

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Thursday, 14 March 2024

PRESENT – Councillor Roche (Cabinet Member with Health and Housing Portfolio) (Chair), Councillor Harker (Leader of the Council) (Leader of the Council), Councillor Holroyd, Councillor Tostevin, Martin Short (Director of Place - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board) (North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board), Alison MacNaughton-Jones (Joint Clinical Director) (Darlington Primary Care Network), Dean Lythgoe (Principal, St Aidan's Academy) (Secondary School Representative), Michelle Thompson (Chief Executive Officer) (Healthwatch Darlington) and Andrea Petty (Chief of Staff) (Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office)

APOLOGIES –Councillor Dulston, James Stroyan (Group Director of People), Miriam Davidson (Interim Director of Public Health), David Gallagher (Executive Director of Place-Based Delivery - Central and Tees Valley) (North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board), Brent Kilmurray (Chief Executive) (Tees, Esk and Wear Valley NHS Foundation Trust), Sue Jacques (Chief Executive) (County Durham and Darlington Foundation Trust) and Rachel Morris (Head of Department for Nursing and Midwifery, School of Health and Life Sciences) (Teesside University)

HWBB16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

HWBB17 TO HEAR RELEVANT REPRESENTATION (FROM MEMBERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC) ON ITEMS ON THIS HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD AGENDA.

No representations were made by Members or members of the public in attendance at the meeting.

HWBB18 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS BOARD HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2023 & 14 DECEMBER 2023

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Health and Well Being Board held on 7 September 2023 and 14 December 2023

RESOLVED – That the Minutes be approved as a correct record.

REASON – They represent an accurate record of the meetings.

HWBB19 DARLINGTON SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL REPORT

The Independent Scrutineer – Darlington Safeguarding Partnership attended the meeting to present the report. Members were informed that Local Safeguarding Partnerships are required to produce an Annual Report to account for the Partnerships achievements over the previous year and make an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency safeguarding arrangements within the local area. The report summarises and reflects on the work of the

Partnership over the 2022/23 period and aims to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an understanding of the Partnership's work.

Points of interest included post-COVID implications and NHS organisational changes in the report-period and that the OFSTED Council inspection reflected well on Children's Services. Further points of note were the report's focus on self-neglect and implications of exploitation, the nearly 25% rise in Safeguarding and that key areas of future-focus will be development of prevention and early intervention.

Questions were raised that included as to whether the current 25% increase is a result of issues arising during the COVID period with officers responding that although mechanisms are in place to identify post-COVID issues, the full relative impact is yet to be established. A further question involved individuals who may not be aware that they are self-neglecting and what measures are in place regarding this with officers stating that visiting officers possess an assessment criterion for households in order to judge when an environment may be deemed as becoming a danger to an individual.

Discussions were held regarding current recruitment efforts, that current thresholds are reasonable to return children to families as soon as possible and that the current work being undertaken around the Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be a good opportunity to link priorities moving forward.

RESOLVED - that the Health and Wellbeing Board note the Darlington Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report for 2022/23.

REASON – To ensure awareness of the content of the annual report and current areas of note within Safeguarding.

HWBB20 COUNCIL PLAN 2024-2027

The Leader of Darlington Borough Council and the Strategy and Policy Manager were in attendance and presented the Council Plan 2024-2027 and its intent to provide strategic direction to the Council - and council services - defining core values, priorities and shaping delivery in the coming years with public consultation on the draft plan being open until 25 April 2024. Members were informed that the core values outlined in the document, if met in decision making, will ensure positive progress towards overall goals and from which strategies will be produced such as the New Homes Strategy and Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Questions raised included as to whether the individual residents would be able to find how they would be affected personally when responding, with clarification provided that the tone and purpose of the plan is focussed on collective improvements for Darlington rather than information for specific individuals.

A member expressed their hope for positive progress and assistance for those suffering most in society. Further discussions included that the plan is understandable and easy to digest considering the wide scope of topics included.

Members were encouraged to share the plan with their networks and to provide responses before the close of the consultation period (24 April 2024).

RESOLVED – That members note the contents of the Council Plan and its consultation period. The Chair praised the efforts of the Strategy and Policy Manager in production of the Council Plan.

REASON – Members were given adequate information and responses to queries presented and agreed to share with their networks to facilitate responses during the consultation period.

HWBB21 JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT - DEMONSTRATION

The Public Health Officer attended and provided members with a presentation and update on refreshing the Darlington Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The presentation on the JSNA demonstrated the utility of using an interactive dashboard to present data which describes the health and wellbeing status of the population.

Members were informed that a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) is a collaborative process where local authorities, NHS organisations and others work together to ensure the needs and local determinants of the health of the local population are identified and agreed. The JSNA provides the evidence base for the health and wellbeing needs of the population and is reviewed regularly.

The process was explained as a 2-stage endeavour where the first stage was to clarify data available, i.e. Demography, Social and Environmental, Lifestyle and Risk Factors, Burden of Ill Health, and Service Delivery. The second stage (due to “go live” in May 2024) is to structure the JSNA around the life course approach, underpinning the development of the Darlington Health and Wellbeing Plan. The revised JSNA will use Power BI to process and present information in a cohesive and accessible format. This is a tool for displaying and visualizing data via interactive dashboards which can update automatically.

It was explained that the goal of the “live version” is to ensure smooth navigation for users through the presentation of data, specific data points and the ability to isolate data-ranges with the belief that the system will provide an adaptable, user-friendly experience.

A question was raised as to whether the system will be able to provide information at ward-level with the response that data would be retrievable in the manner it was collected (i.e. if collected on a ward-basis) however most data is Darlington-wide rather than ward-based due to strict regulations. Members noted that ward-level data would be very useful in the case of schools where available.

Discussions were held with members noting that the retrieval of information offered will be beneficial across the board with the information available being of use to many different areas of work.

RESOLVED – That Health and Wellbeing Board members note the presentation and progress in developing and updating the JSNA.

REASON - The Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for assessing the health and wellbeing needs of the population.

HWBB22 DEVELOPING THE DARLINGTON HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN 2023-2027

The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board introduced the framework that the Health and Wellbeing Plan will focus upon resulting from feedback from the Board's priority-focussed workshop on 14 December 2023.

The Board agreed a framework that generally reflects the life course recognising that a number of priorities and themes span across generations: Children and Young People: Best Start in Life / Staying Healthy and Living well / Healthy Places / Healthy Ways of Working. These areas were established taking into account the key determinants of health inequality and how these affect residents throughout their lives.

The Chair proposed that additional workshops can be organised with a focussed or general format, members supported this proposal and suggested that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment be a starting point for such workshops. It was suggested that four workshops at regular intervals would be most beneficial with members of this Board to take the lead where appropriate.

Discussion was held as to whether pro-active actions would be viable with the response that targeting the most pressing issues impacting wider determinates of health regardless of their source is the main focus of the Plan.

RESOLVED – Members considered the next steps to develop the Health and Wellbeing Plan taking into account the feedback from the December 2023 workshop and agreed to organise further workshops in the near future to further this work.

REASON - It is a statutory duty of the Health and Wellbeing Board to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population, reduce health inequalities and, in partnership develop a Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, (Health and Wellbeing Plan)

HWBB23 BETTER CARE FUND

The Programme Manager - Commissioning, Performance and Transformation attended to provide members with an update on the Darlington Better Care Fund 2023/25 Programme for which quarterly submissions are required to be produced.

Members were informed that the Better Care Fund (BCF) Policy Framework sets out the Government's priorities for 2023-25, including improving discharge, reducing the pressure on Urgent and Emergency Care and social care, supporting intermediate care, unpaid carers and housing adaptations. BCF encourages integration by requiring integrated care systems and local authorities to enter into pooled budget arrangements and agree an integrated spending plan. It was highlighted that Darlington has remained compliant in order to qualify for funding with the Regional Better-Care Manager confirming that no issues were raised regarding Darlington's submission.

Discussion was raised regarding the presentation of the submission with the Programme Manager confirming that templates for completion are standard across the country, but he will be present at future meetings to present BCF reports where required and that summary pages will be included going forward in order to highlight key areas of interest for members in a more easily digestible format alongside the standard national template.

RESOLVED – That members note the submission and reporting requirement of the programme and approve the Darlington 2023/25 Plan.

REASONS - The 2023/25 Plan has been endorsed by the Pooled Budget Partnership as part of the agreed governance arrangements and is required to be presented to Board Members.

HWBB24 CHILDHOOD DENTISTRY UPDATE

The Integrated Care Board – Director of Place (Darlington) provided members with a presentation to cover Primary Care Dental Access Recovery and Developing an Oral Health Strategy in the North East and North Cumbria.

Members were informed that the procurement process has commenced with the view to open an Eastbourne dental practice – all going smoothly it is anticipated that the practice will open in early 2025 with urgent provision being offered in cases of unscheduled care in the meantime in order to address urgent need.

Members were informed of current challenges including the impact of COVID and increase in new patient demand and the “three phases” approach to tackling such challenges which are:

1. Immediate actions to stabilize services.
2. A more strategic approach to workforce and service delivery
3. Developing an oral health strategy to improve oral health and reduce the pressure on dentistry.

Further areas addressed included the progress in recovering access, 15,000 additional appointment slots in order to provide capacity for patients in greatest clinical need, the incentivised access scheme pilot and which Darlington practices are taking part and regional plans for improving oral health (such as supervised tooth brushing with schools and oral health training to health and social care staff).

Questions were raised that included what percentage of increased funding is expected, this was unknown currently but figures can be provided. A member also asked if it would be possible to have a “quick-reference sheet” produced to help members respond to any queries around water fluoridation, the Director of Public Health confirmed that information will be provided once compiled.

Discussion was held with regards to the 15,000 additional appointments, how they are distributed and the longevity of this scheme, it was confirmed that they are generally applied to those with urgent clinical need and to prioritised groups (such as looked-after children) and is non-recurrent funding (i.e. short-term).

A further discussion was held regarding schools with officers hoping to see school being able to take on messages and incorporate these into their own messaging.

RESOLVED – That members note the content of the update and the presentation provided.

REASON – In order to enable members to cascade this messaging to their networks.