

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Thursday, 12 September 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, Dean Lythgoe (Principal, St Aidan's Academy) (Secondary School Representative), Carole Todd (Darlington Post Sixteen Representative) (Darlington Post Sixteen Representative), Michelle Thompson (Chief Executive Officer) (Healthwatch Darlington), Andrea Petty (Chief of Staff) (Durham Police and Crime Commissioner's Office) and Councillor Mrs Scott

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE – Curry (Cabinet Member for Adults)

APOLOGIES – James Stroyan (Executive Director People) and Martin Short (Director of Place - North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board) (North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board)

HWBB8 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

There were no declarations of interest reported at the meeting.

HWBB9 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.

HWBB10 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THIS BOARD HELD ON 20 JUNE 2024

Submitted – The Minutes (previously circulated) of the meeting of this Health and Well Being Board held on 20 June 2024

RESOLVED – That the minutes for the meeting of this Health and Well Being Board held on 20 June 2024 be approved.

HWBB11 DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

The Director of Public Health presented board members with this report. The Women's Health Strategy for England, published in 2022, recognised that the health system has historically taken a 'men as default' approach in areas such as clinical trials, education and policy. With this in mind, this year's annual report has considered key areas of women's health, with the aims of highlighting inequalities that girls and women face and understanding what this means for Darlington. Thematic issues and areas of concern were highlighted including rates of self-harm and increasing suicide rates in women.

Questions from board members included as to whether external agencies can be employed in relation to suicide prevention with confirmation that a number of agencies are available to provide support and engagement.

A board member also queried healthy life expectancy for women and it was stated that, on average, a women will spend 20 years in 'ill health' with averages in the North East being worse than other areas.

Board members also noted that their respective agencies are also happy to assist in providing data in areas such as sexual abuse and mental health aspects.

It was also clarified that data may seem to be "out of date" due to checks and validations required to ensure the data is of the highest quality possible and that certain datasets can be retrieved and verified in shorter timeframes than others.

RESOLVED – That members received and supported the subject matter and that it is useful for stakeholders and the public alike.

HWBB12 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

The Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Director of Public Health introduced board members to the draft Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS).

The JLHWS sets out the local priorities for improving the health and wellbeing of the population of Darlington. The development of the Strategy has been informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and a series of workshops with members of the Health and Wellbeing Board and wider partners.

The JLHWS has adopted a life course approach, with the themes of Best Start in Life - Children and Young People, Staying Healthy – Living Well and Staying Healthy – Ageing Well.

The overarching priorities for each theme are:

- a) Best Start in Life - Children and Young People: pregnancy and early years; mental health and resilience
- b) Staying Healthy – Living Well: making smoking history; mental health and wellbeing
- c) Staying Healthy – Ageing Well: minimise time in ill health; maximise independence
- d) Healthy Places - workplace health and good work; healthier environments

It was also highlighted that joint work with board members' agencies will be welcomed in order to establish pathways to tackle the above and also to support children and young people and establish key priorities and impacts.

Board members expressed their approval of the workshop sessions that contributed to the formation of the strategy.

Discussions were held which included a board member expressing that focussed efforts are required to realistically maintain any positive results in areas such as smoking and oral health with officers confirming that oral health and toothbrushing schemes, alongside the new Oral Health Strategy will have positive results in these areas and confirming that tackling smoking remains a focus.

Discussion was held around "healthy ways of working" with clarification that a good job / work environment has a large impact on someone's health, and it is important to work with employers to help them get the most from their employees and assist the economy as a result.

Board members provided feedback on the strategy that included a suggestion that more positive language would be helpful, that “joining the dots” between partner agencies would yield the most positive results with minimal overlap. Board members expressed their general approval and support for the strategy.

RESOLVED – That board members note the content of the draft Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, including the overarching priorities identified to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Darlington.

REASON - It is a statutory duty of the Health and Wellbeing Board to develop a Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy