

## **Health and Wellbeing Board**

**13 June 2024**

### **Older People and Prevention – introduction to the new Health and Wellbeing Board priority**

#### **For Information**

##### **1. Purpose**

Older people and prevention was identified as a new priority by Walsall Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2024. This priority is additional to the 3 current priorities (children and young people, mental health and wellbeing and our digital approach) in the Joint Local Health & Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWBS) 2022-25. This paper sets out the key proposed new workstreams linked to this priority, and how they will be reported back to the Board for assurance purposes, alongside encouraging discussion among Board members regarding ongoing or new workstreams they may be proposing which align with this new priority.

##### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Board approve the new key workstreams outlined in this report linked to the new priority: Older people and prevention, namely:
  - 1) Falls prevention
  - 2) Develop pathways to independence that improve wellbeing through adult social care, NHS and voluntary and community sector collaboration
  - 3) Dementia prevention and management
- 2.2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board partner organisations include this priority in their 6-month update (for discussion at an informal workshop), as well as through the formal annual review of progress, to provide assurance that the priorities of the Board are being delivered. Progress related to the key workstreams above will be reported on 6 monthly to the Board, with outcomes linked to the Walsall Wellbeing Outcomes Framework.
- 2.3 Formal reports on specific issues identified linked to this priority can also be submitted to the Board, should this be required.
- 2.4 That the Health and Wellbeing Board decide if additional new workstreams should be added as key deliverables under this priority.

##### **3. Report detail**

- 3.1 Older people and prevention was identified as an additional priority by the Walsall Health and Wellbeing Board at the Board meeting in March 2024. This priority links strongly to current ongoing increases in health and social care demand across the lifecycle, and the need for us to “left shift” resources to truly take a wellbeing-focused and preventative approach to health and wellbeing for our adults and older people. Prevention features as a priority in our Adult Social Care commissioning intentions for 2024/25 and beyond, as well as the ICB Joint Forward Plan.
- 3.2 We know that both nationally and locally we are needing to plan for supporting the needs of an ageing population. In the next 25 years, the number of people older than 85 in England will double to 2.6 million. The relationship between an ageing population and health and care needs is complex, but we do know that there are more older people living with long-term conditions now, and their needs are likely to become more complex.
- 3.3 Three key new/emerging workstreams are important in defining this priority, whilst it is recognised that there is already support and activity in place to support older people, and their carers, in Walsall.
  - 1) Falls prevention – Walsall is an outlier with regard to hospital admissions due to falls in individuals aged 65+ (statistically significantly higher than regional and national averages and on an upward trajectory), with an identified need to look at the full pathway (from primary prevention through to secondary/tertiary prevention) to identify key areas of action which can improve resident wellbeing and reduce falls, in line with national evidence. Falls prevention work will be used as a means of tackling some of the problems linked with the wider issue of frailty, and will be led as a partnership project by Walsall Together, linked to the Black Country Frailty Network.
  - 2) Developing pathways to independence that improve wellbeing through adult social care, NHS and community/voluntary sector collaboration a – plans are being formed to look at how community and voluntary sector partners could act as more strategic partners in delivery of care/activity type services for older people known to adult social care. This will sit within a wider prevention strategy for adult social care, which involves redesigning the adult social care front door process, linking people (and carers) to wider community support through use of the developing Walsall Wellbeing Directory, and access to a range of digital and non-digital service offers.
  - 3) Dementia prevention and management – a dementia needs assessment is being finalised by the Public Health team, and is being linked to a Walsall-focused dementia improvement plan, led by Walsall Together, which in turn aligns to a Black Country ICB Dementia Strategy. The Walsall dementia improvement plan will draw upon the needs assessment work, consultation with the third sector and communities, and self-assessment using a regional toolkit. Improving diagnosis rates, particularly among ethnic minority communities, and focusing on prevention (particularly linked with smoking, dietary risks, alcohol etc) are key to this ongoing work.

#### **4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements:**

Any financial, legal, or other resource implications will be managed through programme workstreams, and do not require a decision from the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **Appendix**

### **Background papers**

[JSNA - Walsall Insight \(walsallintelligence.org.uk\)](http://walsallintelligence.org.uk)

[Walsall Joint Local Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-25](#)

[Walsall Wellbeing Outcomes Framework](#)

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