

## **SOMERSET HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board held in the Taunton Library Meeting Room, Taunton Library, Paul Street, Taunton, TA1 3XZ, on Thursday 16 January 2020 at 11.00 am

**Present:** Cllr F Nicholson (Vice-Chair), Ed Ford (Vice-Chair), Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr C Booth, Cllr J Keen, Cllr B Hamilton, Judith Goodchild, Trudi Grant, Julian Wooster, Mike Prior and James Rimmer

**Other Members present:** Cllr Mike Best

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr C Lawrence, Cllr A Broom, Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr R Wyke, Mark Cooke and Alex Murray

420 **Declarations of Interest** - Agenda Item 2

There were no new declarations of interest.

421 **Minutes from the meeting held on Thursday 14th November 2019** - Agenda Item 3

The minutes were agreed.

422 **Public Question Time** - Agenda Item 4

423 **Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership New Arrangements and Annual Report** - Agenda Item 5

The Board received a report covering the newly formed Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership. The report summarised the progress in implementing the new safeguarding arrangements for children in Somerset, as required by the Children and Social Work Act (2017) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018). This included the merger of the safeguarding children arrangements with the Children's Trust Board, and the future role of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The report also set out key areas of progress and of future focus from the final Somerset Safeguarding Children Board annual report (2018-2019) for information and scrutiny by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The changes to the safeguarding arrangements for children in Somerset are the result of the changes in legislation in 2017 and 2018. The three statutory safeguarding partners for children (Somerset County Council, Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group, and Avon and Somerset Constabulary) have agreed that the Health and Wellbeing Board is the most appropriate group to provide high-level scrutiny of the twelve-monthly report under the new arrangements. This is

one of a range of quality assurance and scrutiny arrangements under the Quality Assurance Framework for the SSCP.

The annual report has been a statutory requirement under the legislation governing the previous Safeguarding Children Board. The merger of the Children's Trust arrangements with the new Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership is a strategic partnership development, which links to the County Vision of partnership working for the benefit of children and families, with a focus on those most in need of safeguarding to promote the best possible outcomes for children.

The new arrangements for safeguarding children support better integration with health partners in line with the Somerset Four Year Efficiency Plan (Partnership and Integration) and strengthen the role of the Health Safeguarding Children Partnership subgroup. They also promote stronger communities by taking an overarching strategic approach to working with children and families (Think Family) to promote overall wellbeing.

Under the new arrangements, the Health and Wellbeing Board will continue to take oversight of the annual report from the Somerset safeguarding Children Partnership. The tenure of the Independent Chair for the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board, required under the previous legislation, ended on 30 September 2019. In December 2019, the three key safeguarding partners appointed an Independent Scrutineer to provide external scrutiny of the effectiveness of Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership's multi-agency arrangements in safeguarding and promoting the wellbeing of all children in Somerset. This post will be taken up in January 2020, and the role will include scrutiny of arrangements in place to identify and review Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews which replace Serious Case Reviews under the new legislation.

The Health and Wellbeing Board was asked to note the final report of the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board for 2018-2019. During the year, SSCB which focused on four priority areas:

- 1) Early Help
- 2) Multi-agency Safeguarding
- 3) Neglect
- 4) Child Exploitation/Children Missing.

The new arrangements address safeguarding activity for children will promote safety and wellbeing regardless of geographical differences to promote a safe community for children. (Priority 2).

With the strengthened links to the Somerset Plan for Children, Young People and their Families in Somerset (CYPP), Priority 3 will be addressed through a focus on early help and ensuring that children, young people and their families receive the right help at the right time. This includes a 'Think Family' approach supporting parents, which is a priority identified by children and young people, as well as supporting the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people.

The new safeguarding partnership arrangements will develop and look to integrate further with other strategic groups, alongside oversight of the Somerset Plan for Children, Young People and their Families to promote healthy and independent lives.

The Board welcomed the detail contained in the report. It was concerned there were several references to 'consistency' as being an area needing improvement. The Board heard that these references were needed to make sure all partners knew what was available and there had been occasions where this had not been the case.

As this was the last report to the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board it was requested that the scrutineer be invited to a future meeting of the Board to discuss the executive report.

The Board asked why some child protection plans ended and then shortly after another one is introduced. It was interested to know if there was a time limit on these plans. Members were informed that when a Case Conference agrees that issues have been addressed, the child would be removed from a Child Protection Plan. There could then be a change or resurgence of issues resulting in a new plan being created.

The Board was informed that Somerset Safeguarding was good when compared to other comparable areas.

#### **The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board:**

- **Noted the new arrangements for safeguarding children in Somerset,**
- **Endorsed the final annual report of the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board,**
- **Agreed to share information on the new safeguarding arrangements with their organisations.**

#### **424 'Our Plan' - The Somerset plan for children, young people and families 2019 - 2022 - Agenda Item 6**

The Board received a report in April 2019 following the Somerset Children's Trust (SCT) approval and launch of 'Our Plan- Somerset's plan for children, young people and their families 2019 -2022' (the 'Plan'). The plan was co-produced by partnership staff working with the children, young people and families they support; through a series of engagement events and worker's session plans. The plan includes the priorities for Somerset, identified by children and young people, to support them to be happy, healthy and well prepared for adulthood. It also presents the challenges to achieving this ambition and states the areas of concern from the previous 2016- 2019 plan that require a continued focus. The plan provides clear direction for the new Somerset Safeguarding Children's Partnership (SSCP) (the 'Partnership') and has

enabled better working together on shared priorities in order to make the necessary changes to improve outcomes for children, young people and families in Somerset.

The Plan was co-produced with young people in Somerset. They played a key role in shaping the plan. The plan supports 'Improving Lives' – the Somerset Health and Wellbeing strategy. Key priorities for Somerset are strengthening families and communities, the importance of partnership working, providing the tools for families to help themselves and intervening early when we need to. The focal point of the plan is to realise the vision of all partners for our children and young people to be happy, healthy and preparing for adulthood. It builds on improvements already underway and identifies our next steps. In this plan we have used the learning of the previous plan - 2016 to 2019 - which we believe has already made, and can continue to make, a real difference in the lives of children and young people.

The engagement with young people in Somerset led to the focus being on seven challenge areas, they were: -

- Keeping our children and young people safe,
- Neglect,
- Child Exploitation,
- Improving education outcomes for all children,
- Lack of higher education,
- Rural poverty and
- Workforce Issues.

The Board had the opportunity to see a video that demonstrated the high level on engagement from the young people and the commitment they gave to producing a plan that reflected their concerns and aspirations.

The Board heard that the Somerset Plan for Children, Young People and Families 2019 - 2022 presented an opportunity, as well as a great responsibility. A responsibility which the Somerset partnership is privileged to hold and an opportunity it is determined to seize. To achieve the above ambitions within the very significant financial pressures and constraints faced by all partners the plan for children, young people and families requires endorsement to continue to transform the delivery arrangements for local services and explore opportunities to find efficiencies in the way services are delivered in the best interests of children and their families.

The Boards welcomed the presentation, video and plan. They were particularly struck by one particular reference to needing an 'aircraft oxygen mask' approach, meaning that by giving help to parents (oxygen) they would then be better able to look after their children. The Board was interested to know what sort of publicity had been undertaken to share the plan wider in Somerset. It was informed that there was a communication plan that included social media (Twitter and Facebook) as well as sharing the plan with voluntary sector

partners. The Board members were asked to use and share the plan to promote awareness and encourage further engagement from young people in Somerset.

**The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed:**

- **'Our Plan' which seeks to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families**
- **'Our Plan' which underpins the work of the newly formed Somerset Safeguarding Children Partnership (SSCP)**
- **The plan which aligned with and informed Programme 3 of the Improving Lives strategy- 'Fairer life chances and opportunity for all'**
- **And agreed that members advocate for and share 'Our Plan' with their networks.**

425 **Better Care Fund** - Agenda Item 7

The Better Care Fund for 2019/20 was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in September and submitted to the national team. This has now been accepted by the National Team. While this approval was awaited the plan was approved and validated locally and nationally. The paper presented to the Board set out progress against the metrics and returns required as well as giving an update on the implementation of proposed new schemes.

The scheme will offer with the initial support of two trusted assessors to carry out assessments on behalf on the care and nursing home providers. The scheme is completely voluntary and there is no obligation for care providers to participate. There will be no charge to the care providers interested in taking part in this initial one-year pilot. The trusted assessors are now in place and began the scheme on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Prior to that date they continued to work with homes and care providers to sign them up to the scheme and ensure that they can have as wide a reach as possible.

Social workers have been placed in Accident and Emergency departments this winter to add to the multi-disciplinary approach and give further options to prevent admission. Yeovil Hospital already have the staff in place and Musgrove Park will follow shortly. In addition, we have piloted placing a social worker with the South West Ambulance Service and believe that the advice and support of social work can make a real difference to people who reach out and dial 999. It is likely that we will utilise social workers with mental health experience given the conversations with SWAST.

The Board was informed that the Better Care Fund aligns and supports Somerset County Council's plans, particularly in relation to the provision of Primary Care Networks, person-centred care and a greater focus on prevention. Our BCF plan fully supports the national recognition of the wider determinants

of health and wellbeing like isolation and loneliness, diet, exercise and other lifestyle choices and circumstances. Our prevention programme which is in part supported by the BCF together with our new community orientated approaches are specifically intended to help people improve and address these determinants, in a way that enhances communities and longer term creates sustainable public services.

Promoting independence has resulted in more older people in Somerset being able to stay in their own homes for longer. This is a very positive step but does mean that there is currently a reduced demand for and over supply of nursing care beds; currently there are 700 more bed spaces that needed. Consequently, there are no plans to build new care homes. Some of these beds are made available for respite and other short-term options (step-down care).

The purpose of presenting this paper to the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board was to invite suggestions for consideration for the Better Care Fund next year. The Board discussed the report and members were interested to know how to make sure any plans were appropriately linked with the Housing agenda. In particular, making sure single elderly people living in small villages are able to maintain their local support network while continuing to live in their own home. Utilising simple adaptations and support to allow this local connection to continue. The 'lifting' service that operates in urban areas has proved very successful in reducing the need for an ambulance or attendance at A&E.

**The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board: -**

- **Received an update on the progress of Somerset's Better Care Fund**
- **Considered its role in the oversight and shaping of the Better Care Fund.**

426 **Sustainability and Transformation Plan** - Agenda Item 8

The Board received an update on the Workforce covered by the Somerset Sustainability and Transformation Plan. The Board had requested an update on recruitment and retention of health and care workers. A particular concern about the number of GP's in Somerset against a national shortage. There is a challenge in all areas of Health and Social Care in filling all vacancies. There have been several initiatives to address this, one being the establishment of a Social Worker Degree course in Yeovil, another to make the number and range of apprenticeships attractive and wide ranging. There have been over 500 at Hinkley Point, 500 in the NHS, and 200 in Somerset County Council. This was towards improving the Higher Education provision in Somerset. There was some discussion around the lack of a University in Somerset, the lack of support

from the LEP for such a facility and the ground work that needs to be put in place to secure such a facility.

The general workforce risks are centred on the following areas: -

- Somerset is a net importer of graduate professional staff – we do not make enough of our own and struggle to attract younger graduates to move here,
- We have fewer young people and more older people than average, reflected in the workforce and
- County-wide mobility is restricted by geography and travel limitations.

To address this the long-term workforce plan there is a five-year programme to develop the current workforce and to attract the future workforce. The key workstreams to support this are: -

- Making Somerset health & care services the “best place to work”,
- Developing a culture of collaboration and inclusivity,
- Addressing urgent workforce shortages and
- Reshaping skills/roles/ways of working to deliver future services.

The Board was informed that Somerset has a challenge around young people leaving the county between the ages of 20 and 34 and then returning between the ages of 34 to 50. This is because there is a perception that they need to leave the county to achieve progression in their career. As a result, 25% of the Somerset Health and Social Care workforce are over 55 years old which does pose a challenge. The solution is to configure the workforce around the risk areas and make more use training existing staff to a higher level, for example Nurse Practitioners and advanced Paramedics. Somerset has been successful in encouraging GP’s to the area and had made use of international recruitment. The Board challenged the ethics of recruiting from poorer countries to fulfil the needs of the more affluent countries. The Board was assured that those sorts of practices are long gone. The NHS now supports people from places like the Philippines to train in local facilities for those who specifically want to work part of their career overseas. These people are trained over and above the needs of the local population. These ensure that recruitment is sustainable and ethical. Better use of new technology has been able to assist some remote areas and lessons from this could provide a solution to some of the challenges posed by the rural isolation of some communities in Somerset.

The Board was interested to know how much of an impact the affordability of housing was to the recruitment and retention of some staff in the care sector. There was some discussion about the use of key worker housing policies. It was agreed that before this could be proposed there would need to be sufficient data to justify key worker housing being part of workforce planning.

**The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board received the Sustainability Transformation Plan report and commented.**

**427 Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board Work Programme - Agenda Item 9**

**The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to: -**

- **Move Healthwatch update from March to May and for**
- **Julia Jones and Louise Woolway to agree forward plan for 2020 based on information from the executive meetings.**

**428 Any other urgent items of business - Agenda Item 10**

There were no other items of business.

**(The meeting ended at 12.50 pm)**

**CHAIR**