

SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Friday 10 December 2021

Meeting held in the Council Chamber, City Hall

MINUTES

Present: -

Councillor Kelly Chequer (in the Chair)	-	Sunderland City Council
Councillor Louise Farthing	-	Sunderland City Council
Councillor Dominic McDonough	-	Sunderland City Council
Dr John Dean	-	Chair, Healthwatch Sunderland
Dr Yitka Graham	-	University of Sunderland
Gerry Taylor	-	Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning
Dr Martin Weatherhead	-	Chair, All Together Better

In Attendance:

Graham King	-	Assistant Director of Adult Services, Sunderland City Council
Jane Wheeler	-	Service Manager Early Help, Together for Children
Dr Neil O'Brien	-	SCCG Accountable Officer
Philip Foster	-	All Together Better
Natalie McClary	-	All Together Better
Ben Seale	-	Public Health Lead, Sunderland City Council
Jane Hibberd	-	Senior Manager – Policy, Sunderland City Council
Liz Highmore	-	Observer
Chris Binding	-	Local Democracy Reporting Service
Gillian Kelly	-	Governance Services, Sunderland City Council

HW30. Welcome

Councillor Chequer welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first to be held in the Council Chamber of the new City Hall.

HW31. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fiona Miller, Ken Bremner, Fiona Brown, Lucy Caplan, David Chandler, Jill Colbert, Dr Tracey Lucas, Lisa Quinn and Chief Superintendent Pitt.

HW32. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

HW33. Minutes and Matters Arising

The minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 1 October 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

HW34. The North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System and Integrated Place-Based Arrangements

The Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning and Chief Officer/Chief Finance Officer of Sunderland CCG submitted a joint report to: -

- Apprise the Board of the preparations by the North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care System to take up its statutory responsibilities from April 2022 and;
- Provide an updated position regarding the development of integrated place-based arrangements.

Dr O'Brien presented the report and explained that under the new legislation each Integrated Care System (ICS) would be a statutory body made up on two parts: and integrated care board (ICB) and an integrated partnership (ICP). Progress had been slow up to this point but was now gaining pace with the appointment of the chief executive and chair designate.

The Health and Care Bill was going through Parliament, originally it was hoped that it would have completed its passage before Christmas but it was understood that there were some significant challenges to this. Once the Bill received Royal Assent, the eight current North East CCGs would be disbanded and transferred to the ICB.

NHS leaders and ICS representatives had been meeting to discuss place-based arrangements and the ICB operating model was under development; it was noted that local authority representatives would be involved in those conversations. A Sunderland Integrated Care Executive had been established to work through how the system would work for Sunderland and a Transition Steering Group had also been meeting to look at workstreams.

A report was being presented to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee in January which would describe the current thinking on place-based arrangements

and following this, approval would be sought from the CCG Governing Body and Council Cabinet on proposed place-based arrangements. Support and endorsement for the proposals would also be sought from statutory NHS provider partners.

Councillor McDonough asked what the main objective of the changes were; would the system be more efficient, would there be a cost reduction and how much would the changes cost.

Dr O'Brien said that there was a push to integrate health and social care at all levels and whereas CCGs had been a great success, they started to fall down when there was a need to act together. The new system was aimed at bringing things together, keeping a subsidiary of place and reducing health inequalities. There would be some efficiencies generated in giving assurance but staff would not be disrupted a great deal and the process had not been mandated to achieve cost reductions.

John Dean queried the financial system which would be adopted and the allocation process. Dr O'Brien advised that this was still being worked through but it was very likely that the funding would be based on historical allocations. The funding would be transferred to the ICB as a whole and how this would be distributed internally was still under consideration.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the report be received and noted;
- (ii) the progress made to date be supported; and
- (iii) an updated position be received at the next Board meeting.

HW35. Children and Young People Health Related Behaviour Survey

The Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning submitted a report sharing an overview of the findings of the Health Related Behaviour Survey conducted in the summer term of 2021.

Gerry Taylor explained that Wendy Mitchell was unable to attend to present the report but it was suggested that she come to the next meeting with an updated presentation.

The survey had looked at the views and health and wellbeing needs of school children and how these had changed; the impact of Covid had also been considered. This was a helpful piece of work which had initially been discussed at the Starting Well Delivery Board.

Councillor Farthing noted that the numbers of children saying they did not have enough to eat was worrying and Gerry said that this was an area which had been identified as something for the Council and its partners to address. A post had been advertised to look at this issue across the city.

Dr Graham commented that food security had a significant impact on educational attainment and intervention at an earlier stage would limit inequalities later. Gerry stated that this was being tackled with a strategic approach and it would be useful for the Board to have an update on this work at the next meeting.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the update and published report be received and noted;
- (ii) the key priorities identified be endorsed;
- (iii) the ongoing work of sharing information with key stakeholders to inform and influence the approaches and plans to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Sunderland be endorsed; and
- (iv) a full presentation and progress update be presented to the next meeting of the Board.

HW36. Healthy City Plan: Performance Overview

The Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning submitted a report providing an update on the Healthy City Plan performance framework and presenting a range of key indicators which had been selected to provide a summary of health and the wider determinants of health for people of all ages in the city.

The indicators were divided into the three domains of the Health City Plan and provided the detail on the direction of travel with the data covering the time period slightly prior to and bringing in the early part of the pandemic. The report highlighted a number of key points in relation to each of the elements of the plan and Gerry highlighted that based on these metrics, the impact of Covid could start to be seen in areas such as the reduction in life expectancy for people living in Sunderland.

It was noted that the numbers of routine and manual workers who smoked was the lowest in the region and the gap had now closed further with the latest figures for smoking prevalence in adults being 14.6% (16% in 2019) and 18.4% for routine and manual workers (25.7% in 2019).

Councillor McDonough commented that there was concern about access to GPs in the city with around 50% of appointments being virtual and asked if there were worries about older people struggling to access appointments and this then affecting diagnosis and skewing figures.

Ben Seale advised that the picture was the same locally, regionally and nationally and there was no conclusive answer. Dr Weatherhead explained that, during the initial stages of the pandemic, services had stopped taking new referrals where face to face contact was required and there had been a lack of access to diagnostic services. There had been a huge push from the Government for more virtual appointments prior to the pandemic but most GPs were now back to a normal level of in person appointments with some telephone assessments. Dr Weatherhead was

of the opinion that there had been an impact from the lack of face to face appointments.

Dr Graham added that GPs were getting blamed for the lack of appointments but this was a system issue and a complex situation. It was important to be protective towards GPs and practice staff.

John Dean stated that HealthWatch had carried out a review of GP services during the pandemic and feedback had been that it was difficult to get through to practices and then there were too few appointments, however feedback on remote appointments had been good. Philip Foster added that a survey had been carried out on community health services with a view to reform moving forward. Satisfaction had been demonstrated in the level of primary care but there was extra work needed on out of hours services and work had taken place with 111 to signpost customers to the right service. Philip suggested that the results of the survey could be provided for the Health and Wellbeing Board Members.

Councillor Farthing also felt that a reduction in face to face GP appointments had been a worrying impact of the pandemic. Most people had coped well but some conditions did require 'in person' consultations. She went on to highlight the indicators showing an increase in the proportion of children in relatively low income households, which was an issue pre-pandemic, and that there was no progress being made with rates of breastfeeding in the city.

Gerry advised that rates of breastfeeding had been identified as an area requiring specific focus and further support for this was being developed.

Following consideration of the report, it was RESOLVED: -

- (i) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (ii) it be agreed to receive six-monthly performance updates on the Healthy City Plan performance dashboard.

HW37. Covid-19 in Sunderland – Update

The Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning submitted a report providing an update on the Covid-19 situation in Sunderland.

Gerry Taylor delivered a presentation to the Board and in doing so provided an update on the current position with regard to infections and daily deaths. The presentation also set out the Government's Plan B and highlighted the measures announced on 8 December 2021 in response to the Omicron variant. The vaccine programme continued to be promoted throughout the city and the testing strategy remained the same, as did arrangements for contact tracing.

Councillor McDonough referred to the recent announcement that venues would be required to check that visitors over 18 were fully vaccinated or had proof of a negative test or exemption. He noted that this would be a big challenge and queried

what the Council might do to support venues. Gerry said that detailed guidance was awaited but once this was in place then Public Health would be better able to assist venues; advice to employers was being updated and webinars had also been used in the past to convey information to businesses.

Councillor McDonough noted that quickly changing situation and asked if the Council had a package of measures ready and if there was any additional funding. Gerry advised that the Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) would be used as things changed; the situation was always fast moving and the plan would be developed as additional guidance was received. Some funding had been received from Government to support the LOMP and it had been assumed that this was to cover until the end of the financial year, however it had been asked if this could be carried forward or if additional funding was coming forward and a response was awaited.

John Dean asked how the progress of Omicron would be measured. Gerry stated that progress would be measured through the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and additional measures would depend on what was seen with Omicron in the coming weeks. It was already known that this strain was more transmissible but there was not yet a clear indication of what this would mean for the community.

Dr Weatherhead commented that there was a lack of a strong national message about lateral flow tests as people with symptoms thought that a negative lateral flow test meant that they did not have Covid. Gerry agreed that part of this was about understanding of different types of test and a lot of communications had been carried out on this locally. If there were certain cohorts where this was an issue then the team would be happy to look at this. Dr Weatherhead felt that there needed to be more national exposure on this issue.

Councillor Farthing noted that, given the new variant being identified, people may start to wonder when they would need their next booster injection. Dr O'Brien said that was being considered and scientists were still looking at the requirement for additional boosters.

RESOLVED that the update and the presentation be noted.

HW38. Sunderland Winter/Covid-19 Resilience Plan 2021/2022

The Managing Director of All Together Better (ATB) and C&C Chair and the ATB System Command and Control Management Lead submitted a joint report providing an update on the system winter/Covid-19 planning in Sunderland.

Philip Foster and Natalie McClary were in attendance to deliver a presentation which provided an overview of: -

- Learning from Covid-19 and winter 2020/21 which would support winter planning and resilience for 2021/22
- System winter scheme overview for 2021/22
- Out of hospital surge protocol and processes.

Winter funding was used to ensure safe and quality patient care was provided at times of high demand and each year the system considered lessons learned and ideas of reform which may lead to service change going forward.

The presentation highlighted the areas of transformation implemented in 2020/21 and it was noted that the winter vaccination programme was key to supporting system resilience this winter. Health and social care staff had been offered Covid booster jabs as a priority and all health staff needed to be fully vaccinated by 31 March 2022. The target for flu vaccinations amongst Sunderland and South Tyneside Foundation Trust staff was 100% and 44.5% of employees had currently taken up the vaccine.

A large number of winter schemes had been approved within the themes of integrated hospital discharge support and increased system resilience. Key system surge meetings and forums would monitor and progress winter planning and resilience and targeted winter communications were in place to encourage people to choose the appropriate service to meet their medical need.

Philip noted that the main issue during this year had been capacity and Councillor Farthing commented that there were often reports of ambulances backing up outside hospitals. Philip advised that there was a scheme operating which would allow patients to go to the waiting area if they did not need to be in an ambulance and the system was managing the number of ambulances arriving. ATB was working with the North East Ambulance Service to prevent unnecessary calls, for example the Telecare service could deal with falls and GP practices could get patients to hospital by other means.

Councillor McDonough highlighted that people who could not get to see a GP may go to Accident and Emergency instead and asked if there was any additional support for GPs. Philip stated that overspill appointments were being made available for same day access in the community and there was also a stepped up paediatric service locally. The Urgent Treatment Centre had just moved to its new location at Sunderland Royal Hospital and community pharmacies were being utilised to reduce pressure on GP practices.

John Dean commented that whilst there was a high level of satisfaction from participants in the Healthwatch survey, 34% had felt that they were not sufficiently involved in the discharge process and that step-down beds were not quite as good as they could be. It was also noted that virtually no surgeries had hoists which allowed disabled people to have an appropriate examination.

Philip acknowledged these comments and emphasised that the main focus was to get people back into their homes with the correct package of care.

RESOLVED that the plans for the city to ensure winter/Covid-19 resilience for 2021/22 be received and noted.

HW39. Sunderland 2021/2022 Better Care Fund Submission

The Executive Director of Neighbourhoods and the Sunderland CCG Accountable Officer submitted a joint report presenting the Better Care Fund Plan for 2021/2022.

Health and Wellbeing Boards were required to submit annual Better Care Fund (BCF) plans and the 2021/22 plan was developed and submitted by 16 November 2021 to deliver the mandatory requirements set out in BCF Policy Framework. The Policy Framework sets out the ambition to build on progress made during the Covid-19 pandemic, strengthen the integration of commissioning and delivery of services and delivering person-centred care, as well as continuing to support system recovery from the pandemic.

The local authority and CCG must agree a plan for their local authority area which includes agreement on the use of mandatory BCF funding streams and this plan must be signed off by the Health and Wellbeing Board. Due to challenging timescales around the development and submission of the plan, it was initially discussed with the Chair of the Board and the CCG Accountable Officer as the Board was not due to meet until after the submission deadline. Following ratification by the Health and Wellbeing Board, the plan would be submitted to All Together Better and the CCG Executive Committee and Governing Body.

The minimum total contributions to the BCF in 2021/2022 were £48,279,044, however the actual pooled budget in Sunderland was £245,635,287 which included all adult social care and out of hospital spending.

The impact of the pandemic was reflected in the performance metrics and it was recommended in the Plan that improvements needed to be delivered in relation to Residential Admissions and Reablement. The full Better Care Fund submission was attached as appendix 1 to the report.

Having considered the report, it was: -

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the process followed in developing the 2021/2022 BCF Plan and key points from the plan be noted;
- (ii) the submissions included in appendix 1 be noted; and
- (iii) the development of the 2021/2022 Section 75 agreement which would be submitted to a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board for agreement be noted.

HW40. Health and Wellbeing Board Delivery Boards Assurance Update

The Chief Executive of Together for Children, Executive Director of Public Health and Integrated Commissioning and Executive Director of Neighbourhoods submitted a joint report providing the Health and Wellbeing Board with assurance that the work of the Delivery Boards was progressing in line with their agreed terms of reference and providing a summary of the key points discussed at their recent meetings.

The Delivery Boards met on a quarterly basis to have oversight of the six Marmot objectives and the nine Healthy City Plan workstreams. An update report would be presented to each meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board setting out what had been discussed and key issues to take forward.

The Board therefore RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the meeting summaries from the recent meetings of the delivery boards be noted;
- (ii) it be assured that the work of the Delivery Boards was progressing in line with their agreed terms of reference;
- (iii) specific agenda items from the Delivery Boards be received for discussion; and
- (iv) it be agreed to receive quarterly assurance updates from the Delivery Boards on an ongoing basis.

HW41. Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Annual Report

The Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership Statutory Partners submitted the annual report of the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP).

The Annual Report covered a period of time when the Partnership had experienced considerable change including: -

- Implementation of Multi-Agency Safeguarding Arrangements which were agreed in January 2020;
- Introduction of the Independent Scrutineer
- Developing new ways of working with children and young people as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The report acknowledged that new partnership arrangements were being embedded and foundations were being laid for stronger partnership working going forward.

The Board RESOLVED that:

- (i) the content of the report be noted and it be accepted as assurance of the current effectiveness of the local safeguarding children arrangements;

(ii) queries on the report be directed to the SSCP Business Manager.

HW42. Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan

The Senior Manager – Policy submitted a report presenting the forward plan of business for 2021/2022.

Members of the Board were encouraged to put forward items for future meeting agendas either at Board meetings or by contacting the Council's Senior Policy Manager.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be received for information.

HW43. Other Business

Jane Wheeler informed Board Members that Together for Children were currently making a bid for Family Hubs as part of a pilot scheme which would build on the five existing children's centres. The initial plan was for the old Hendon Health Centre to be the base for a hub and spoke model bringing together all services in one location. Further detail on this project would be shared with Board Members outside of the meeting.

HW44. Dates and Time of Next Meetings

The next meeting of the Board would take place on Friday 18 March 2022 at 12.00pm.

(Signed) K CHEQUER
Chair