

SOMERSET HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Minutes of a Meeting of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board held in the Virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams, on Thursday 18 March 2021 at 11.00 am

Present: Cllr C Paul (Chair), Cllr F Nicholson (Vice-Chair), Ed Ford (Vice-Chair), Cllr D Huxtable, Cllr L Vijeh, Cllr R Wyke, Cllr C Booth, Cllr J Keen, Cllr B Hamilton, Judith Goodchild, Trudi Grant, Mike Prior, Alex Murray, James Rimmer and Cllr Mike Best

Other Members present: Cllr A Bown, Cllr M Chilcott, Cllr C Lawrence and Cllr H Prior-Sankey

Apologies for absence: Julian Wooster and Mel Lock

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

There were no new declarations.

474 **Minutes from the meeting held on 21 February 2021** - Agenda Item 3

The minutes were agreed.

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

There were no public questions.

476 **Better Care Fund** - Agenda Item 5

Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board would usually have expected a refresh of the Better Care Fund and an update on the previous year's plan. The plans and monitoring were delayed by NHS England, following the Covid-19 pandemic and, given the longevity of the response to this, have now been cancelled in order to focus on the effort to fight it. The report to the Board simply acknowledged that fact and keeps the Health and Wellbeing Board advised in line with its statutory duty.

The Board were 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.

This report was intentionally short as the main focus was on letting the Board have a full report on one of the examples of the way the Better Care Fund is being used to deliver integrated services.

The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board:

- **Received for information,**
- **Approved the recommendation to not produce an updated Better Care Fund for 2020-21 and await the guidance for 2021-22**

477 **Hospital Resettlement Service** - Agenda Item 6

The Board were given a presentation on the Hospital Resettlement Service. The Service is delivered in a hospital setting and has been based in Musgrove Park Hospital as there is already a similar service based in Yeovil Hospital. The service role 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.

The Board were given two case studies 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 case studies demonstrated the need for a multi-agency approach and whilst the many advantages were clear there was also a need to manage the expectation of hospital staff in the available housing options. The safe and secure discharge of some of the more complex cases required co-ordination with many agencies as well as the confidence of the patient.

The Board discussed the Service and the case studies. They recognised the challenges around hoarding as a real issue. The Board discussed the co-dependency of health and housing and that this work arose from work done by the Board a year ago. The Board wanted assurance that the Hospital Resettlement Service, the Strategic Housing Groups, and the Homelessness Reduction Board all worked together to make sure there was no duplication.

The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board:

- **welcomed the information on the practical example of ICS and Better Care Fund in action.**

478 **Integrated Care Systems** - Agenda Item 7

This report was a further example of the Better Care Fund and its practical application. 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.

The key proposals are:

The creation of statutory Integrated Care Systems (ICS), made up of an NHS Body and a Health and Care Partnership.

- To Introduce a duty to collaborate across health, public health and social care.
- To scrap mandatory competitive procurements. Under the proposals, the NHS will only need to tender services when it is thought this will lead to better outcomes for patients.
- The Competition & Markets Authority no longer involved in NHS significant transactions.
- Formally merging NHS Improvement into NHS England.
- A package of social care measures; assurance and data sharing, powers for Secretary of State to directly make payments to adult social care providers and creating a standalone Better Care Fund.
- A range of public health measures; the introduction of new requirements about calorie labelling on food and drink packaging and the advertising of junk food before the 9pm watershed and streamlining the process for the fluoridation of water.
- There are other pieces of related legislation in the pipeline. These include specific proposals on social care and public health.

The report made it clear that Somerset was well placed to develop this service as it is already working together delivering independent living, sustainable services, and better outcomes; Fit for my Future demonstrated that collaboration. Somerset has made good progress over the past few years to improve services and provide more joined up care and this puts Somerset in a good position. Moving forward, the ICS will look to build on the best of what has been achieved so far in the context of the legislative measures and in the best interests of the people.

The Board discussed the report and the following areas were raised;

- The proposals for local Government re-organisation and any impact this may have. It was confirmed that the ICS would work with whatever arrangement finally emerged. The proposed Bill is a permissive one and it will not destabilise the progress that has been made.
- The current level of collaboration is based on drive for improvement that has come from a desire for change and positive relationships, this Board is once such point of influence.
- The proposed Bill will give more local control to respond to local need within a National Framework and should be regarded in that respect as a great opportunity.
- There was a concern that the demand for Mental Health services will increase as the lockdown restrictions are eased. The Board were informed that Somerset has made changes to ensure this demand can be met and some of those changes already made have received national recognition.

The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board:

- **Noted the report and provided feedback on the information**

- **Agreed the proposed next steps.**

479 **Special Educational Needs and Disability** - Agenda Item 8

The Board had a 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.

Early progress has seen the following key improvements: -

- Increasing the capacity of the SEND Casework Team,
- Schools Led Inquiry into inclusive practice,
- Increased capacity of the SENDIAS service,
- Training the workforce,
- Services have signed-up to involving parents and children in the design of services,
- Relaunch of Early Help Processes in Schools,
- Work with the Institute of Public Care (IPC) and Oxford Brookes University to understand the improvements required within Joint Commissioning,
- Reduce the number of incidents of missed health notifications,
- Redesigned guidance to ensure workers take a graduated response to interventions with families, ensuring families with SEND are treated fairly,
- Launched a pilot app called 'MeeTwo', which provides peer support for young people experiencing mental health difficulties,
- Mental Health Trail Blazer projects have been launched in pilot areas supporting pupils with emotional health and wellbeing and
- A single point of contact for parents seeking SEND advice, support and guidance from the Local Authority has been established.

The next monitoring visit will be in June 2021.

The Board discussed the report and welcomed the progress that had already been made and acknowledged the challenges identified.

The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

- **Received for information The Written Statement of Action (WSoA), together with the accompanying progress report, and endorsed this**

in order to deliver improvements and monitoring arrangements against the nine identified areas.

480 Health Protection Annual Report - Agenda Item 9

The Board discussed the Somerset Health Protection Assurance Report which documented the progress made during the last 12 months and the identified priorities for the next year. In summary the Director of Public Health is assured that systems are in place to protect the health of the population, however there are opportunities during 2021 to strengthen these. 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.

The Somerset Health Protection Forum and Director of Public Health have identified actions within these priorities as key issues to address in order to be assured that suitable arrangements are in place to protect the health of the Somerset population and reaches vulnerable populations within Somerset. The Health and Wellbeing Board has oversight of how learning from the Somerset pandemic response is used to strengthen the Somerset health and care system and inform the development of the integrated health and care system where appropriate. The membership of the Health Protection Forum is revisited based on learning from COVID-19, to ensure sustained improvement in the system approach to protecting the populations' health.

The Board discussed the priorities and asked if the uptake of the MMR vaccine had dropped off in Somerset in line with reports it had done so nationally. They were told that they had, prior to Covid 19 the MMR vaccine coverage was 90.91% and this had fallen to 86.9%. There is a drive to try and improve this as there are pockets within Somerset who are resistant to all vaccines. The Board also heard that the number of common childhood infections were lower than normal as children were spending less time with each other.

The Somerset Health and Wellbeing 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.**
 -

481 Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan - Agenda Item 10

The Board agreed that it had been very useful to have a theme running through agenda items as it enabled deeper discussion of one area and confirmed that

this practice should be used to have themed items in the future if the subject were appropriate.

The Somerset health and Wellbeing Board discussed the Work Programme and agreed to: -

- **Add Mental Health and Health Improvement Programme.**
- **Reinstate the Improving Lives Performance matrix as a regular item.**

482 **Any other urgent items of business** - Agenda Item 11

The Board was asked to consider an urgent item as there was a very tight time limit a decision. They were given an overview of the proposed area for a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) on the impact of Covid 19 on deprived communities.

The Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board:

Agreed that the JSNA would initially focus on the 10% most deprived areas and the ongoing impact of Covid 19. Recognising this would not cover all deprived people living in rural areas. These would be covered in the medium-term plan.

(The meeting ended at 1.05 pm)

CHAIR