: Invention - Friends Together, Mind Kind Community Garden, Young Peoples Project, and Men's Project, Mental Wellbeing Walsall Women's Project, Walsall Carers (Young Carers, Women's Empowering and Male Carers), Women Outreach - Let's Get Moving, Walsall Creative Factory Peer Buddying Wellbeing

**Walsall Mental Health Service information hub** has been updated and discussions are afoot about linking this information hub with a few directories within the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Young People's Positive Outcomes Project and the developing Walsall Together Wellbeing directory and framework.

<https://www.rethink.org/media/6008/information-hub-2023.pdf>

**Young People: The Positive Outcomes Project (POP)**, which has been co-produced and designed by and for young adults aged 16-25 in Walsall, was launched in October 2022. The service mentors' young adults through challenges, to develop coping mechanisms, employability skills, cooking skills and signpost to specialist help. POP also hosts an online directory for young people on a range of topics.

<https://popwalsall.co.uk/>

*All public mental health and wellbeing commissioned services encourage the uptake of 8 Steps to Wellbeing plans.*

A range of other multiagency partners have also committed to delivering these wellbeing plans. <https://go.walsall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/health-and-wellbeing/get-support-your-wellbeing>

**Community mental wellbeing events** have been successfully delivered throughout February to improve mental wellbeing through access to information and support. These events took place at different venues, Manor Farm Community Association, Walsall Arena & Arts Centre, and Willenhall CHART Centre. There was also a heart health event held at Saddlers centre where mental wellbeing awareness was raised,

### Walsall College Response

#### Mental wellbeing

Like much of the FE Sector across the country, Walsall College has seen a significant increase in the number of our students who are presenting with significant mental health challenges. *As part of our Personal Development programme, we have increased the focus on Health and Wellbeing.* This ensures targeted and protected time within the curriculum to deliver sessions, activities, and events to support the promotion of positive mental health and resilience. The College has a range of staff who support this including Pastoral Support Officers, Specialist Mentors, Counsellors, and Personal Development Tutors who are at the front line delivering the support to students.

#### Digital Approach

One of our keys 7 Pledges is our commitment to improving digital access and inclusion for our students and the wider community. All curriculum areas are required to outline their intent to embed digital skills development, this includes replicating the most up to date digital technologies across all sectors. Our Essential Skills and Community Learning provision has an extensive digital offer to support and upskill those who have low level digital literacy skills. This includes delivery of 'introduction' courses in various community locations to residents as well as Essential Digital Skills Qualifications being delivered at our Wise more and Hawbush Campuses. The programmes include the use of various devices, online safety and how digital skills can improve independence and inclusion.

The Children and Young People Strategic Alliance recognises that “**today's children are upstream adults**” and is driven through a “**Children First**” vision to create a collaborative space critical to developing new ways of thinking and new ways of working driven by the voice of children, young people, and their families.

Partners as part of the Alliance have signed up to working to one moral purpose:

*“To regularly consider how the lived experience of children and young people in Walsall can be improved.”*

There have been key pieces of engagement work undertaken with children and young people growing up in Walsall providing the Alliance with valuable and rich qualitative information to understand children's lived experience and the things Walsall Alliance need to consider in ensuring all children in Walsall can be happy, healthy, safe, and learning well. The key pieces of work were:

- ✓ An ethnographic Study on 'growing up in Walsall' – commissioned by Public Health - November 2020
- ✓ Big Conversation – Summer Daily Conversations programme – undertaking by Children's Services during Summer 2021.
- ✓ The Big Ask/ The Big Answer undertaken by the children commissioner for England – September 2021
- ✓ We are Walsall 2040 – 2022
- ✓ Regular inviting children and young people stories to the Board

The focus of the Healthy Child Programme in 2022/23 has been to ensure that the Healthy Child Programme mandated visits can continue in those children who are identified as targeted or specialist and that the service can ensure that all children can be seen at their new birth visit. An increased skill mix model and grow your own Health Visiting team is being built.

Dad pad work being taken forward to ensure fathers are better supported building on work already in place through CSC Vulnerable Parent team and WHT HCP team.

*Food for life healthy eating programme in 51 primary schools and 34 early years settings has been extended for another year while a population healthy eating programme is developed.*

Supporting the Mental Health of young people is a growing issue. A partnership led by Walsall Intelligence Group is taking forward a Children and Young people emotional health and wellbeing needs assessment which will feed into a Walsall strategy. This is supported by the Walsall CYP Emotional Health and Wellbeing Partnership Strategy group.

Performance in Education working in all Walsall secondary schools to reach year 8s and 9s around drug and alcohol education.

Beat the Streets interactive game coming to Walsall promoting community activity in the South and West of Walsall



### Mental wellbeing

Young Person Transition: In collaboration with Healthwatch Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton a joint piece of work was undertaken around the experiences of young people in transition between young person's mental health services and adult mental health services. Focus groups held with up to 10 attendees at each group. 10 individual interviews were undertaken from each Healthwatch area. Online surveys advertised widely.

Male Suicide: In April 2022 work commenced around male suicide with the scope of raising the attention of men in the 35 – 55 year age range from within the East 2 Primary Care Network area to the risks and issues of male suicide. The work was in the form of a campaign to raise awareness and inform people about the support and help that is available. Final poster developed and distributed to many businesses in Walsall. Poster very well received from businesses with commitment given to displaying these in prominent and well used areas within their working environment.

World Mental Health Day 10 October 2022: Young person focus group held on World Mental Health Day to hear of challenges being faced. Report from session distributed to partners.

**Digital approach:** Following on from work carried out previously, which involved access to primary care and digital exclusion undertaken by Engaging Communities Solutions across their network of Healthwatch contracts, we will continue to undertake our statutory duties by a hybrid approach. From November 2022 Healthwatch Walsall mobilised the National Adult Social Care Survey, which is being carried out by digital and face to face engagement. Digital engagement sessions recommenced in February 2023 to learn about issues being faced on a variety of topics. (First Friday Focus).

**Children and young people:** Youth Engagement Officer recruited with a brief to recruit 10 young volunteers to obtain intelligence from young people within the Borough about health and social care services. We worked with young people and discussed what could be done to make services better for them. They concluded that communication barriers are what caused a lot of the issues they had faced.

*With a young person's perspective, a communications survey was put together, the questions in this survey have been designed by young people for young people.*

We will use this survey to show how professionals could be communicating better with young people and each other regarding a young person's health and well-being. Some young volunteers have liaised with their schools and Head of Year, and they have agreed to let the volunteers have some time to engage with the students to do some research within the schools using our survey.

Our plan is to use the data from recent projects to highlight what services can do to make themselves more accessible to young people. We hope to create a better awareness around services available so young people can understand the options that are available to them when they are unwell. We have had a positive increase in activity, we now engage with 47% more young people through social media compared to previously. Our volunteers are sharing the Youth Healthwatch message and telling their friends and family who Healthwatch are and what we are about.

## Public Health – Health Improvement

### Mental Wellbeing

- Walsall Together have agreed two Public Health led mandates to develop:
  - (1) Wellbeing Outcomes framework (WOF) - The project is mapping provision that supports positive wellbeing and developing a consistent set of wellbeing measures for Walsall.
  - (2) Social Prescribing – a task and finish group is streamlining social prescribing to ensure support across providers operates as a system rather than isolated interventions.
- One You Walsall has re-established its standard level of provision following the pandemic. 4153 referrals have been received between May and October 2022 (1576 in 2021). Average mental wellbeing score (measured through WHO-5 validated questionnaire) for those that completed targeted support increased from 51.3 at assessment, to 63.6 at 12 weeks and 67.0 at 26 weeks.
- Public Health successfully bid to conduct a joint research project with Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Teams. This is exploring barriers and facilitators for increasing engagement with local employers, *shaping the offer for supporting employee physical health and mental wellbeing in Walsall.*

**Digital Approach:** Digital Stop Smoking App has been tendered and provider identified. The 12-month pilot will complement existing face-to-face support to enable choice to those residents that prefer digital based support.

**Mental Wellbeing:** A strategy for reducing inequalities in Walsall through systematic consideration in our policy and strategy development processes is being developed.

Health in all policies will be used as a tool to support this work, which has a focus on equity of outcomes for both physical and mental health/wellbeing.

### **Children and young people:**

- The Alcohol and Drug strategy developed under the Combatting Alcohol & Drugs Misuse Partnership board includes work to strengthen and develop the dual diagnosis pathways as well as developing counselling capacity in treatment services. *Under the strategy there will be further strengthening of mental health referral pathways along with work to strengthen referral and engagement of young people and increase awareness of the harms and risks related to substance misuse.*

Alcohol and drug services have strengthened work with Walsall College and other Walsall schools/alternative education centres to support students and those in transition from young person to adult services through additional drop-in surgeries and raising awareness.

- The Positives Outcomes Project (POP) launched in October 2022 to deliver wellbeing support and mentoring to Young People (16-25) across Walsall. With an initial hub in Bloxwich, five more hubs are planned with the second having just opened at the Saddler Centre. These in-person sites are targeted to be local to the people who need them the most to provide accessible support.

### **Digital Approach:**

The Wellbeing Outcomes Framework workstream includes the development of a directory of wellbeing services/assets, which will be made available digitally to residents.

### **Mental Wellbeing**

Outbreak management in schools continues to be carried out through the PH on-call service Monday to Friday 0900-1700hrs. Bespoke IPC input given, and escalation done to partners accordingly, this way the children's schooling goes on and without interruption.

Assisted the Walsall TB team in TB screening in a secondary school in Walsall that had a potential outbreak in October 2023. Fortunately the tests all came back negative.

Working with Vaccination UK, we have met with the headteachers on ways to improve uptake of vaccinations in children at schools. This is especially done through getting into parent's meetings facilitated by head teachers as well to get consent to immunisations.

We have worked with our partners and taken a lead on the management of scabies outbreak in the asylum seekers in a hotel in Walsall. Bespoke IPC guidance given; IPC support visits were conducted by us assisted by ICB.

Considering monkeypox, the IPC team developed an IPC audit tool for the adult sex establishments. We have visited two MSM of these premises to support with their IPC. This was conducted in partnership with our Environmental health and sexual health colleagues.

Improving MMR uptake through pilot programme funded by the ICB. This work is underway to address Health inequalities in the Borough.

*Improving vaccination uptake among pregnant mothers including teenage and pregnancy in Walsall through use of Flu fairies from October through to end of Feb 2023.* Report will be shared shortly.

### **Digital Approach:**

IPC annual audit tool is currently being developed to be used in care homes, which will include children's care homes.

### Digital Provision

Walsall's SRH services in the Borough were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Government's national and regional lockdowns and social and physical distancing measures. Walsall Public Health looked for innovative ways of working to ensure early diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STI's) continued. This offered the opportunity to modernise some approaches of delivery, including the offer of online consultations, and a wider online offer for STI testing and treatment.

In response to the Living with COVID-19 plan, Walsall's integrated sexual health service (WiSH) now offers a blended service of face-to-face and telephone triage appointments. They also commission the STI online/self-testing service for the Borough, hosted by PreventX.

The service allows residents who feel they may be at risk of an STI but have no symptoms, to order a STI and HIV postal testing kit, through an online ordering system. A safeguarding assessment is undertaken for those aged under 16 years. The test kit arrives in a plain envelope. and will contain everything a person needs to provide the required samples for testing. For some STI's, including Chlamydia, if the test is positive, treatment will be available via the postal service.

*Public Health are continuing their work on developing a whole system approach to SRH in the Borough, this includes ensuring treatment services become more accessible, manage demand, ensure value for money and be resilient to emerging trends and outbreaks.*

Residents can [order their testing kit online through the WiSH service](#)

### Children and Young People

Sexual Health : Wellbeing -

- We commission Street Teams - provide support to Vulnerable Young People (risk of exploitation , LGBTQ concerns , radicalisation) identified through their attendance at Walsall Sexual Health service in Walsall.

Young People –

- Dedicated sexual health clinics, specific for young people, deliver advice and management for STIs and contraception choice , reducing stigma, discrimination  
Offers bespoke support to U25s

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**Challenges  
identified  
during  
2022-23**



### **Integrated Care Board**

The emerging needs identified from the latest JSNA [JSNA Walsall Insight ([walsallintelligence.org.uk](http://walsallintelligence.org.uk))] informed the approach which has been progressing, despite capacity challenges from providers in 'restoration and recovery' mode following the pandemic.

Increased demand on secondary care and patient flow have added additional pressure on resources and demand management.

Workforce continues to prove challenging with high vacancy rates across all providers in particular social care and care services.

### **One Walsall**

A new lead has been appointed around volunteering in the family Hubs work. It would be useful to discuss how the sector can support this work going forward.

### **Public Health – Health Improvement**

The start of the tendering process for the Wellbeing Service was put on hold whilst Public Health explored.

Other commissioning options complimentary to local ambitions for greater collaboration and local investment. Following a process to sort through different commissioning options and seek external legal advice, it has been concluded that a competitive procurement continues to be the best option for ensuring effective service provision and positive outcomes and best value.

### **Walsall College Response**

The most significant challenge the FE sector is facing is the growing demand of young people whose mental health is preventing them from thriving in our education settings and the lack of funding to sufficiently resource for this. Both the volume and complexity of mental ill health challenges are significant putting pressure on not only teaching staff but wider wrap around support services such as Safeguarding and SEND. It is also a contributing factor to reduced attendance and increased behaviour and disciplinary interventions. Equal pressures on health and social care services compounds the challenges for our students and their families to access support externally. In some instances, in an attempt to ensure students who, have mental ill health continue to access provision, the learning experience of other students has become compromised. Therefore, the impact is wider than just for those who dealing with mental ill health.

### **Children's and Customer**

Listening to the voices of children and young people the Alliance considered what the issues were that ONLY this group could resolve in the best interest of children and young people living in Walsall? As a result, the Alliance selected two key areas of focus:

**First 1001 days** – recognising that investing in system wide change which supports children to have the best start in life will lay the foundations to

- Improve the mental and physical health of the next generation.
- Reduce risky and anti-social behaviour and the cost they bring.
- Build skilled workforce to support a thriving community and create a compassionate society

**Exclusions** – in selecting this priority the Alliance recognised that:

It's not OK to fail Children.

Exclusions is a system failing a child – collective responsibility.

Therefore, we need to find system solutions

The Alliance defined exclusions as the act of leaving someone out or the act of being left out and have an ambition of influencing a system change that focus' on increased sense of **'belonging'**.

### **West Midlands Police**

Across the areas of Community Safety within Walsall borough, it is my ambition to encourage a greater participation from our Mental Health colleagues in respect of the work around the Safer Walsall Partnership, the Safeguarding Partnerships, the CONTEST Strategy and so on. Mental Health is a regular feature within the lives of vulnerable victims and offenders is incredibly prevalent and seems to continue to be a rising tide.

### **West Midlands Fire Service**

We would like to work closer with Walsall Housing Group and explore better pathways that we can develop with them.

### **Housing Sector**

Kindness Counts was a Proof of Concept funded by a small grant from NHS Charities and Walsall Together. The programme was designed to respond to the research completed within the pandemic that highlighted the 3.3 million people who identified as lonely or isolated. We know that being lonely or isolated has a negative impact upon health and wellbeing which then has a social and economic impact. Within whg we know at least a third of our older customers are lonely and isolated, and that many of our younger customers are struggling with their mental health those who live alone and have moved into their first home. Within the POC we demonstrated the impact of the Kindness Counts programme and have been awarded a small amount of money to deliver the programme for a further 12 months. We have proved the Champion model works reaching those others may describe as hard to reach and with a larger longer term investment we could employ additional Kindness Champions therefore reaching many more people, reducing the impact on primary and acute services and reducing the need for MH services .

### **Healthwatch Walsall**

#### Mental wellbeing

Challenges faced were around liaising with young people regarding their transition from young person to adult services.

More support from partner organisations would have been welcomed to obtain greater feedback.

#### Digital approach

Reaching digitally excluded citizens in the Borough.

Availability of technology and its use in health and social care provision.

#### Children and young people

Availability and consistency of young people.

To support the above, need to consider incentivising young people to a long-term commitment.

Local Authority support would be welcomed.

Partnership support to sharing information (e.g., access to groups)

### **Public Health – Mental Wellbeing**

Limited staffing capacity to deliver/support mental wellbeing strategy implementation within the public health team. Addition staffing would be helpful (apprentices in the first instance)

### **Public Health – Children and Young People**

Wide partnership engagement required (planning, Chamber of Commerce, businesses and statutory organisations) around supporting healthy eating in children and families.

Partners required for Healthy Child programme team recognising that if a universal family, health visitors will only see a child for 3 hours max in 3 years so other partners may see children more frequently and in a better situation to identify need.

Young people mental health can be raised by youth groups, physical activity as well as more focussed work. To increase provision around these.

### **Public Health – Health Improvement**

The start of the tendering process for the Wellbeing

Service was put on hold whilst Public Health explored.

other commissioning options complimentary to local ambitions for greater collaboration and local investment. Following a process to sort through different commissioning options and seek external legal advice, it has been concluded that a competitive procurement continues to be the best option for ensuring effective service provision and positive outcomes and best value.

### **Public Health – Health Protection**

Following ICB survey most care homes are not digitally up to scratch and therefore embedding the Digital approach to IPC annual audits may pose a challenge.

We anticipate challenges in engagement with COVID 19 vaccination uptake following the new criteria for spring boosters that has select few eligible groups. Engagement with the traveller community has been a challenge in the past year whilst we have conducted visit to aim at improving childhood immunisations.

### **Public Health – Health Care**

SRH Digital Provision

Over the last year costs for this service have significantly increased. This is due to the increases in postage, new health and safety requirements (COSHH), and increased reagent, laboratory and consumables costs.

### **Public Health - Inequalities**

The start of the tendering process for the Wellbeing Service was put on hold whilst Public Health explored other commissioning options complimentary to local ambitions for greater collaboration and local investment. Following a process to sort through different commissioning options and seek external legal advice, it has been concluded that a competitive procurement continues to be the best option for ensuring effective service provision and positive outcomes and best value.





# Partnerships and developments identified

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## **Integrated Care Board**

- Walsall Together Partnership is mature and is moving towards more partnership integration with place governance and partnership working, emerged from the BCF alliance.
- The Resilient Communities element of the Operating Model is a fundamental change in the way a population's health and wellbeing is supported and managed, with the largest volume of care and support provided in the community by Place Based Teams co-located to ensure integrated and joined-up delivery of care.

## **Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust**

- Following the Health & Care Act (2022) and the creation of ICBs in July 2022, a new governance model for Walsall place has been developed. There is an intention within this model to strengthen the role of the HWB in overseeing the delivery of the Walsall Together partnership, in respect of improving the health and wellbeing outcomes for the citizens of Walsall. Discussions with the HWB have started and will need to continue into 2023/24.

## **Healthwatch Walsall**

- Young Person Transition - Walsall College, Walsall Community Mental Health Partnership and local schools via sixth forms.
- Male Suicide - Worked closely with the Walsall Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Group.
  - Linked into partner meetings and provided feedback and intelligence.
  - Report shared with partners and disseminated through networks.
  - Suicide Information Poster produced as a result of this work was disseminated widely and sent to Walsall Place ICB which was subsequently forwarded to the hotels housing asylum seekers.

## **•Digital approach**

- Continue to work across the Healthwatch Network to understand comparators with neighbouring Boroughs.
- First Friday Focus platform offered to partners to reach members of the public to provide updates, share information and obtain intelligence.

## **•Children and young people**

- Working with Children & Young People Group.
- Working with Schools.
- Working with Juniper Training

## **One Walsall**

- There are some good opportunities to take forward around volunteering - One Walsall has been instrumental in raising the issue at the Walsall Together level.
- One Walsall has established a homelessness forum, which is a vehicle for both voluntary & community sector organisations and stakeholders to consider pieces of work like the Borough's Homelessness strategy.
- One Walsall is exploring opportunities to host a series of events. In March an International Women's Day event is being held to celebrate the work across the sector and involving a diverse and inclusive group of members & stakeholders.

## **West Midlands Fire Service**

- We have worked closely with WMP through the Safer Walsall Partnership Board, and on specific operations.
- These have led to specific focus in impact areas including St Matthews and Willenhall South.

## **West Midlands Police**

- With the Safer Walsall Partnership, which I chair, we are working on:
- The 10-year Alcohol and Drugs Strategy (along with Public Health and other colleagues).
- The introduction of a Serious Violence Strategy.
- A continued multi-agency approach under Operation ARGONITE to try to reduce violence and vulnerability within the Walsall Night-time Economy.
- Keeping people safer through the introduction of the Protect Duty (aka 'Martyn's Law');
- A review of the pertinent and recent Domestic Homicide Reviews to look for cross-cutting themes and opportunities for learning and improvement.
- The extension of the capabilities within the multi-agency Exploitation and Vulnerability Hub, including a new pro-active local police team focussing upon Serious Organised Crime and Exploitation.

## **Public Health – Health Improvement**

- Walsall Together led Task and finish groups developed for both social prescribing and wellbeing outcomes framework projects. Wide range of partners including public sector and community and voluntary sector organisations.
- Partnership with University of Hertfordshire to deliver workplace health and wellbeing research. Advisory group has also been developed to shape the research and interpret (alongside other stakeholder workshops) and disseminate the findings.

## **Public Health – Health Care**

- We have partnered with the ICB to facilitate immunisation in children and young people and adults as well.
- We have partnered with schools' partners in the council and children and young people to address outbreaks, IPC measures and guidance in the schools.
- We have partnered with quality and compliance teams to conduct IPC and quality visits to care homes as well as escalation to quality and compliance to address any concerns.
- We equally have worked with safeguarding teams to make referrals of safeguarding concerns in care home residents including the children's homes.

## **Housing Sector**

- WHG do not work in isolation we know in order to reduce health inequalities we have to work in partnership. Key to our partnership work is employing residents with lived experience. Their experiences are embedded in the programme design and programme delivery. Lived experience is the building block of our approach. We have also worked extensively with colleagues within Walsall Council (Public Health , Resilient Communities) Partner organisations within Walsall Together and CVS organisations and Birmingham University who have delivered Peer Research Training to our Champions . We see partnership work as critical to the delivery of effective impactful services.

## **Walsall College Response**

- Walsall College is working with Walsall Council's Wellbeing team. We are in the early stages of a partnership but have already committed to using some of the resources such as the wellbeing assessment and the Suicide Prevention training for staff. The college is also training several senior managers in advanced mental health training to become Senior Mental Health Leaders. We work in partnership with a few external organisations to refer students where more specialist support is required. We have also consulted with Youth Employment UK following their All-Party Parliamentary Group for Youth Employment report on The Impact of Mental Ill Health on Young People Accessing the Labour Market and Quality Work.
- We have worked with The Good Things Foundation to increase our outreach to the community for digital upskilling. The project aims to promote awareness and access points to residents who are digitally isolated and refer them to one of our community-based programmes. Further to this, the college is represented on the West Midlands Digital Inclusion Alliance which is supported by the West Midlands Combined Authority.

## **Children's and Customer**

- The Alliance is currently developing its Walsall Children and Young people Strategy 2023 – 2040 based on following principles:
  - Children First - driven by our understanding of current lived experience and our ambition for children in the future.
  - Long term system change – aligned to our We are Walsall 2040 vision.
  - Use of our organisational and partnership levers
  - Widening our influence to include private sector and communities.

## **Public Health – Children and Young People**

- CSC have been successful in gaining Family Hub funding for 2 years. This partnership and activity will be valuable in supporting the 5 key areas – infant feeding, parent/child relationships, child development, parenting support, perinatal mental health support, early language support.

## Public Health – Mental Wellbeing

- Partners delivering the BMH Fund projects.
  - Thrive Mobile Unit- Bloxwich Community Partnership, Manor Farm Community Association, Citizens Advice, Sandwell and Walsall and Walsall Community Transport
  - Multiagency partnership development of the multiagency mental wellbeing Steering Group between; Public Health, Black Country mental health foundation trust and Walsall Together,
  - No Wrong door partnership led by rethink 33 organisations.
  - Mental Concordat Action plan developed through consultation and engagement of multiagency partners committed to delivery of action to improve mental wellbeing. The concordat is currently at submission stage subject to approval.
  - Men's wellbeing development steering group
  - Walsall College programme of work regarding mental health and wellbeing

## Public Health – Health Protection

- We have partnered with the ICB to facilitate immunization in children and young people and adults as well.
  - We have partnered with schools' partners in the council and children and young people to address outbreaks, IPC measures and guidance in the schools.
  - We have partnered with quality and compliance teams to conduct IPC and quality visits to care homes as well as escalation to quality and compliance to address any concerns.
  - We equally have worked with safeguarding teams to make referrals of safeguarding concerns in care home residents including the children's homes.

## Public Health – Inequalities

- Walsall Together led Task and finish groups developed for both social prescribing and wellbeing outcomes framework projects. Wide range of partners including public sector and community and voluntary sector organisations.
  - Partnership with University of Hertfordshire to deliver workplace health and wellbeing research. Advisory group has also been developed to shape the research and interpret (alongside other stakeholder workshops) and disseminate the findings.
  - The Walsall Combatting Alcohol & Drug Misuse Partnership has been developed to deliver on the new national drug strategy and strengthen coordination of the alcohol treatment and support services in the area also. Members of the partnership are also widely engaged across other partnerships such as weekly partnership meetings between our local treatment service and Youth Justice Services.



# Plans for 2023/2024

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## Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust

The HWB priorities have been incorporated into the prioritisation framework for the Walsall Together Partnership transformation programme. Outcomes associated with all 3 areas will be monitored by the partnership and reported through to the HWB. There is an opportunity to improve the alignment of digital strategies across the different partners and partnerships.

## Housing Sector

- Children and young people are prioritised within Aim 3 of The H Factor strategy with a focus upon reducing the impact of poverty. This includes food, fuel, child, digital and poverty of experience.
- Extending the Champion model focussing upon children impacted by Asthma. Champions are interacting with children and families who are hospitalised due to Asthma attacks. Using our A.C.E Programme (Assisting Children to Excel) we are receiving referrals directly from the hospital and are reaching out to parents to evaluate their take up of support services, identify any environmental factors and offer support to purchase essential items such as warm winter coats and shoes. The work is being delivered as part of the Asthma clinical pathway.
- Piloting a young person's Social Prescribing programme. Currently a proof of concept with whg and the CVS(MindKind ) we are supporting a small group of young men who have poor mental health , are NEET, maybe known to probation, are care leavers and are now living in their first home . The pilot programme 'Men-Kind' will be evaluated this year and we will then seek funding to upscale and increase the numbers of young people we can work with in the future. We have already discovered this is 'slow' careful work that has to be delivered on young people's terms and in a way that resonates with their stage of life.



<p><b>Integrated Care Board</b></p>	<p><b>‘A healthy population’, ‘Accessible coordinated and responsive care’ and ‘Strong, active communities’ have been identified as key enablers to support priorities in 2023/24. This demonstrates the shift to a more holistic approach to health and care provision, focused on addressing the wider determinants of health, designing appropriate responses, and building community resilience. This framework being developed, and the associated metrics used to measure performance will focus commissioners and system leaders on delivering improved outcomes for citizens and the population health, rather than units of activity delivered by local services.</b></p>
<p><b>West Midlands Police</b></p>	<p>The high-profile Murder of Bailey Atkinson in Walsall Town Centre a month ago has 13 people arrested and 9 charged + remanded in custody. Of the 9 charged, the average age is 16 yrs. In a meeting in April, I am going to be calling for the joint commissioning of an authored report in the timelines and issues around those younger people and will be seeking support as Chair of the Safer Walsall Partnership from the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board, the Safeguarding Walsall Partnership, the Youth Justice Board, the local agencies, etc.</p> <p>2023 will see the launch of the Walsall Serious Violence Duty, a multi-agency Strategy delivered under the leadership of the safer Walsall Partnership. The issues of Serious Youth Violence, Knife Crime, Exploitation, Vulnerability, Violence Against Women &amp; Girls, etc. are addressed within this.</p>
<p><b>Walsall College</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training and development for staff in various aspects of Mental Ill Health</li> <li>• Implementation of the use of My Wellbeing Plan for students</li> <li>• Continuous review of curriculum intent to ensure there is a commitment to focus on health and wellbeing. Quality processes will assess the implementation of the health and wellbeing strategy and make a judgement on impact. This will be further scrutinised by college leaders and governors.</li> <li>• Annual external validation of the quality of provision including Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare</li> </ul>

<b>West Midlands Fire Service</b>	<b>We will focus on Community Risk Reduction –</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Creating pathways, which give us access to those in the community who are vulnerable to Fire and other emergencies / Those who don't have smoke alarms</b></li> <li>• <b>Drug and alcohol abuse</b></li> <li>• <b>Live alone</b></li> <li>• <b>Mental health issues</b></li> <li>• <b>Care packages</b></li> <li>• <b>Smokers</b></li> <li>• <b>Live in rented accommodation</b></li> </ul>
<b>One Walsall</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exploring opportunities around Equality, Diversity &amp; Inclusion</li> <li>• Communication / Engagement: We are currently reviewing the One Walsall website, looking at opportunities to showcase impact achieved by the sector and promote the work of the sector through One Walsall's events, newsletter, and website.</li> <li>• One Walsall is working to develop a Youth forum for the Borough, to raise awareness of the views of young people in 203/24.</li> </ul>
<b>Children's and Customer</b>	<p>The Alliance will be organising a Children and Young people Alliance summit on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June 2023 to work with wider stakeholders to develop the 2023-2040 strategy and secure wider stakeholder commitment.</p>
<b>Healthwatch Walsall</b>	<p>Digital approach</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review new approaches to make our campaigns more accessible.</li> <li>• Working on ways to encourage more people from diverse backgrounds to share their experiences through our web form.</li> </ul> <p>Children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Engagement Officer post extended for a further 12 months.</li> <li>• Will continue to liaise with young people throughout the Borough to seek intelligence about</li> </ul>

<b>Public Health - Inequalities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support completion of wellbeing outcome framework and social prescribing task and finish groups</li> <li>• Disseminate findings from workplace health and wellbeing research and shape local offer.</li> <li>• Continue expansion of POP to further in-person hubs across Walsall</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health – Mental Wellbeing</b>	<p><u>Developing new projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of mental wellbeing and suicide prevention programme strategic commitments</li> <li>• Submit and Deliver the Prevention Concordat application to Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.</li> <li>• Develop and implement Young People’s wellbeing enterprise programme.</li> <li>• Delivery of Wellbeing Grants and wellbeing programmes – including for men, neurodiverse communities, and the general population etc.</li> <li>• Development of Bereavement Programme</li> <li>• Delivery of Community Counselling Project</li> <li>• Ongoing development of the Thrive mobile unit - including specialist debt/finance advice element.</li> <li>• Develop dementia prevention and awareness programme.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health – Health Protection</b>	<p>To get an Immunisation HCA to post who will do more call and recall to childhood immunisations and equally address, alongside the health visiting teams inequalities in vaccination uptake.</p> <p>Training of Health protection team on ebug resource planned and plans to do it on a wider scale in the young people team and education partners in 2023/2024. Working with children and young people lead to develop health protection link worker sessions on a quarterly basis for schools as well as utilising the ebug resource in schools.</p>

<b>Public Health – Health Care</b>	<b>Oral Health : Wellbeing &amp; Online -focused on YP</b> <b>Development of associated comms and engagement plan to promote oral health this include -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Media release – promotion to stakeholders</b></li> <li>• <b>Social media targeted at YP</b></li> <li>• <b>Online toolkit for schools</b></li> <li>• <b>Online survey starts W/C 6 March 2023</b></li> </ul>
<b>Public Health – Health Improvement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilise Walsall Wellbeing Service</li> <li>• Support completion of wellbeing outcome framework and social prescribing task and finish groups</li> <li>• Disseminate findings from workplace health and wellbeing research and shape local offer.</li> <li>• Introduce mental wellbeing assessment as part of NHS Health Check/ Health Assessment</li> <li>• Walsall Wellbeing Service tender has been initiated with market warming event being held on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The service will provide support across the fundamentals of wellbeing (e.g., employment, debt) as well as advice on health behaviours (e.g. smoking cessation, healthy eating).</li> <li>• Digital Stop Smoking App has been tendered and provider identified. The 12-month pilot will complement existing face to face support to enable choice to those residents that prefer digital based support (using evaluation from pilot to determine next steps).</li> </ul>
<b>Public Health – Children and Young People</b>	<p>Further develop HCP 0-19 offer</p> <p>Set a Walsall CYP EHwb strategy in place</p> <p>Further support Family Hub development work</p> <p>Work to create a culture of healthy eating in Walsall.</p>