

## Annual Report of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

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### 1. Summary

#### 1.1. The last year has seen significant change for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

From October 2022 to March 2023 interim arrangements were put in place for the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) to adopt a committees in common approach whilst consideration and planning was given to the development of the Somerset Board.

Somerset is a low-complexity system where the purpose of the HWB and the ICP are in accord and the strategic vision for the population is aligned. Therefore, it was agreed to align through the committees in common approach rather than cause duplication across the work and membership of the HWB and ICP meeting separately.

Both the HWB and the ICP are legal entities and must remain so. The interim arrangements ensured the following legal requirements were met:

- That the Health and Wellbeing Board which is a statutory committee of the Council, required under the Health and Care Act 2012 met its statutory requirements.
- And the arrangements for Integrated Care Partnerships (ICP), as set out in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, so that Integrated Care Boards (ICB) and all upper-tier local authorities that fall within the area of the ICB must establish an ICP were also met.

The statutory functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board were met through its work during the last year, including:

- The Health and Wellbeing Strategy for its population being in place.
- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to inform planning and commissioning.
- A Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for the area was completed in this last year.
- Oversight of the Better Care Fund (BCF) and the promotion of 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. During the last year, not only has the Board developed as a committee in Common but it has also focussed on the interdependencies between Health, Care and Housing, a theme which continues to make great strides forward through a collaborative approach across the Somerset system.

## **2. Meetings 2022/2023**

### **2.1 26 September 2022**

#### **Integrated Care System update**

During the period of the report the update on the Integrated Care System was a standing agenda item. The Integrated Care Board (ICB) NHS Somerset came into being in July 2022 and this agenda item provided the opportunity for Board members to discuss progress.

#### **Children and Young People's plan**

The plan was presented and discussed and demonstrated the excellent work being undertaken consulting and engaging with young people to ensure the plan is focused on their needs.

#### **Health Care and Housing**

This agenda item highlighted the importance of housing both in terms of the negative impact poor housing can have on health and wellbeing, and the positive impact good housing can have. It was agreed that that health, care and housing becomes a priority workstream of the HWB with all partners committing to supporting the work via the partnership arrangements of the Board. More detail is provided below in section 2.1 of this report.

## **28 November 2022**

This was the first meeting of the HWB and ICP as committees in common.

### **ICS – Update on the Health and Care Strategy**

A statutory function of the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) is to write the Health and Care strategy for the Integrated Care System. An update was provided on the development of the strategy. The HWB has to be consulted with in relation to the strategy and was assured that the Health and Care Strategy had taken note of the Improving Lives Strategy (the statutory strategy of the HWB) and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

### **Better Care Fund (BCF)**

Adult Social Care and ICB colleagues gave an update to the Board, and the Board was able to sign off the BCF plan for 2022/23. There was a general discussion on how this statutory function of the HWB can be met in the future to ensure the committees in common can influence and receive information relating to the BCF in a more proactive way. It was agreed that this would be given further consideration with the development of the Somerset Board.

### **Healthwatch Update and Annual Report**

The Annual report for 21-22 highlighted the largest projects Healthwatch had worked on during the year. This included:

- District Nursing
- Supporting young people to speak up in health and care services.
- Alerted NHS to impact of long waits for surgery.
- Patient experience of NHS 111 in Somerset and Devon.

### **Somerset safeguarding Adults Board (SSAB) Strategic Plan & Annual Report**

Key messages for the Committees in Common included:

- Somerset has seen a declining rate of safeguarding concerns contrary to national trends, and fewer Safeguarding enquiries being undertaken as a result. This was discussed in detail at the meeting to understand why that is the case. It was reassuring to understand that more effective triaging and re-directing of previously high numbers of inappropriate referrals have been sent to more suitable settings and teams.

The SSAB continues to raise the profile of adult safeguarding and to share best practice.

**30 January 2023**

### **The future of the HWBB and ICP**

The Director of Public Health facilitated discussion around future arrangements for the Committees in Common and the development of the Somerset Board. The Board agreed with the direction of travel described.

### **Somerset Health Protection Forum Assurance Report**

The report detailed how the population responds to infectious disease has changed following Covid19, with more understanding of what being a contact means. There was a focus on avian influenza, Monkeypox, and air quality during the last year.

Behavioural insight work had been undertaken with parents to understand the barriers to accessing immunisations; these important findings can be used in future programmes.

The Committees in Common were reassured to hear that most screening and immunisation programmes had caught up with the Covid19 backlog. Although locally there was a need to maintain oversight of breast cancer screening.

### **Safeguarding Children Report**

A presentation on the work during the year detailed the focused work on the following priorities:

- Early Help
- Neglect
- Multi-Agency Safeguarding
- Child exploitation

The additional priorities for 22/23 include:

- Children and Young People's mental health
- Reducing bullying and promoting positive communities
- Reducing risks to under 2's

The Committee in Common noted the progress to date.

### **Health Care and Housing**

Following the September meeting where it was agreed that this would be a priority work programme, further detail was given on how the work would be developed and implemented across the local health and care system. Further information is detailed in section 2.1 of this report.

## **AOB**

The Committee in Common agreed to stand down the Covid19 data dashboard produced by public health now that we are 'living with Covid' and testing is no longer required at a population level.

## **27 March 2023**

The first hour and a half was utilised to finalise details for the Somerset Board (prior to approval at Full Council and the ICB in May) through a workshop with Committee in Common members.

The meeting in public included:

### **Update on the Health and Care Strategy**

It was agreed that as the Somerset Board was awaiting approval at Full Council and the ICB the chair would approve the final version of the strategy during July if it was not changed significantly to that presented at this meeting. This would allow the ICP to meet NHS England requirements.

Following the move to Somerset Council from April 2023 it was acknowledged that this was the last meeting in its existing format. The chair formally thanked District Council Members and officers who had made a significant impact to the work of the HWB and the Committee in Common during the last ten years.

### **Written briefing**

The Health and Wellbeing Board has had responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the statutory requirement within the Children and Families Act 2014, for local services to work together to provide care and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Joint committee members received a written briefing on an upcoming Review of Support for Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) in the Early Years

## **3. HWBB Work Programme**

**3.1.** The Health Care and Housing work programme has, through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and partners funnelled the work down to the following areas:

- A set of principles have been developed which can be applied across all work in the county by relevant strategic and operational boards.

- Learning is being collated from the Homeless Reduction Board, Better Futures Programme, and Make Every Adult Matter (MEAM) to identify opportunities for embedding systemic change around homelessness and to identify opportunities where homelessness can be prevented in the future.
- Work is underway to define what the priority focus of work needs to be in terms of independent living.