

Health and Wellbeing Board

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 19 December 2024 in a conference room at the Council House, Walsall at 4.30pm

Present in person

Councillor G. Flint (Chair)
Dr N. Inglis, Consultant in Public Health
Mrs K. Allward, Executive Director Adult Social Care
Ms C. Male, Executive Director, Children's Services
Mr R. Nicklin, Healthwatch Walsall
Ms. F. Shanahan, Walsall Housing Sector
Ms V. Hines, One Walsall

Present – Remote

Ch. Supt. P. Dolby, West Midlands Police
Ms. S. Cartwright Group Director, Place, Walsall Healthcare NHS Trust
Mr A. Rust, NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board
Ms K Kaur, Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

In Attendance- in Person

Mrs H. Owen, Democratic Services Officer

029 Welcome

Councillor Flint 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.

030 Apologies and substitutions

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

Councillors Elson, Nawaz and Pedley
Ms S. Samuels
Ms P. Mayo – Substitute Ms K. Kaur (Remote)
Ms M. Foster – substitute Mr A. Rust (Remote)

031 **Minutes of the last meeting**

Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 September 2023, a copy having been sent to each member of the Board be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

032 **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

There were no items to be considered in private session.

034 **Armed Forces Act 2021 – New Statutory Duty on public services**

In attendance: Ms K. Moreton, Director Place and People

Ms Moreton presented a report which sought to raise awareness of the new Armed Forces Covenant Duty upon specified public bodies and to encourage awareness raising within partner organisations.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Ms Moreton confirmed that an appointment had now been made to the post of Black Country Armed Forces Covenant Officer and that links with the new officer would be made through the Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board.

In response to a question from Councillor Flint, each partner organisation gave assurances regarding their awareness of the requirements of the new Act and the support being put in place both operationally and through policies. During the discussion, it was noted that whilst the majority of schools in the borough were not local authority controlled, the head teachers were fully informed and links were being made through family hubs. The Housing Sector representative, Ms. Shanahan advised that a discussion was planned at the next housing strategy group to ensure that registered providers in the borough were aware of their responsibilities under the new Duty.

The Director of Public Health, Ms N. Inglis advised that the new duty would also be raised at the Mental Wellbeing Stakeholder Partnership meeting.

Resolved:

- 1) That the Board notes the new statutory duty and the requirement to have regard to this in policy development and decision making within partner organisations
- 2) To engage with the Armed Forces Covenant Partnership Board to ensure that the Armed Forces Community in Walsall is appropriately supported.

035 **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Service (SEND)**

In attendance: Ms S. Kelly, Director of Access and Inclusion

Ms Kelly presented a report which provided the latest update and assurances regarding the improvement programme.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Ms Kelly advised that the annual review meeting had recently taken place and that clearance to share the formal feedback was awaited, however, she reported that comments made on the day of the review had been very positive. In addition, she advised that the timeliness of Education Health and Care Plans had improved roughly in line with national figures and so the twelve month rolling data would show a further improvement of above national average.

A discussion took place during which time Ms Kelly responded to questions and points of clarification following which the Chair thanked Ms Kelly and her team for their work.

Resolved

- 1) That the Health and Wellbeing Board acknowledges the progress made to date in the improvement of SEND services as outlined in the 12 month Accelerated progress Plan (APP) review with the Department for Education (DfE) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC).
- 2) That the Health and Wellbeing Board 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 SEN inspection.

036 **Alcohol and Drugs Strategy**

The Director of Public Health, Ms N. Inglis, presented a report which included the Walsall Alcohol and Drug Strategy 2023-28, and which focused on the implementation of the strategic commitments by members of the board, in addition to ensuring that the Board was informed of both the need and activities in Walsall to address substance misuse.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Ms Inglis said that the Strategy had been approved and that the action plan was in progress. In this respect, she stressed the need for

- support from board members' organisations to ensure increased referrals from partner agencies where alcohol or drug substance misuse was identified or suspected for both adults and young people;
- partners to support campaign activities to promote understanding of the harms of substance misuse;
- support for the development of dual diagnosis pathways with the NHS mental health services; and
- for partner agencies to ensure that safeguarding pathways were in place and were used appropriately where substance misuse may feature.

Members discussed the report and were complementary about the strategy which members considered had pulled together the partnership. However, members

were of the view that a further in-depth discussion was needed in order for board members to have a detailed understanding of the actions, including the referral process, in order to ensure a co-ordinated approach.

Resolved:

That a development session be arranged for board members to discuss in detail, the actions required to ensure a co-ordinated approach to delivering the strategy and consequently that:

- partner agencies champion collaborative working in the area of Alcohol and Drug misuse and to work with their respective organisations to deliver the aims and objectives of the Walsall Alcohol and Drug strategy; and
- take the strategy into consideration when planning or developing activities in their respective areas, particularly in relation to examples of partnership activity outlined in this report.

037 Serious Violence Needs Assessment

Chief Supt. Dolby, West Midlands Police, presented a joint report of the police, and the Council's Public Health and Children's and young people services, which set out the Walsall Serious Violence Needs Assessment conducted in 2023.

(see annexed)

In presenting the report, Ch. Supt Dolby said that the Needs Assessment had been agreed by the Safer Walsall Partnership Board and that the Serious Violence Strategy was currently being developed, with accountability for delivery sitting with the Safer Walsall Partnership Board. He thanked partners for their support in this work.

The report was discussed during which time, the Director of Public Health, Ms Inglis, highlighted the specific actions pertinent to the Health and Wellbeing Board partners set out in Paragraph 3.6 of the report and which in summary, related to:

- supporting the family hubs work and commissioning of 0-19 services in their role as supporting the primary prevention agenda
- ensuring all partners were responding appropriately to the serious violence duty and taking part in multi-agency data sharing processes
- supporting youth violence navigators project within Walsall Healthcare Trust emergency department as a high impact intervention
- advising on how health-related commission boards can contribute to ensuring adequate commissioning and resource planning to support the strategy
- supporting activities to map and preserve youth service provision and an emerging youth strategy, linking to the Serious Violence Strategy and the Children's 2040 strategy.

It was noted that the priorities of the children's strategic alliance set out clear expectations around children in education from a system and local area perspective to join up working with schools to enable them to contribute to services delivered through family hubs.

Resolved

That board members agree to support delivery of the developing Serious Violence strategy and delivery plan for Walsall, with reference to key recommendations made in the needs assessment which involve NHS and wider health and care partners.

038 Work programme

The Chair reminded members to take note of the items that they were responsible for and to ensure that their reports meet the relevant deadlines.

039 Date of next meeting

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was 19 March 2024

The meeting terminated 5.18 p.m.

Chair:

Date: