

## **Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Wednesday 17 October 2018 at 6.00 p.m.**

**in a Conference Room at the Council House, Walsall**

**Present:** Councillor Longhi (Chair)  
Councillor James  
Councillor Rasab  
Councillor Robertson  
Councillor Shires  
Councillor Wilson  
Dr. B. Watt, Director of Public Health  
Mr. M. Thom, Head of Community Care (Partnerships)  
Dr. A. Rischie ] Clinical  
Prof. S. Brake ] Commissioning Group  
Mr. P. Tulley ] representatives  
Mr. P. Higgitt, Healthwatch Walsall  
Mr. B. Diamond, West Midlands Fire Service  
Mr. A. Boys, One Walsall  
Ms. M. Foster, Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Partnership  
Mr. J. Driffill, Walsall Housing Partnership/Walsall Housing Board

### **549/18 Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were submitted on behalf of Councillor R. Martin, Ms. P. Furnival, Ms. S. Rowe, Dr. C. Lesshafft, Mr. M. Abel, Mr. J. Taylor, Chief Supt. A. Parsons, Mr. R. Beeken and Mr. M. Axcell.

### **550/18 Substitutions**

The Board noted the following substitutions for this meeting only:

Mr. M. Thom for Ms. P. Furnival, Executive Director, Adult Social Care  
Mr. P. Higgitt for Mr. J. Taylor, Healthwatch  
Ms. M. Foster for Mr. M. Axcell, Dudley & Walsall Mental Health Partnership

### **551/18 Minutes**

#### **Resolved**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2018 copies having been sent to each member of the Board be approved and signed as a correct record, subject to the inclusion of Councillor Wilson on the list of apologies.

## **552/18 Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **553/18 Local Government (Access to Information) Act, 1985**

There were no items to be considered in private session.

## **554/18 Housing, homelessness and the night shelter**

In attendance:        Mr A. Roche, Head of Social Inclusion, Public Health  
                              Ms M. Dudson, Money Home Job

Mr Roche presented a report on homelessness in Walsall and initiatives to help prevent homelessness, support rough sleepers and the Night Shelter in Walsall:

(see annexed)

Mr Roche reported that the Night Shelter had opened on 15 October 2018 in the hope that demand this year would be lower, however more than expected attended which appeared to show that there might be a group who had complex needs which were hidden. He stressed the need for all relevant agencies to work together operationally to support this cohort.

Ms Dudson reported on the provisions in the Homelessness Reduction Act which conferred a duty upon partners to refer service users they think were homeless or may be threatened with homelessness.

The Board discussed the report during which time it was noted that the night shelter initiative last winter had been successful as a pilot in that of 29 individuals requesting housing support, 25 took up the offer, 24 of which were still in accommodation. Mr Roche acknowledged that there would clearly be some 'cross-border traffic' as neighbouring authorities had not been as successful with their funding bids. In this regard, Mr Roche said that those persons from outside Walsall seeking to access Walsall services would be stabilised through outreach workers before making arrangements for them to return to their area.

Mr Roche confirmed that not only had Walsall had been very successful in its funding presentations to government, officers had been invited to make further presentations to be part of an 'early starter' on new grant funding opportunities.

Dr. Watt commented that although the funding was important, it would be the way in which partners worked together which would bring success. It was therefore suggested that whilst the Council's Housing team had offered to be the single point of contact for those persons who were, or were at risk of becoming homeless, it would be helpful for an operational point of contact to be identified for each partner agency.

In response to further questions, Mr Roche confirmed that housing resources were adequate to provide services both now and in the future. Ms Dudson explained the types of temporary and permanent accommodation used and said that allocations made on a case-by-case basis. She added that work was being done on an options appraisal across the temporary accommodation stock to ensure it was fit for purpose. It was noted that whilst there would be some publicity on the night shelter provision around mid-November, there was a need for some caution as the demand needed to reduce by at least half to ensure that resources were sufficient.

The Chairman and Board members thanked Mr Roche and all officers involved in tackling homelessness and rough sleeping for their work.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the contents of the report be noted.
- (2) That each representative on the Board identify an operational lead within their organisation and forward to Mr Roche within two weeks.

### **555/18 Infant Mortality Strategy Oversight Group**

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

Ms Higdon presented the report updating on partnership actions undertaken to reduce infant mortality and improve maternal health and wellbeing across the Borough:

(see annexed)

A lengthy discussion took place on the data around low birth rates particularly in relation to smoking cessation, during which time members expressed their disappointment with the results and challenged whether enough was being done to address this issue. Ms Higdon explained the services, support and strong advice provided to mothers, prospective mothers and to help fathers to take care of their health. She said that comparisons had been made across the Black Country and apart from Dudley, Walsall was similar to its neighbours.

It was recognised that a significant amount of work was being done in this field and that the Board had received reports on 'deep dives' however members remained significantly concerned. Mr Tulley suggested that further joint working could be done between the Clinical Commissioning Group which commissioned Maternity Services and Public Health which commissioned the Smoking Cessation Service to ensure a cohesive approach.

Mr Diamond offered to work with Ms Higdon to look at how the fire service could lend its support through their Safe and Well visits. Mr Boys suggested that the value of peer volunteers should not be overlooked and offered the opportunity to work with other agencies to lend assistance.

Ms Higdon responded to questions and points of clarification around other maternal health issues including uptake of vitamins and folic acid, breastfeeding in public places, and monitoring of foetal movement. She gave assurances that there was activity currently taking place to support all of these issues.

The Chairman asked Ms Higdon to consider how to target two or three actions which could be done to make a difference and to understand and tackle what was or was not working.

The Chair thanked Ms Higdon for her continued efforts on this subject.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the report from the Infant Mortality Strategy Group be noted.
- (2) That the Health and Wellbeing Board supports the following overarching 3 Local Maternity System aims which the Walsall Infant Mortality Strategy works to and which support actions towards improving maternal health and wellbeing and reducing infant mortality in Walsall as well as across the Black Country:
  - To tackle infant mortality
  - To deliver Better Births
  - To ensure sustainable healthcare services
- (3) That the Health and Wellbeing Board supports the local actions required to implement the 2016 Saving Babies Care Bundle designed to tackle stillbirth and early neonatal death:
  - Reducing smoking in pregnancy
  - Risk assessment and surveillance for fetal growth restriction
  - Raising awareness of reduced fetal movement
  - Effective fetal monitoring during labour
- (4) That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the updated partnership actions (Point 3.3) set in place to reduce infant mortality. (summary of strategy themes Appendix A page 7)
- (5) That Mr Diamond and Ms Higdon discuss how the Fire Service Safe and Well visits could support this agenda.
- (6) That a further report be received to look at two or three targeted key actions relating to smoking cessation.

## **556/18 Walsall Plan “Our Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020” – Priorities 3 and 9**

In attendance: Ms S. Gill, Senior Programme Development and Commissioning Manager, Lifestyles.

Ms Gill presented a report providing updates on progress towards the following priorities:

- Priority 3: Enable and empower individuals to improve their physical and mental health
- Priority 9: Develop an environment to enable healthy lifestyles

(see annexed)

The report was discussed, particularly around opportunities to improve health through the Borough's parks and open spaces via social prescribing through GPs, activity programmes, and other prevention activities; and also how businesses could help with this agenda. It was noted that pilot activities were being provided in order to obtain data to 'roll-out' the activities in the most and effective way. Dr. Rischie confirmed that social prescribing had begun with 70% of referrals being from GPs and that primary care boards were discussing and were fully committed to the prevention agenda.

Mr Diamond said that the fire service had been accredited under the workplace charter scheme endorsed by public health England and he offered to share this and other health related polices with small businesses.

At this point, the Chairman invited a member of the public and wheelchair user, Mr D. Sinclair to address the Board. Mr Sinclair was concerned that many of the activities in the parks were not accessible for wheelchairs and that walkways were not in a fit state. He particularly referred to the inaccessibility of the tennis courts at the arboretum. Mr Sinclair asked that access to green spaces by the disabled be considered when planning activities. The Chairman thanked Mr Sinclair for his useful reminder of this need and suggested that Ms Gill discuss this further with Mr Sinclair after the meeting to inform future planning.

### **Resolved**

That the Health and Wellbeing Board notes the progress made towards the priorities and approves the programmes of work.

## **557/18 Better Care Fund 2018/19 Quarter 2**

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

Ms Thompson presented the Quarter 2 performance relating to the Walsall Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund for the period July to September 2018:

(see annexed)

Ms Thompson advised that since the report was written, the number of Emergency Admissions during the first five months to the end of August 2018/19 was around the same as for the equivalent period during 2017/18. In addition, activity levels in the ambulatory care pathway remained at around 30% of the Type 1 attendance. She said that frailty services in the emergency department were being remodelled and also highlighted that there were some support needs required i.e. the implementation of the demand and capacity Winter Plan. Ms Thompson advised that Walsall was locally in a good position however, the financial figures could change with added winter pressures.

The report was discussed, during which time members focussed on the spend allocated to the various work streams, particularly in relation to Resilient Communities, and asked for clarity about how this funding was being spent to ensure that there was a coherent approach in relation to other prevention activities. Ms Thompson undertook to ensure that this was included in the next report.

In response to further questions, Ms Thompson said that she would seek and update on the effectiveness of the early pre-discharge arrangements.

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the Better Care Fund Quarter 2 return be noted.
- (2) That the information sought in the discussion be included in the next report.

### **558/18 Work programme 2018/19**

The work programme was submitted:

(see annexed)

### **Resolved**

- (1) That the work programme be noted.
- (2) Air Quality: members were reminded to send a note of their organisation's contribution to improving Air Quality in order to incorporate into a report to the December meeting.
- (3) Walsall Plan: Members were reminded that the refresh of the Walsall Plan priorities would be discussed at the Development session on 21 November.

## 559/18 **Key promotional messages**

- “Stop Smoking”
- Encourage the take up of flu vaccinations.

The meeting terminated at 8.30 p.m.

Chair:

Date: