

Health and Wellbeing Board

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 September 2024 in a conference room at the Council House, Walsall at 5.00pm

Present in person

Councillor W. Rasab (Chair)
Dr H. Baggri, Lead GP, NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board (Vice-Chair)
Councillor M. Coulson
Councillor G. Flint
Dr N. Inglis, Consultant in Public Health
Ms J. Pugh, Director, Adult Care
Ms C. Male, Executive Director, Children's Services
Ms P. Mayo, NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board
Ms K. Kaur, Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
Mr R. Nicklin, Healthwatch Walsall
Ms J. Davies, Voluntary & Community Sector locality leads representative
Ms. S. Cartwright, Group Director, Place, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
Ms C. Jennings, Housing Sector

Present – Remote

Ch. Supt. Dolby, West Midlands Police

In Attendance- in Person

Mrs H. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

074 Welcome

Councillor Rasab opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explained that there were some members of the Board who were attending remotely however, whilst he would consult all Board members on their views if a vote was required, only those Board members present in the room were able to vote and that this would be by way of a show of hands.

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.

075 Apologies and substitutions

Apologies for absence and notice of substitutions were received as follows:

- Apologies – Cllr Pedley and Councillor Elson; Ms S. Samuels; Ms F. Shanahan; Ms M. Foster.

- Substitutions:
Ms J. Pugh for Ms K. Allward
Ms K. Kaur for Ms M. Foster
Ms C. Jennings for Ms. F. Shanahan

076 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2024, a copy having been sent to each member of the Board be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

077 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

079 **Annual Priorities – Revised Report**

The interim Director of Public Health, Dr Inglis introduced a report which reviewed members' achievements and confirmed priorities for the ensuing year. She said that this report had been updated to include comments of the housing sector which had inadvertently been omitted from the original report submitted to the last meeting.

(See annexed)

The Housing Sector representative, Ms C. Jennings, presented the headline activities relating to the Housing sector and specifically whg.

In response to questions from members regarding the links between the social housing environment and health, Ms Jennings said that she would be meeting with the Centre for Mental Health and Social Housing in November, as it was recognised that apart from the physical environment, poor mental health was mainly prompted by social issues. She said that whg was a leader in the field of health and housing, which was over and above its role as a social housing provider. She also highlighted the challenges of keeping aged housing stock in good repair.

Resolved

- 1) That the Annual report on the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Board priorities be noted
- 2) That the Health and Wellbeing Boar partner organisations provide a 6-month update for discussion at an informal workshop arranged for 4pm on 23 October 2024 via Teams, to provide assurance that the priorities of the Board are being delivered.

- 3) To note that formal reports on specific issues identified in this annual report would be submitted to the Board if required

080 Infant Feeding Strategy

In attendance: Ms E. Higdon, Senior Public Health Development Manager

Ms Higdon presented a report which sought endorsement for the aims, actions and proposed governance arrangements for the Strategy.

(see annexed)

In response to a question from Dr Baggri, regarding support for new mothers, Ms Higdon acknowledged that the support services were harder to find however she advised that an infant feeding midwife was now in place to support the midwifery service and the healthy child programme; and some whg peer champions were also going out into the community to support women in their infant feeding journey.

Ms Higdon was offered support from a Walsall Together, Walsall Healthcare Trust and the Black Country Healthcare Trust perspective to get communications out to help signpost to the 0-19 programme overall.

The Director of Public Health, Ms Inglis, challenged the board members to ensure that their places and spaces breast feeding friendly, providing advice on how to get help and support to make women feel healthy.

Healthwatch Walsall undertook to raise this as part of their “Women in the Workplace” and “Be Well” roadshows.

It was **Moved** by Councillor Rasab, seconded by Ms Jennings and upon being put to the vote, it was:

Resolved

- 1) That members support the work undertaken by the multi-agency Family Hub partnership group which has developed the Walsall Infant Feeding Strategy contributing to ensuring babies have the best start in life.
- 2) That the Walsall Health and Wellbeing Board provides overall governance for the Infant Feeding Strategy, with Walsall Together’s Clinical Professional Leadership Group overseeing the new developing partnership Strategy on a quarterly basis. Reports on activity will also be submitted to the Children’s Alliance and Family Hub steering group.
- 3) That the Health and Wellbeing Board oversight role will include the expectation that the Chair of the strategic group feeds back the progress, impact and achievements of the Infant Feeding Strategy to the Board annually.
- 4) That Health and Wellbeing Board members use their strategic influence to support changing the culture of Walsall to one where breastfeeding is seen as the norm.

081 **Children and Young People's Strategy**

In attendance: Ms I. Vanderheeren, Director Early Help, WR4C and Partnerships

Ms Vanderheeren presented a report which provided an overview of the work of the Children and Young People Alliance, the 2040 Children and Young People Strategy aligned to We Are Walsall 2040 and progress against the four key priorities.

(see annexed)

The Director of Public Health, Ms Inglis, thanked Ms Vanderheeren for her work and was particularly interested in the proposed Youth Council which she said would be an exciting and innovative way to help shape priorities learning from examples of lived experiences. Ms Inglis offered to work together on outcomes to bring forward to a future meeting.

It was Moved by Councillor Rasab, duly seconded and upon being put to the vote was

Resolved

- 1) That members endorse the Strategy
- 2) That members are assured the Alliance are making good progress in the development of a meaningful 2040 Children and Young people Strategy that will respond effectively to issues identified for children and young people growing up in Walsall.
- 3) That members consider how to maximise opportunities to ensure we continue to respond to what children and young people have told us are key priorities to improve outcomes for all growing up in Walsall. Particularly in terms of opportunities in involving children and individuals in decision-making processes and holding us accountable.

082 **Children's and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)**

In attendance:

Ms M. Courts, Head of CAMHS Commissioning, Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Ms Courts presented a report which outlined the collaborative work across Walsall between public sector organisations and the community and voluntary sector to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of infants, children and young people.

(see annexed)

Members discussed the report, during which time members expressed their concern at the long wait times for people to access the service and only reach GPs when they are at crisis point. Dr Baggri was particularly concerned with the 16-18 age group regarding the transition to adulthood and the lack of awareness generally about what help and support was available and where to find it. Ch. Supt Dolby gave a personal experience of the challenges and difficulties of parents whose children need such support, particularly those challenges that parents face when young people reach adulthood and support for young adults in

terms of health, education, finances, housing falls away. He urged partners to work together on a wider system approach to avoid young people entering the system, particularly into a clinical setting.

In response, Ms Courts explained that an 18-25 model had been developed which looked at that transition in a much more effective way however, this was still in the early stages.

In response to a question from Councillor Coulson, the representative of the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Ms K. Kaur, advised that whilst there had been a funding investment in children's mental health, it was from a position of historical underinvestment and therefore still remained challenging. She said that this was not just a funding issue but also about workforce as this was a specialist workforce to recruit to so some broader thinking about how this could be resolved was needed.

Resolved

That the report be noted

083 Delivery of the Mental Wellbeing Strategy

The Interim Director of Public Health, Dr Inglis presented a report which reported progress on activities undertaken to date in the delivery of the strategy and highlighted key priorities identified in paragraph 5.1.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report Nadia explained the multiagency stakeholder partnership established to deliver the priorities in the strategy. She also offered places on suicide prevention training to partners and their staff. Ms Inglis mentioned that she had attended a homeless conference that morning which linked to the wider mental health agenda.

The representative of the Community and Voluntary Sector, Ms J. Davies reported that she was the chair of a group of 16 community organisations across the borough which served over 90,000 people per month in their communities. She said that the Brownhills area locality Lead had taken the lead on a Wider Determinants of Health Programme which had been running for five months and had engaged over 650 people per month over that period. She gave examples of programmes and activities to support those accessing the services and to encourage others to engage in preventative work. She undertook to report back on progress to deliver the programme.

Resolved:

That the report be noted.

084 Suicide Prevention Strategy

The Interim Director of Public Health, Dr Inglis, presented a report and showed summary slides which informed the board of the Walsall Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Strategy 2024-29

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Dr Inglis referred to key points and the process and activities undertaken over the last six months to finalise the strategy and produce an action Plan.

The Chair of Healthwatch Walsall, Mr R. Nicklin informed the board that approximately 2 years ago, HWW had undertaken research on behalf of Walsall Together on male suicide, working with the business community. He said there had been a tremendous engagement in the project and the outcome report had been published.

Councillor Flint urged everyone to use their networks to publicise the signposting information in the presentation.

Resolved:

- 1) That That the HWBB endorse the Walsall Multi-Agency Suicide Prevention Strategy 2024-2029.
- 2) That the HWBB continue identify mental health champions from their respective organisations to drive forward the prioritisation of mental health and suicide prevention.

085 Care Quality Commission Inspection

The Director, Adult Services, Ms J. Pugh, gave a presentation which detailed steps to ensure readiness for an expected inspection by the Care Quality Commission.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Ms Pugh explained the new powers awarded to the CQC under the Health and Care Act 2022 which allowed the CQC to undertake assessments of care at a local authorities in England, assessing delivery of their duties under the care act 2014.

Resolved

To note the content of the presentation

086 Healthwatch Walsall – Annual Report

The Chair of Healthwatch Walsall, Mr R. Nicklin, presented the Annual report, summarising the key findings.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Mr Nicklin reminded members that this report had been circulated to Board members in July and this was to provide formal assurance.

He recapped on the key points in the report and responded to questions and points of clarification from members, during which time he explained how the work programme was devised and topics of research chosen. He said that the topics were chosen from a combination of factors including through direct requests, HealthWatch England objectives, local Health and Wellbeing objectives, matching to resources and priorities.

Mr Nicklin responded to questions on specific areas of access to dental care services and young carers unmet needs. With regard to access to dental care, he recognised that there may be a need for more detailed work to evidence the outcome. Regarding the area of unmet social care needs for young carers, he noted that regular reports were provided to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee and undertook to widen engagement with young carers accessing a wide range of health services not just social care.

Members commended Mr Nicklin on the clear and balanced way in which the report was written. the balance.

Resolved

To note the Healthwatch Walsall Annual Report

087 Health Protection Annual Report

In attendance: Ms B. Akinboye, Senior Health protection practitioner

Ms Akinboye gave a brief presentation which set out the key health protection issues set out in the Annual report and provided an oversight of the work to protect the health of the population from infectious diseases, screening for cancers, monitoring of vaccination programmes, and responding to health emergencies.

(see annexed)

Ms Akinboye responded to questions from members during which time she said that activity was being put in place to work with the Integrated Care Board and communications teams to promote the importance of vaccines, particularly in young children and in care homes to improve uptake.

Members welcomed the report and thanked Ms Akinboye for her report.

Resolved

- 1) That the Board notes the Annual Report for Health Protection for 2023/24
- 2) That the Board considers, as part of future business, any opportunities for collaboration on joint issues

088 Work programme

It was noted that the work programme was being updated and would be circulated to members in due course. In the meantime, members noted that the following items were due for consideration at the next meeting:

- Director of Public Health Annual Report;

- Infant Mortality Strategy;
- SEND update;
- Family Hubs progress report;
- Safeguarding reports;
- Walsall Together Annual report;
- Integrated Care Partnership implementation - progress update

089 **Date of next meeting**

12 December 2024.

The meeting terminated at 6.58 p.m.

Chair:

Date: