

# SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Friday 9 December 2022

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 Fiona Miller                 | - | Sunderland City Council  |
| Yitka Graham                            | - | University of Sunderland   |
| Graham King                             | - | Director of Adult Services   |
| Patrick Melia                           | - | Chief Executive, Sunderland City Council                                       |
| Gerry Taylor                            | - | Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities, Sunderland City Council |
| Paul Weddle                             | - | Vice-Chair, Healthwatch Sunderland   |

### In Attendance:

- |                     |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Dave Gallagher      | - | Executive Area Director - South, NENC ICS                               |
| Philip Foster       | - | All Together Better   |
| Lisa Jones          | - | Assistant Director of Integrated Commissioning, Sunderland City Council |
| Karen Davison       | - | Together for Children   |
| Jessica May         | - | Sunderland Partnership Co-ordinator                                     |
| Sheila Rundle       | - | Senior Public Health Intelligence Analyst, Sunderland City Council      |
| Julie Parker-Walton | - | Public Health Consultant, Sunderland City Council                       |
| Jane Hibberd        | - | Senior Manager – Policy, Sunderland City Council                        |
| Chris Binding       | - | Local Democracy Reporting Service                                       |
| Gillian Kelly       | - | Governance Services, Sunderland City Council                            |

### HW29. Welcome

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

### **HW30. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Jill Colbert, Dr Tracey Lucas, Scott Watson and Dr Martin Weatherhead.

### **HW31. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **HW32. Minutes and Matters Arising**

The minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 30 September 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

Councillor Farthing asked whether any information had been obtained on falls and Graham King advised that he had some provisional data from the Health Trust. The topic was on the forward plan for the March Board meeting,

### **HW33. Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Annual Report 2021/2022**

Karen Davison, Together for Children, presented the Sunderland Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) Annual Report 2021/2022 for the information of Members.

This was the second annual report from the SSCP and it set out the work which had been undertaken throughout the year, the Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews which had been completed, how the views of children, young people and families had been sought and used and the training offer provided to ensure the Sunderland workforce was better equipped to support children, young people and families who needed it.

The SSCP's achievements for the year included:

- The Practitioner Forum had gone from strength to strength and was the most effective thing which had been done by the partnership in the last year.
- Covid recovery funding had been used for the city's prevention bus 'Wear Here 4 You' and had also funded Relationship and Sex Education workers managed by Together for Children.
- Delivery of a joint Practitioner Forum with the Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls Board
- Developing the Young People's Plan which complemented the work of Together for Children's Young People's Team
- Through joint working with the Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Board and the Safer Sunderland Partnership, a citywide, all-age Strategic Exploitation Group had been established.

- Developing a process for sharing Child Concern Notifications for pre-school aged children with health services, so that they could provide an earlier response to families who needed support.
- Providing funding for an officer to roll out Signs of Safety training across the partnership.

The report also set out the focus for the Partnership in 2022/2023 which would be to:

- Continue to deliver the SSCP Business Plan 2021- 2024
- Continue to work strategically with other partnerships across the system
- Ensure children and young people with complex mental health difficulties were well supported.
- Develop the offer for Children Missing Education.
- Deliver quality services for families against the backdrop of the cost-of-living crisis.

Councillor Farthing commended the report and emphasised the strength of improvements in relation to children's safeguarding and that Signs of Safety was being used widely. Feedback provided on the prevention bus informed practice and in turn strengthened the service. Councillor Farthing also paid tribute to Nicola Appleby and the work which she had done to bring all of this together into the Annual Report.

The Chair asked if there was anything which the Health and Wellbeing Board could do to assist the work of the SSCP. Karen referred to the Family Hubs agenda which involved all health partners and said that it would be necessary to move at pace to deliver on this.

The Early Help Strategy which sat within the Starting Well Board was being broadened to an Early Help and Prevention Strategy; one success over the last few years had been that more things were happening at an earlier stage.

The Chair commented that health colleagues did understand the requirement to move quickly on the Family Hubs agenda and suggested that this might be brought to a future Board meeting.

The Chair went on to say that she was pleased to hear about the further development of the Early Help and Prevention Strategy and Councillor Farthing highlighted that Karen had been instrumental in pulling elements of different strategies together to create the new document. This would highlight the divide between universal services and 'stepping up' and it was felt that all partners could do a bit more than the basic.

Having considered the report it was: -

RESOLVED that: -

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

- (ii) any queries in relation to the SSCP Annual Report be directed to Karen Davison, SSCP lead officer.

### **HW34. Cost of Living Crisis – Impact on Health**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report providing an update on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on health and providing an opportunity for the Board to make recommendations on action to mitigate the impacts on Sunderland's residents.

Gerry Taylor introduced the report and in doing so, explained that there was a partnership task force currently focused on this issue and that the report sought to highlight the significant implications for health.

The recent Marmot Review had highlighted that 'warm homes, nutritious food and a stable job are vital building blocks for health'. The rising cost of living was leading to many residents making difficult decisions which would impact directly on their long-term health and wellbeing outcomes. There was particular vulnerability for those in receipt of means tested benefits and low and moderate income households. An inability to keep the home warm increased the risk of people in the home contracting respiratory illnesses.

Socio-economic disadvantages were one of the primary risk factors linked to maternal and infant health outcomes and 30.8% of children in Sunderland were living in low-income families compared to 18.7% nationally.

The report provided information on use of foodbanks and it showed that the number of people seeking support had increased by 82% between 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. There had been a reduction in usage during 2021/2022 but trends were predicting an increase for 2022/2023 and many foodbanks were reporting significant problems with donation levels.

Living in cold homes was associated with poor health and increased the risk of morbidity and mortality for all age groups. 14.6% of households in Sunderland were living in fuel poverty according to information gathered prior to the ongoing increase in utility prices, therefore it was expected that this figure would now be higher.

There was increased likelihood of both injury and illness when people were in poor housing and food insecurity in families with infants under 12 months was leading to concerns that parents would seek to wean babies off milk earlier than was advisable due to the cost of infant formula.

The Cost-of-Living Crisis Council Task Group had first met in June 2022 and was meeting monthly with its key activities including: -

- Sunderland Cost of Living Strategy with a strategic action plan to manage short, medium and long term activity was being developed.
- Utilising the brand already used in Sunderland to engage with residents "Let's Talk Cost of Living" to understand lived experience around the cost of living.

- Fifty-five warm spaces across the city were working in partnership with voluntary and community sector and other city partners.
- Setting up a hub in each of the five localities in Sunderland through the 'Bread and Butter Thing' (TBBT).
- Population health management approach to help identify those households who were most vulnerable.

There was also a Sunderland Partnership Task Force which was citywide and had membership from key partners and a Health Response Group had been established to look at initiatives to support patients and staff.

The Chair thanked Julie Parker-Walton for presenting the report which was very pertinent at the current time and showed that there was quite a lot of work going on. It was impressive to see that people were taking the situation seriously and had stepped up to address these issues. She noted that it would be useful to have some more information about what health colleagues were doing.

Dave Gallagher commented that it was useful to see this brought together and it reinforced that health was everyone's business and the collective response was impressive. He asked how people were being informed of what was available and noted that this was also about looking after staff as pressure was building in primary and secondary care.

Philip Foster noted the health representation on the Partnership Task Force and highlighted some of the practical work which was being done through All Together Better. The social prescribing agenda could help with costs and there was an ambitious strategy on this in Sunderland.

The high intensity users scheme was looking at visits to the emergency department and finding that often the issues were more around social care and this was being investigated. There was also a need to map mental health and social care 'hubs' for the Single Point of Contact and it was noted that the hospital was trying to adopt the 'Making Every Contact Count' approach.

The Chief Executive of the Integrated Care Board had written to gas and electricity companies regarding vulnerable people having their power supplies cut off and the impact this could have on those who needed power for medical reasons such as oxygen provision. The Chair felt that this intervention from the Chief Executive was important.

Gerry Taylor alluded to the performance report which would be considered later in the meeting and the challenge to make improvements in health outcomes due to the cost of living. In relation to communications and engagement, one of the key themes – both internally and in the partnership – would be developing an approach to understand the residents' perspective.

Attempts were being made to collect all of the information on services and advice on the Council website and it would be good for the partnership to share ideas about supporting staff.

Gerry noted the point which had been made about hubs and it was desirable to have a system which was easier for residents and staff to navigate.

Yitka Graham noted that the change of language from 'food poverty' to 'food insecurity' and felt that this, and fuel insecurity allowed this issue to be thought about differently. She also referred to staff wellbeing across the system and the acknowledgement of the need to look after people who were dealing with an unprecedented situation.

Councillor Miller asked if staff were being trained to support people suffering trauma which could lead to complex needs and how could it be discovered what these people, who often ended up at Accident and Emergency, wanted and needed.

With regard to accessibility of foodbanks, Councillor Miller said that she was aware that some were intending to go mobile and referrals to foodbanks could also be quite traumatic. Housing insecurity was also part of the larger picture.

The Chair noted that homelessness was now under Gerry's remit and work was going on with social care and housing, amongst other services, on Accident and Emergency attendees. Gerry added that there would be a discussion at the forthcoming development session on individuals with complex needs and there was some funding available through the ICB to help tackle that.

Julie Parker-Walton reported that a health needs assessment had been carried out with homeless people which would feed into the housing strategy. Philip noted that the high intensity user scheme for the Emergency Department had embedded a housing officer into the discharge process.

Councillor Farthing referred to discussions on poverty and insecurity and wondered whether 'affordability' was also a term which could be used. She suggested that one way of alleviating stress for parents was to extend universal free school meals; the actual costs of this would not be great when compared to the impact. Gerry stated that she was looking at access to food in schools with Simon Marshall and any local action which could be taken.

Having had a full discussion on the report, the Board: -

RESOLVED that the content of the report be noted and suggestions made to mitigate the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on the Sunderland's residents be taken forward.

### **HW35. Better Care Fund 2022/2023 Submission**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities and Director for Place (Sunderland) submitted a joint report to: -

- seek the Health and Wellbeing Board's agreement for the Council and Integrated Care Board (ICB) to enter into a Section 75 agreement to enable improved health

and care integration and to meet national conditions of the 2022/2023 'Better Care Fund' (BCF) programme; and

- gain Board views on possible areas for future integration that would support delivery of the Healthy City Plan and Integrated Care Strategy.

The Health and Wellbeing Board had previously retrospectively approved the Sunderland Better Care Fund Plan for 2022/2023 and the allocation of £2.7m was to be pooled into a Section 75 agreement by the end of January 2023.

There were a number of funding conditions to be met in order for the full funding to be received and the agreed Section 75 would need to include details of relevant governance arrangements and reporting on the following monitoring points: -

- Number of care packages purchased for care homes, domiciliary care and intermediate care
- Number of people discharged to their usual place of residence (already within the existing BCF)
- Absolute number of people 'not meeting criteria to reside' (and who have not been discharged)
- Number of 'bed days lost' to delayed discharge by Trust
- Proportion (%) of bed base occupied by patients who do not meet the criteria to reside, by Trust.

Sunderland City Council and the ICB had procured some external legal support to develop the Section 75 agreement in order to meet the deadline of 31 December 2022. By this date the Council would enter into a Section 75 agreement with the ICB on terms agreed by the respective parties. It was proposed that the structure of the agreement would support the inclusion of wider schemes of health and care integration in the future in order to support collaborative delivery of the Healthy City Plan and emerging Integrated Care Strategy for North East and North Cumbria.

Having noted that there would be further discussion on this at the development session on 13 December 2022, the Board: -

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) it be agreed to support the decision for the Council and the ICB to enter into an agreement in accordance with Section 75 of the National Health Act 2006 (a Section 75 agreement); and
- (ii) consideration be given to areas of future integration that would support delivery of the Healthy City Plan and Integrated Care Strategy.

### **HW36. Membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board submitted a report to consult the Board on its future membership prior to approval by the Council at its Annual Meeting on 17 May 2023.

The membership of the Board was regularly reviewed to ensure that appropriate representation was in place from partners in the city and region and recent changes to structures arising from the Health and Care Act 2022 had meant that the NHS membership of the Board needed to be reviewed.

There had been three Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) positions on the Board; Chief Officer, Chair of the CCG and Member of the CCG. The proposed membership would include the Director of Place (Sunderland) and two other ICB positions.

The other NHS positions on the Board included the Chief Executive of South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, a representative of Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, the Chair of the Health and Care Executive and Chair of All Together Better. Going forward it was proposed that the representation from the foundation trusts remain the same and two representatives be drawn from the Sunderland Health and Care Alliance to reflect the emerging children and adult alliances.

Dave Gallagher commented that the ICB was still in flux, however Scott Watson would be the right nomination for Sunderland and the other representatives would be notified at a later date.

It was highlighted that interim arrangements were in place for the Vice-Chair of the Board and these would need to be reviewed when the ICB nominations were confirmed.

RESOLVED that: -

- (i) the proposed changes to the Board membership and the interim arrangements for the position of Vice-Chair be noted; and
- (ii) it be agreed to notify the Council of the Board's views on future membership prior to Council approval at the Annual Meeting on 17 May 2023.

### **HW37. Health and Wellbeing Delivery Boards Assurance Update**

The Chief Executive of Together for Children, Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities and Director of Adult Services 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, acknowledgement that Board development sessions were taking place and an update on the Healthy City plan grant available to the Delivery Boards.

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 Starting Well Delivery Board had discussed the new family hubs and noted that the city had received its funding award. The group had looked at food insecurity in families with infants under 12 months and had received a report on the delivery of Sunderland's Holiday Activity and Food Programme during Summer 2022; the programme was due to start again for the Christmas holidays.

Councillor Farthing noted that at the Best Start in Life meeting the previous week there had been discussions on a lot of issues arising from the Covid lockdown including lack of knowledge and peer support, which would be reflected in family hubs and early help.

The Living Well Delivery Board had received a presentation on the draft Alcohol Strategy and acknowledged the importance of the strategy. The delivery board would ratify the strategy in February prior to it being presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for final approval in March 2023.

The Living Well Delivery Board had also had some good discussions on the Housing and Homelessness Strategy and noted that this would link well with what the Board was trying to achieve.

The Ageing Well Delivery Board had received a presentation from Homeshare UK on different models of living which involved an older person sharing their home with a younger person who would provide an agreed amount of support. The initiative had worked reasonably well in the south of the country and the organisation had funding to deliver a pilot scheme in the North East.

The Board had also given formal feedback on the Alcohol Strategy and had a discussion on the formal redesign of the front door for Adult Social Care and the draft Carers' Strategy.

Councillor Farthing commented that the Carers' Strategy was very important to ensure that support was there for all carers and the Chair added that this would work across all three delivery boards.

Board Members were reminded that there was a £1.75m grant available to support the delivery of the Healthy City Plan and the delivery boards had begun to identify the following projects which had been approved subject to conditions: -

- Elemore Park - £240,000
- Physical Activity Opportunities - £130,000
- Carers Support Offer - £10,000
- Sunderland Falls Prevention Programme - £200,000 (maximum)
- Ageing Well Sunderland Reporters - £9,900

Gerry Taylor indicated that there was still some work to do to ensure that projects were focused on areas which had been prioritised and she would do some work on this with other officers to identify any gaps to be highlighted to the delivery boards.

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) it be acknowledged that Board development sessions were taking place; and
- (iv) the projects allocated the Healthy City Plan grant be noted.

### **HW38. Healthy City Plan Performance Overview**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report presenting an update on the Healthy City Plan performance framework and detailing a range of key indicators which had been selected to provide a summary of the health and wider determinants of health for people of all ages in Sunderland.

Sheila Rundle was in attendance to present the report and in doing so highlighted some of the following indicators which had been updated and discussed in detail by the three delivery boards: -

- Smoking at time of delivery had reduced to 14.5% in 2021/2022 but remained higher than regional and national averages.
- Uptake and maintenance of breast feeding had reduced to 25.5% in quarter four of 2021/2022 and was significantly lower than the England average of 48.9%.
- Teenage conceptions had increased from 23.4 to 25.1 per 1,000 in quarter one of 2021/2022, however there was an overall downward trend from the 1998 baseline.
- The proportion of children living in low-income families in Sunderland (30.8%) continued to increase at a faster rate than the wider North East and England.
- The overall employment rate of 70.8% in quarter one of 2022/2023 was an increase from 66.2% in the same period the previous year.
- The gap in the employment rate between those with long term conditions and the overall employment rate had fallen from 13.2% to 12.7%.
- The gap in the employment rate between those in contact with secondary mental health conditions and overall employment rates was 61.8%, an increase of 0.6% on 2019/2020.
- The gap in the employment rate between those with a learning disability and overall employment rate reduced by 1.2% from 2019/2020 to 65.5% in 2020/2021.
- There had been a decrease in the percentage of households identified as being in fuel poverty to 14.6% in 2020/2021. It was noted that this information pre-dated the ongoing increases in utility prices.
- The estimated dementia diagnosis rate for those aged 65 and over had fallen slightly to 60.5% for 2021/2022 and was below the regional and national figures.

Yitka Graham referred to the cost-of-living crisis and that there was no indication when the situation would ease and asked if there was any plan to weave this into the narrative; it was necessary to be realistic about what could be achieved in the

current turbulent climate. Gerry agreed that the cost-of-living crisis did need to be taken into account.

Councillor Farthing highlighted that National Insurance and working age benefits were set to increase next April and it was her belief that other things would then be cut which would impact on all health targets.

The Board RESOLVED that: -

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

### **HW39. Covid-19 and Flu in Sunderland – Update**

The Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities submitted a report providing an update on the Covid-19 and flu situation in Sunderland.

The number of cases of flu and Covid-19 were increasing locally and nationally and 76.5% of those aged 65 and over had received a flu vaccination which was lower than the average for the North East and Cumbria as a whole. Sunderland had the second lowest uptake of flu vaccinations among health and social care workers in the region and this was not where partners would like it to be.

Philip Foster commented that there seemed to be a ‘vaccination weariness’ among health and social care staff. The NHS Trust had offered a programme for staff to get the Covid and flu vaccinations together but this had not proved popular and they were now looking at a different approach.

Graham King highlighted that it had been an intention to vaccinate care home residents and staff together but there had been some push back from staff who had felt that they were forced to have a Covid vaccine. It was important that everything possible was done to push up the rates of vaccination.

Councillor Farthing commented that the majority of flu vaccinations were taken up by older and working age people but she noted that there was little mention of the flu vaccination for children and queried whether this needed to be publicised more, along with messaging around Strep A.

Gerry stated that there had been a programme of publicity about the flu vaccine for all cohorts and the numbers of children being vaccinated compared favourably with other cohorts. She advised that she had written to all schools about Strep A.

Yitka asked if there were any plans to have any public health messaging around hand washing and mask wearing and Gerry said the people were continuously

reminded about what they could do to prevent infection but the messaging and the channels being used would be reviewed.

RESOLVED that the update noted.

**HW40. 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 Manager - Policy.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be received for information.

**HW41. Dates and Time of Next Meeting**

The Board noted that the next meeting would be held on Friday 17 March 2023 at 12.00pm

(Signed) K CHEQUER  
Chair