

# SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Thursday 7 December 2023

Meeting held in Council Chamber, City Hall

## MINUTES

Present: -

Councillor Kelly Chequer (in the Chair)	-	Sunderland City Council
Councillor Linda Williams	-	Sunderland City Council
Councillor Lynn Vera	-	Sunderland City Council
Jill Colbert	-	Chief Executive, Together for Children
Yitka Graham	-	University of Sunderland
Graham King	-	Director of Adult Services, Sunderland City Council
Dr Tracey Lucas	-	North East and North Cumbria ICB
Patrick Melia	-	Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council
Gerry Taylor	-	Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities, Sunderland City Council
Scott Watson	-	North East and North Cumbria ICB
Paul Weddle	-	Healthwatch Sunderland
<b>In Attendance:</b>		
Lisa Jones	-	Assistant Director of Integrated Commissioning, Sunderland City Council
Kaye Chapman	-	Public Health Lead (Health Protection)
Lorraine Hughes	-	Public Health Consultant, Sunderland City Council
Sheila Rundle	-	Senior Public Health Intelligence Analyst, Sunderland City Council
Jane Hibberd	-	Senior Manager – Policy, Sunderland City Council
Nic Marko	-	Local Democracy Reporting Service
Gillian Kelly	-	Democratic Services, Sunderland City Council

### HW27. Welcome

Councillor Chequer welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

## **HW28. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fiona Miller, Andy Airey, Ken Bremner, Lucy Caplan, Philip Foster, Chief Superintendent Mark Hall and Robin Hudson.

## **HW29. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **HW30. Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 28 September 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

Scott Watson referred to the comment he had made regarding social media being used to convey the messages of the Director of Public Health's Annual report. Gerry Taylor advised that she had spoken to Louise Darby, the Communications Officer and noted that she chairs a regional meeting on Public Health communications. Lousie would pick this issue up and contact Scott direct.

Jane Hibberd confirmed that all actions on the log had been completed.

## **HW31. Health Related Behaviour Survey Findings – Academic Year 2022/2023**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report sharing an overview of the findings of the recent Health Related Behaviour Survey conducted in the summer term of 2023 and considering actions in response to the findings.

Lorraine Hughes was in attendance to talk to the report and deliver a presentation. She stated that the survey had been carried out every two years since 2006 and the most recent survey had seen the highest level of participation ever. The survey findings were being publicised as widely as possible and a response to those who had taken part was also being pushed out. The priorities set out in 2021 had been delivered in the main, and the priorities arising from this survey were as follows: -

- Develop a communication toolkit that will support the professional audience, children and young people and parents/carers. Following dissemination of the toolkit feedback would be sought to understand usefulness and inform plans for the next survey.
- Communicate the results and intelligence gathered with relevant groups and through discussion identify key priorities to improve outcomes for children and young people. Some emerging priorities already identified through this process included emotional wellbeing / worries, healthy diet and handwashing for primary school pupils and vaping and bullying for secondary school pupils.

- Gather learning and insights to improve future HRB surveys. Consolidate and synthesise the feedback acquired from various channels, including previous sources and the input collected during the roadshow to inform the development of the 2025 survey.
- Revisit special educational needs survey for 2025. Previously there had not been any special schools participating in the HRBS. In 2023 one school expressed an interest and collaborated with the Council to adopt the survey design but was then not able to undertake the survey during the time period allocated. Further engagement would be sought to understand how participation could be supported in the future.
- To update relevant Joint Strategic Needs Assessments to include the appropriate data.
- Ensure the school health profiles were updated.

Dr Lucas noted that 80% of children said that they wore a bike helmet; if this could be further promoted then it would save lives. Lorraine Hughes commented that this had been picked up at the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee in relation to bikes and scooters.

Councillor Williams said that it was good to see the growing numbers of respondents to the survey, particularly in secondary schools and that there was a reasonable spread across primary schools taking part in the city. She also suggested that young people attending the Link School and the provision at the Beacon of Light should be asked to take part in the survey.

Dr Lucas asked if it was felt that it would be useful to carry out the survey more frequently and Lorraine advised that the rationale was that the survey was done through a national organisation, in the same way as other local authorities, and this enabled Sunderland to benchmark itself against others.

Gerry Taylor highlighted that Lorraine had mentioned that findings around food were not very positive and there had been a good conversation on this at the Healthy Weight stakeholder group and some actions had been drawn up.

With regard to young people smoking and vaping, the Chair noted that a strong response had been submitted to the consultation on this and she hoped to see positive legislative outcomes as a result.

Having considered the report, it was: -

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the update and published report on the findings of the health related behaviour survey be received;
- (ii) the key priorities identified be endorsed;
- (iii) the ongoing work of sharing information with key stakeholders to inform and influence our approaches and plans to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Sunderland; and

- (iv) updates on progress in relation to the agreed actions be received via the Starting Well Delivery Board assurance report.

### **HW32. Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) Update and Review**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report presenting the findings of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) Steering Group in relation to community pharmacy provision.

Recent changes to community pharmacy provision in the city, which had included the closure of three pharmacies and a reduction in opening hours of 100 hours pharmacies, had necessitated a review of the provision and assessment of the impact of the changes.

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities and the PNA Steering Group were satisfied that the closures did not leave a significant gap in pharmaceutical services. Sunderland Healthwatch had also determined that the public had no major concerns.

Dr Lucas asked how the changes to pharmacies were communicated as the closures had been a surprise. Scott Watson said that he would take this point away and noted that a communications strategy was being developed around this and also optometry.

Grahm King asked if the closures were following a national trend and Lisa Jones said that this was definitely the case, particularly with the reduction in opening hours.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the Health and Wellbeing Board be assured that the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities is supported by the PNA Steering Group to fulfil the delegated responsibilities (as referred to in paragraph 3.1(d) of the report); and
- (ii) the findings of the PNA Steering Group be endorsed that:
  - i. the closure of the three pharmacies and reduction in hours does not leave a significant gap in pharmaceutical services across Sunderland; and
  - ii. the existing PNA does not require a supplementary statement.

### **HW33. Healthy City Plan: Performance Overview**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report which presented the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the Healthy City Plan performance framework. The report presented a range of key indicators that had been selected to provide a summary of health and the wider determinants of health for people of all ages in Sunderland. Full details of each indicator were shown within the appendices to the report.

Sheila Rundle outlined the key position, trends and narratives in relation to performance. With regard to Starting Well, indicators had improved for smoking at time of delivery and the proportion of infants being breastfed at 6-8 weeks. There had also been a reduction in teenage conceptions and a short term fall in children living in low income families.

Living Well indicators showed that a larger number of adults were living with overweight or obesity and smoking prevalence had reduced. Sunderland's employment rate was marginally higher than the North East average but below Great Britain's. There had been a small decrease in fuel poverty.

In relation to Ageing Well, dementia diagnosis rates were improving, however under 75 preventable mortality was considerably higher than the England average.

Following consideration of the report it was: -

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the contents of the report be noted;
- (ii) the actions and whether they are sufficient where targets are not being met be considered; and
- (iii) the Board continue to receive six-monthly performance updates on the Healthy City Plan performance dashboard.

### **HW34. Health and Wellbeing Boards Assurance Update**

The Chief Executive of Together for Children, Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities and Director of Adult Services/Chief Operating Officer of SCAS 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, a summary of the key points discussed at their recent meetings and an update on the Healthy City Plan grant available to the Delivery Boards.

The Delivery Boards continued to meet on a quarterly basis, with the most recent meetings held in November 2023. The delivery boards would hold additional workshops and development sessions subject to their business needs.

Jill Colbert reported that the Starting Well Delivery Board had a really good meeting in November and the group was starting to get into the substance of the work. There had been an excellent presentation from the Good Food Partnership and also on the Health Related Behaviour Survey which helped to understand the lived experience of children and young people.

The group remained concerned about healthy weight and the impact of the pandemic on issues such as communication. Four of the five family hubs were now operating and the fifth hub at Hendon was due to start delivery in December.

The Chair noted that she was pleased to hear about positive outcomes from the Bread and Butter Thing but noted her concerns about the future of the Household Support Fund.

Jill stated that the Holiday Activities and Food Programme was funded through the Department for Education and family hubs had received short term funding but an announcement on future funding was expected soon. A sustainability plan was needed for family hubs and this would be progressed with partners. Jill agreed that there were concerns about the discontinuation of the Household Support Fund and work was ongoing with the Public Health team to support children just above the qualification for free school meals.

Gerry Taylor added that the Financial Wellbeing Strategy would look at the implications of the Household Support Fund and what the Council and its partners needed to do.

The Living Well Board had discussed the refreshed Suicide Prevention Action Plan and noted the contributions from partners across the city. The Board had also received a presentation on community pharmacies and the Health Model Office from Job Centre Plus. Following on from the recent development session, the Board had been discussing how it would move forward to link with new area-based arrangements and a meeting had been arranged with the Chair, Vice-Chair, Scott Watson and Gerry Taylor to look at this.

Graham King reported that the Ageing Well Delivery Board had refreshed its delivery plan following a workshop session in October and had revisited its strategic priorities with input from the Ageing Well Ambassadors. The group was starting to report out on things it had developed including the Falls Strategy and Therapies Care Home Team.

It was noted that temporary funding for some projects was starting to run out and plans would have to be developed on this. There was a strong ambition for Ageing Well Ambassadors to help support the achievement of Dementia Friendly status for the city.

The Chair commented that she supported the ambition for the Ageing Well Ambassadors and placed on record her thanks for all the work they did.

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) the Board development session be noted for public record and an update on, and recommendations from, the Board review be received at the next meeting in March 2024;
- (iv) potential project proposals for the remaining Healthy City Plan grant be considered; and
- (v) progress updates on the use of the Healthy City Plan Grant be received via the Delivery Boards for the next meeting.

### **HW35. Sunderland Health Protection Annual Report 2022/2023**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report providing an overview of health protection arrangements and some relevant activity across Sunderland during 2022/2023.

Kaye Chapman delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the report and in doing so explained that the aims of the Health Protection Report 2022/23 were to:

- support the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities' statutory remit to provide assurance to the Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Board and Sunderland City Council in relation to health protection of the local population.
- provide an overview of health protection arrangements and some relevant activity across Sunderland during 2022/23.
- outline the local position on health protection issues and priorities.

Sunderland had robust health protection systems in place and health protection functions were shared across a range of organisations, which were overseen by the Sunderland Health Protection Board. The three indicators in the report were uptake of childhood vaccinations, flu and Covid vaccinations and screening programmes.

There continued to be excellent uptake for most childhood vaccinations and most screening programmes had recovered from being paused during the pandemic. Improvements in uptake were needed for the second MMR, some COVID-19 and influenza risk groups, HPV, MenACWY and breast and cervical cancer screening.

There would be a focus on addressing inequalities in groups with lowest uptake and improved access to data was needed to address this.

There was a good relationship between the Health Protection Board and emergency planning and this provided reassurance in system resilience to respond to emergencies. The Health Protection Board had oversight of the health protection system and areas of concern were addressed and challenged such as TB response and areas of low uptake in screening and immunisation.

The following key areas would be a focus for 2023/2024: -

- Continue to ensure that the population of Sunderland were informed about current and emerging threats to health and to provide information and advice to enable people to make informed decisions to protect their own health.
- To prioritise reducing health inequalities in health protection areas such as access to screening and immunisation programmes.
- To work with NHS commissioners and providers and other partners to improve immunisation and screening uptake, with focus on at risk groups and groups with historically low uptake such as pregnant women, health and adult social care staff.
- To build on the collaboration developed over the past year between EPRR and the HPB. To continue to ensure the HPB are engaged and sighted on EPRR work, especially in light of the ever-changing and emerging complex risks and threats.
- To continue to use behavioural insights to direct efforts to improve immunisation and screening uptake, including evaluating the impact of interventions.
- To continue to work with partners to strengthen and develop the systems in place for asylum seekers and refugees so that adequate and appropriate support is available.
- To continue to actively participate in the management of outbreaks and incidents.
- To continue to work with partners to strengthen infection, prevention and control of infectious diseases in care homes and to support partners to protect residents from infectious diseases and environmental hazards.
- To work with partners to ensure that there was resilience in the health protection system including ensuring that the gaps in the TB service were filled and it was able to respond to complex cases and situations.

Councillor Williams commented that it was great to see childhood immunisations and screenings were seeing high take up; she queried if there was an issue with the HPV vaccine.

Kaye stated that there had been some behavioural insight work carried out and parents did not see HPV as a 'normal' childhood vaccine and the team would seek to address that.

Jill Colbert observed that, given the deterioration in school attendance levels, there would inevitably be an impact on take up of vaccines and if a child missed a second dose, this could easily be forgotten.

Lorraine Hughes said that vaccination providers did offer catch-ups, some in school and some in their office but there was a limit on how many times this could be provided. Vaccinations were offered to home educated children but take up for the flu vaccine had been very low. Public Health was linking with the Together for



Children lead on this and it was acknowledged that the school immunisation process needed to push that agenda.

The Chair asked about the gaps in the TB service and Kaye offered reassurance that the gap had now been addressed. Scott Watson added that there had been some resource committed to bolster that service and there was resilience in Sunderland.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the report be noted;
- (ii) the Health and Wellbeing Board be assured that Sunderland had a robust health protection system where partner organisations work together to protect the health of the population of Sunderland;
- (iii) the Board be assured that the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities will keep health protection arrangements under review and will seek to make improvements as and when necessary; and
- (iv) the health protection forward plan priorities for 2023/2024 as set out in section 14 of the Health Protection Annual Report 2022/2023 be endorsed.

### **HW36. Sunderland Place Committee Assurance Update**

The Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council submitted a report providing assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board that the Sunderland Place Committee continued to function in a way that supported effective integration of health and care, as set out in the Sunderland Place Plan, Sunderland City Plan and Integrated Care Strategy.

The report set out all the business discussed at the Sunderland Place Committee between October and November 2023 and Lisa Jones highlighted a number of items including the development of a women's health hub, the framework for Place Committee assurance and flexibility in section 75 arrangements.

The Sunderland Place Committee had been the first in the region to go through the place assurance process and feedback had been received this week with no major concerns raised.

The Chair asked if there was more information about the women's health hub and Lisa advised that this was a collaborative piece of work which included the ICB and Healthwatch to address community needs and what women wanted. The hub would have a focus on reproductive health, menopause and mental health.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the summaries from the recent Sunderland Place Committee be noted; and
- (ii) the Board be assured that the work of the Sunderland Place Committee was progressing in a manner that supports effective integration of health and care, as set out in the Sunderland Place Plan, Sunderland Healthy City Plan and Integrated Care Strategy (Better Health and Wellbeing for All)

### **HW37. Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/2023**

It was a Care Act requirement for the Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board to give an annual account of the work of the Board and Annual Report had been submitted for the consideration of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board had a five-year rolling delivery plan which was refreshed on an annual basis. The current priorities of the Board were: -

- Prevention
- Local Areas of Risk:
  - Self-Neglect
  - Mental Capacity
  - Homelessness
  - At Risk/Vulnerable/Complex Cases (including Substance Misuse) who don't meet statutory thresholds (via the Complex Adults Risk Management (CARM) process)
  - Domestic Abuse (supporting the work of the lead body, Sunderland Domestic Abuse Board)
  - Suicide Prevention (supporting the work of the lead bodies, Sunderland City Council's Public Health Team and the Suicide Prevention Action Group)

These priorities informed the Board's local actions to safeguard adults in Sunderland and were underpinned by the Care Act's six key principles of adult safeguarding.

The report highlighted significant progress against the strategic priorities through the work of the Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board and its sub-committees. The report particularly emphasised the individual/service user experiences and used good practice case studies to illustrate the positive outcomes that had been obtained for a number of people who were either supported through the safeguarding adults enquiry process, or who benefited from 'lower-level keeping safe' preventative activity, advice and support to safeguard them and aid them to live safe and independent lives of their choosing.

The future direction of travel for the Board was set out with regard to closely monitoring the impact of the Cost of Living Crisis, progressing the Safeguarding Adults Review process regarding a complex case and publishing the learning from this case and continuing to build on the excellent partnership already established. In addition, a range of work would focus on the key priorities of Prevention, Self-Neglect, Mental Capacity and Homelessness, the Complex Adults Risk Management

(CARM) process, domestic abuse, and suicide prevention would continue to be taken forward.

RESOLVED that the content of the Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report 2022/2023 be noted.

### **HW38. Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan**

The Senior Manager – Policy submitted a report presenting the forward plan of business for the year ahead.

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.

### **HW39. Dates and Times of Future Meetings**

The next meeting would take place on Thursday 14 March 2024 at 12.00pm

The meeting would take place in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Sunderland.

Prior to the close of the meeting, the Chair informed Board Members that Lorraine Hughes would shortly be leaving Sunderland to take up the role of Director of Public Health at Darlington Borough Council. The Chair thanked Lorraine for her contribution to the Health and Wellbeing Board and wished her well for the future.

(Signed) K CHEQUER  
Chair

