

## **Annual Report**

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### **Summary:**

Health and Wellbeing Boards are an important feature of the reforms introduced by the Health and Social Care Act (2012). These Boards are constituted as formal committees of all upper tier local authorities and form part of the role that local authorities now have to improve the health of their population. The Health and Wellbeing Board has the following four statutory duties:

- The Board must have a Health and Wellbeing Strategy for its population in place
- The Board must produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to inform planning and commissioning
- The Board must produce a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for the area
- The Board must oversee the Better Care Fund (BCF) and promote the integration of health, public health and social care where appropriate

In addition to fulfilling its statutory duties, the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board undertakes to progress health improvement through a number of specific workstreams each year, as well as taking an oversight and influencing role across the whole health and wellbeing system. The Board has 20 Members from SCC, CCG, District Councils, NHS England and Avon and Somerset Police.

## **1. Meetings 2020/2021 (since the last Full Council in July 2020)**

### **1.1. 17 September 2020**

#### **Covid 19 Update**

The latest Covid 19 dashboard was presented given a local picture of the

pandemic in Somerset. Adult Social Care delivery, activity and support was discussed in some detail at this board considering the implications of the pandemic. Partnerships across the health and care system have been working extremely well and that the infrastructure had been strengthened. A further presentation on Public Health Nursing then followed highlighting the continuation of face-to-face contacts for children, anti-natal care, and new births visits.

### **Local Outbreak Management Plan**

The proposed plan was presented and discussed. The role the plan details the management of outbreaks locally and the importance of communication and engagement with our local communities to both prevent and manage outbreaks.

### **Homelessness**

Rough Sleepers and Complex Homelessness was the topic of the next presentation. The proposals were discussed in some depth and recognised that an area of success was joint working across the system, understanding the complexity of housing & homelessness and the need to resolve the revolving door for those using services only to return at a later date. The Homeless Reduction Board was agreed as a means of bringing together all those services trying to support these very complex cases, and to maintain and build upon the excellent work to date.

### **NHS Trust Quality Accounts Response**

It was agreed to give equal priority to physical and mental health with a focus on self-management and independence. This approach was in line with the Public Health move towards prevention.

## **16 July 2020**

### **Covid 19 Update**

The latest Covid 19 dashboard was presented given a local picture of the pandemic in Somerset. The current messaging in relation to testing, and isolation arrangements were discussed in some detail.

### **Homeless – Health, Care and Housing MOU / Homelessness Reduction Board**

The Strategic Housing Group gave a presentation which proposed the establishment of a Homeless Reduction Board. It was agreed to adopt the proposed Memorandum of Understanding - Improving Health and Care Through the Home in Somerset. The establishment of a Somerset Homelessness Reduction Board (HRB) was approved to sit within the governance framework of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board. The HRB to be operational before or during February 2021.

## **Fit For My Future Update-Review of Acute Mental Health Inpatient Beds**

A report was considered on the findings from the Mental Health services consultation. Some concerns were raised in relation to travel times to the nearest service should some facilities be closed. The Board welcomed the update setting out the progress of the consultation and the findings of the independent report compiled by Participate.

## **26 November 2020**

### **Covid 19 – Dashboard**

The latest Covid 19 dashboard was presented given a local picture of the pandemic in Somerset. At this meeting we were given an update on the proposed Tier arrangements for England and during the meeting the Board was informed that the Government had placed Somerset in Tier 2 once the existing restrictions were lifted on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **Integrated Care System – Workforce**

A presentation covering the Integrated Care System (ICS) workforce was given. This is led by the Local Workforce Action Board (LWAB) with a strategic role in the workforce vision and outcomes for the health and care system. The decisions around the local workforce strategic plan were informed by two key pieces of work, Breaking Barriers Innovations and Our Shared Endeavour programme. In September 2020 a revised People Plan was developed. The vision is to create “a vibrant & agile health and social care sector, working together to attract, develop and retain (young) talent”. The Board welcomed the report and requested a further report be built into the Board’s work Programme.

### **JSNA -Update**

The annual theme for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is Climate Change -the impact on Health. Somerset is fortunate to have a safe range of temperatures and the risk is greater in the lower temperature ranges rather than the higher ones, however the impact of water is more significant. The combination of wetter winters and rising sea levels is likely to increase the frequency of flooding.

The JSNA considered how economic prosperity and environmental sustainability can be maintained without having adverse impacts on health. It was argued that vibrant communities are both a contributor to and a ‘co-beneficiary’ of the response to the climate emergency. The report identified areas of Somerset and population groups most at risk from the climate emergency. In particular, the report considered how environmental sustainability and healthier lives can be addressed together.

### **Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board Plan and Annual Report**

A comprehensive report and verbal update was received summarising the

forward plan and annual report of the Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB). Progress highlights during 2020/21 to date were detailed

## **21 January 2021**

### **Annual Report of the Director of Public Health**

The Director of Public Health presented her Annual Report. This report was an evaluation of the last year with a strong focus on the first phase of the Pandemic. The Director began by acknowledging the support she had from the following in tackling what had been and still is a very challenging time. This report contained six recommendations which were discussed in some detail and agreed.

### **Integrated Care System - Next Steps**

A presentation and report were given that covered two main updates for Integrating Care in Somerset. The National Consultation and the designation of Somerset as an Integrated Care System site within the consultation process. The consultation ran from 26 November 2020 to 08 January 2021, it covered the move to an enhanced system working that will impact on CCG's and the legislative changes outlining how Integrated Care Systems are established. The changes will require new legislation and that will be part of a new NHS Act. (now enacted).

### **Safeguarding Children Report**

A presentation on the first year of new children's safeguarding arrangements were presented as set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018), which took effect on 29 September 2019. The Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP) is a wide partnership and includes an Independent Scrutineer. The Board endorsed the Children's Partnership annual report and the progress to date on the Somerset Plan for Children, Young People and Families.

### **Healthwatch - report**

The Board received and discussed a presentation on the evolved service delivery of Healthwatch in light of the pandemic and the proposed Programme of work for 2021. The Board heard that the pandemic offered an opportunity for change and resulted in an increase in the volunteer base. The annual report was presented, and the focus of the meeting was feedback on the successes. The proposed priority areas for the 2021/22 workplan were approved.

## **18 March 2021**

### **Better Care Fund**

There would usually have been a refresh of the Better Care Fund and an update on the previous year's plan presented. The Board was informed that the Government has published a short statement setting out what local areas need to do to agree and finalise Better Care Fund (BCF) plans for this year. The statement builds on the advice given earlier this year to areas that they should prioritise continuity of provision, social care and system capacity and roll forward schemes from 2019-20 where appropriate, and where there is local agreement, in 2020-21. The Board supported this approach.

### **Hospital Resettlement Service**

A presentation on the Hospital Resettlement Service. The service is responsible for people who are patients in a hospital setting and whose discharge is being or is likely to be severely compromised by difficulties with their housing need. Working alongside Somerset's Health Interface Service the aim is to reduce the overall length of stay and total number of occupied bed days on in-patient wards and to prevent hospital re-admissions by working with internal departments and external agencies. By linking health and social care, housing, and other appropriate agencies to develop a discharge plan.

Two case studies were presented that demonstrated the need for the service and how it worked for the individual in addressing a housing need which was preventing hospital discharge but did not need medical intervention.

The Board welcomed this practical example of the ICS and Better Care Fund in action.

### **Integrated Care Systems**

The Government White Paper entitled "Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all, setting out plans for a Health and Care Bill" has the stated aims of making integrated care the default, reducing legal bureaucracy, and better supporting social care, public health and the NHS. A presentation was given on where the ICS is locally in its development and delivery.

### **Special Educational Needs and Disability**

The Board had an update following the Inspection report published in May 2020 into the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Services in Somerset. The inspectors found that SEND Services across the Local Area required significant improvement across nine areas and determined that a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) for improvement was required. The Written Statement of Action was approved for publication by Inspectors on 30th November 2020 and was published on 1st December 2020.

The WSOA is monitored on a monthly basis through the SEND Improvement Board (SIB) containing members from across the Local Area. The WSOA

contains nine improvement priorities areas linked to the nine areas of weakness. The Board discussed the detailed report and welcomed progress made.

### **Health Protection Annual Report**

The Somerset Health Protection Assurance Report was presented which documented the progress made during the last 12 months and the identified priorities for the next year. During 2020 the Somerset response to COVID-19 was prioritised as a matter of urgency and a full major incident response launched nationally and locally. This response impacted delivery of previously agreed health protection priorities that were not Covid related.

The Board noted the report, and endorsed the priorities proposed for 2021 covering: -

- Communicable Diseases,
- Environmental Hazards,
- Infection Prevention and Control,
- Resilience and
- Screening and Immunisations.

## **2. HWBB Work Programme**

- 2.1.** A review was undertaken in relation to the current Work Programme and agreed that having linked matters under a general theme was productive and aided discussion at the Board. The Executive Group will continue to be used to make suggestions for areas to be covered in future Board meetings; in addition to our need to monitor those bodies that we have a constitutional responsibility for.