

SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

25 June 2020

STATUS UPDATE – MARCH AGENDA

Report of Senior Manager - Policy

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the status of decision/discussion agenda items from the meeting of 20 March 2020, which was cancelled.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 On 16 March 2020, the Government advised that people should limit the amount of contact we have with others, to cancel all non-essential travel and to work from home wherever possible to prevent the spread of Coronavirus. On the basis of this advice the Health and Wellbeing Board, scheduled for 20 March 2020 was cancelled.
- 2.2 Below is an update of those agenda items that were due for decision or discussion.

3.0 Status update – 20 March 2020 agenda

3.1 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA)

A renewed PNA was due to be published by the Board in April 2021 and a report was included in the 20 March 2020 Board papers to agree the process for renewing the assessment. In light of COVID-19, the Department of Health and Social Care has announced that the requirement to publish renewed PNAs will be suspended until April 2022 and a report in relation to this will be presented to the Board at a later date. Health and Wellbeing Boards retain the ability to issue supplementary statements to respond to local changes and pharmaceutical needs during this time.

3.2 Best Start in Life

Oversight of the action plan of the Best Start in Life Working Group has continued, although the group has not met recently due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Progress on the action plan was reviewed in March and an update was shared with the working group in May, describing service changes in response to COVID-19.

Most service delivery for young children and families has transitioned to alternative delivery models in order to keep face to face contact to a minimum using telephone contacts and consultations, video calls, and virtual sessions. For example, Children's Centres are posting Time for Rhyme videos online,

and the 0-19 Public Health Service has launched a virtual breastfeeding clinic. Where there is a clinical need or vulnerability in families, face to face contact is still provided, with the appropriate use of PPE. The 0-19 Public Health Service has maintained all mandatory contacts, with New Birth Visits and those with a safeguarding concern being delivered face to face where possible; all other contacts have been provided virtually. From June, all FNP visits and visits for those on the enhanced parenting pathway recommenced on a face to face basis, and it is intended that other mandated contacts will resume on a face to face basis over a period of three months, in accordance with the *'restoration of health services for children and young people'* shared on 3rd June 2020.

The Infant Feeding Research Project is complete, and findings have been shared with the BSIL working group. The summary report will be made available online alongside the JSNA. The Behavioural Insights project, which is focused on breastfeeding, is now underway with the intervention due to begin this summer. Members of the Group have been invited to be involved in a project led by Adfam, to support the families of children with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Data for smoking at time of delivery for the first three quarters of 2019/20 indicate a downward trend for Sunderland, with quarter 3 being 15.1%. However, recent local data from the CCG indicates a significant increase in monthly data during quarter 4. Whilst this data has not yet been validated and published nationally it is of concern and may have a negative impact on the annual rate. Commissioners are working together with services to address these concerns, and it should be acknowledged that due to the small number of people in the data cohort monthly figures can fluctuate a great deal. We do not yet know the impact COVID-19 has had on rates of smoking, but due to emerging evidence suggesting that smokers who contract COVID-19 have more severe symptoms and the fact that pregnant women have been identified as clinically vulnerable, it may encourage more pregnant women to seek support to quit. Local promotion of the national Quit4COVID campaign is also taking place.

Recent data shows that Sunderland performs well in children achieving a Good Level of Development at the end of Reception. Around two-thirds of children eligible for free school meals (FSM) achieved a good level of development in 2018/19 compared to three-quarters of non-FSM children. This is significantly higher than the national rate of 56.5%, and a significant improvement from the previous year. As a result the achievement gap in the city has reduced to 12 percentage points from almost 20 percentage points the previous year.

3.3 Alcohol Harms

Sunderland Alcohol Partnership

The group has not met since March however the Partnership continues to get regular updates via email from Public Health and Balance.

Wear Recovery - Adult Substance Misuse

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it was deemed too risky to implement a new contract for the adult substance misuse service due to the vulnerable client group the service works with. The council agreed to extend the current substance misuse contract with CNTW, Humankind and Changing Lives for one year until 30th June 2021.

The council recognises that until the new contract could be fully mobilised in July 2021 there may be some gaps in relation to the alcohol tier two offer. Public health received a request from NERAF to support the increase in demand their service was facing due to COVID-19 and alcohol in Sunderland. The draft COVID-19 Health Inequalities Strategy has highlighted the impact of this disease on the increase of drinking alcohol in certain groups. It was felt that by supporting NERAF with a short term grant we could help local people to access tier two alcohol support in a more timely way.

Youth Drug and Alcohol Project (YDAP)

YDAP has developed a new protocol in partnership with South Tyneside and Sunderland Foundation Trust A&E Department for young people who present at hospital under the influence of drug and/or alcohol. This has now gone live. YDAP has also developed a campaign to share with local services to raise YDAPs profile with parents, carers and young people during the lockdown. The graphic has been developed and shared so it can be promoted via social media.

Minimum Unit Price

We continue to keep the partnership updated with emerging evidence around MUP from Scotland and Australia. A letter was sent from the Sunderland HWB to the Prime Minister calling for the introduction of MUP without delay.

Public health information and campaigns

In May/ June the Council has:

- Launched a new local alcohol campaign for people to cut down on their drinking during drinking through social media and via the Workplace Alliance
- Worked with Together for Children to promote the FRANK website for young people around drugs and alcohol
- Developed a crisis support leaflet to include in food bank parcels, information on Healthy start vitamin, stop smoking and reducing alcohol intake information is also included
- Supported a number of Balance campaigns via social media and partners.

3.4 Healthy Economy

Progress made across the three workstreams being pursued by the Healthy Economy Working Group has continued, albeit at a slower pace due to officers and partners being required to work on COVID-19 critical business. The action plan agreed by this Board for the 'Workplace Health' workstream will be reviewed in light of COVID-19 impacts. Alongside this, draft action plans for the other two workstreams, 'Healthy Labour Force' and

'Employment in the Health and Social Care Sector', will be presented at the September 2020 Board meeting.

3.5 Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformational Plan

The deadline for the Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Transformational Plan (originally 31 March 2020) was deferred by NHS England due to COVID-19, as this work was not considered business critical. It has been agreed to delegate this decision (i.e. the recommendations within the report), to the appropriate chief officer – in this case the Director of Children's Services – who will confer with the Chief Officer of the CCG in advance of seeking endorsement of the plan and its associated recommendations with the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board. As assurance to the Board, work continues on the priorities set out in the plan and regular progress updates will be provided to the Board.

3.6 Draft Healthy City Plan

The Healthy City Plan presentation, which was due to be presented in March, was shared with Board members for information. The development of the plan has continued, with inputs needed to firm up the priorities (key areas for improvement and confirming what will be different). Priority working groups will need to consider the impact of COVID-19.

3.7 Community Fluoridation Programme

As making progress regarding the Community Water Fluoridation Scheme was determined to be a non-critical function during the COVID-19 pandemic, the work was paused. This was agreed with neighbouring local authorities and took into account the difficulties of conducting detailed engagement activities whilst restrictions regarding public gatherings and requirements for strict social distancing were in place. The activities to gather views to inform the public consultation will be re-programmed at a time when public health teams can move back into more business as usual activities. A report will be presented to the Board once this is possible.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 The Board is recommended to:

- Receive the report for information.