

Lead Member (adult services and public health) report for Scrutiny – June 2025

A. Statutory Services

Following the transfer of statutory services back to the council in April 2024, our focus has been on improving operational performance to ensure that we are meeting the needs of our residents. This will include some re-design of services and investment in areas such as Occupational Therapy which has had long standing problems with waiting times. We will be consulting with staff on the proposed re-design in the coming weeks and will update on this more fully at the September meeting of this panel.

Waiting times

In January 2025 there were **122** people awaiting allocation for a Care Act Assessment. The median wait for allocation was **53** days. As of 1st June 2025, there are **112** people awaiting allocation with a median wait of **34** days. Demand for adult social care continues to rise with the service completing 20% more assessments in the first quarter of 2025 than in the previous quarter.

In January 2025 **1,240** people had received an annual review in the last 12 months with **523** waiting for a review. As of 1st June 2025 **1,264**, have received an annual review with **491** people waiting for a review. Our annual review figures are above the English average and now stand at **73%**. There has been a significant increase in the number of people who require an unscheduled review in addition to their annual review. The service has undertaken **566** unscheduled reviews in the last 12 months in addition to the annual reviews. All reviews are risk rated and prioritised accordingly. ASC have secured 8 agency staff for a period of 3 months to support the reducing the waiting lists for both assessments and reviews.

Occupational Therapy assessments continue to be a focus of high demand, receiving on average **85** new requests per month, robust management has seen the numbers waiting for OT assessment reducing from **247** people waiting at the time of our CQC inspection to **201** people waiting in January 2025. As of 1st June, there were **209** people waiting for an Occupational Therapy Assessment a slight increase. We have now recruited to 3 long standing vacant posts and ASC have engaged a specialist Occupational Therapy agency to support reducing the numbers waiting, this work will commence on the 16th June, assessing an initial cohort of 50 people.

Deprivation of Liberty safeguards (DoLs) have 4 prioritisation categories, Urgent, High, Medium and Low. These are further split into new requests and annual renewals. Due to pressures on ASC, it is highly unusual for a Local Authority not to have a DoLs waiting list. In January 2025 there were **509** people on our DoLs waiting list. As at 1st June 2025 there are **452** people on our waiting list. We continue to work on streamlining our processes and are training 4 of our social work staff as Best Interests Assessors who will carry out a set number of renewals each year to support waiting list reduction.

Newton House/respite

See separate report

B. Regulated services

Adult Regulated Services

Our focus continues on improving the quality of all our regulated services. Care for Quality have again visited the services (each CRC and 3 Extra Care Services) over recent weeks to undertake mock inspections and we are awaiting full reports to be issued for two of the Extra Care Services inspected (Orchard and Greenacres). The full report for Avondown demonstrates that the service is Good in each CQC domain of Safe, Effective, Caring, Responsive and Well Led. Initial feedback from the inspector at Greenacres Court refer to 'People said they like living at Greenacres, people feel safe and supported to live independently. I observed positive engagement between staff and people who are treated with dignity'. The inspector at The Orchard referred to 'Observation of support staff engaging with people was positive. People told me they felt safe and supported and people feel cared for.

We have received the full mock inspection reports for each of the Community Resource Centres (Cleeve Court and Combe Lea) and there has been positive movement in the scoring and rating for Cleeve Court under 4 the 5 CQC domains of Safe, Caring, Responsive and Well Led with Effective remaining unchanged. The action plans resulting from the Care 4 Quality mock inspections are incorporated into the services CQC action plan and monitored monthly at the Improvement Group.

Quarter 1 (2025/26) Good Governance Audit has been completed by the DASS at each of our Community Resource Centres. This has focussed on the newly introduced digital care planning system (Care Control Systems – CCS) into our care homes. The visit to Combe Lea included meeting with several front line care workers and residents. The audit feedback refers to the new digital care planning system as enabling the 'voice of the person to really shine through' and capture how dedicated and skilled staff are in helping the residents achieve their full potential.

Cleeve Court continues to focus on staff recruitment which has resulted in several new staff joining the team with a few staffing vacancies still left to recruit to. Comprehensive inductions enable new staff to learn our systems, support the moving in of new residents and the building of person-centred care plans. Cleeve Court continues to work with Brokerage colleagues to take on new admissions with 4 bed vacancies, there are currently 2 bed vacancies at Combe Lea.

Robust management controls for budget oversight, absence management and use of agency will continue this year and be monitored at monthly finance meetings.

C. Provider Services

Learning Disability Services

The Connections Day centre in Radstock has worked in partnership with Volker to create a purpose built cycleway within its grounds. The centre owns a number of different models of adapted bikes for service users and aims to increase their use with this facility. This is a fantastic addition to the activities provided at Connections, it will help service users to understand issues relating to road safety in a safe space and may foster further links with the Somer Valley Links initiative..

<https://www.volkerhighways.co.uk/en/news/new-cycleway-connection-day-centre>

D. Commissioning Carers

See separate report on the Carers strategy

Ageing Well B&NES Programme Update

The Ageing Well B&NES Programme, which follows the World Health Organisation's Age Friendly Framework is an initiative, led by age UK, that is supporting B&NES to become an age friendly community. The programme is overseen by a local steering group, of which I am a member and current priorities include travel, health, ageism, raising older people's voice, digital inclusion, and access to public toilets. Specific initiatives include an age friendly transport project (looking at accessibility) and an age friendly volunteering and employers' project.

Other inputs from the council come from Public Health, Leisure Services, Transport, and Community Engagement and it has recently been agreed that the Age Well Commissioning Manager will be joining the steering group to represent commissioning. Conversations are underway between commissioning and Age UK B&NES to facilitate input to the State of Ageing report. This draws on the 2024 summer survey of residents and is due to be published in October 2025. Age UK are seeking further contacts within the Council to discuss priorities arising from the summer survey and contribute to the report.

The programme has also set up an Older People's Voice Forum to enable older people to share experiences, concerns, and ideas for ageing well policies and initiatives. The forum was launched in January 2025 with about 70 attendees, three quarters of whom signed up to be active members.

The work of the programme is further supported by the Ageing Well Network facilitated by 3SG. The network provides a platform for its members to share knowledge, engagement, drive programme delivery and promote better working together. One area of focus is to develop a B&NES Dementia Strategy (as was discussed at our last meeting) as a useful tool to help people and families impacted by dementia to develop a clear pathway for support and care. Development of this strategy is at an early stage, with initial scoping workshops facilitated by ReMIND planned for June. The strategy will align to strategic initiatives for people with dementia led by the BSW ICB and will be informed by the latest knowledge base, such as the 'Health and social care support for people with dementia' report published by the Care Quality Commission on 20th May 2025.

E. Finance

Despite the rising demand for adult social care, the budget for Adult Social Care for the fiscal year 2024/25 was balanced. This outcome included realising the savings that were presented to the panel in 2024.

F. CQC Inspection

Implementation of the CQC action plan is being overseen by an Improvement Board to ensure that progress is being made as required. Progress will be reported to this panel at a future date.

G. Public Health

1. Annual Director of Public Health Report

Last year's B&NES DPH report on Food Security has been chosen as one of the top 5 (out of 67) public health reports in England which is a huge achievement for our public health team, the comms team, other council colleagues and many providers in the Fair Food Alliance, particularly as we are a relatively small authority:

<https://www.adph.org.uk/news-and-events/news/>

2. Assurance

The South West DHSC Office for Health Improvement and Disparities is piloting a new approach to providing assurance back to Government ministers of the Public Health Ring-fenced Grant in local authorities. The approach is based on a structured submission of information prior to two in-person meetings. The first meeting is with each local authority involving as a core group the Regional DPH, DPH, Chief Executive, S151 Officer and lead Cabinet Member. The second meeting is with the ICB, involving as a core group the Regional DPH, DsPH, ICB Chief Executive, ICB Finance Officer, Chief Medical Officer and ICB prevention lead. The visits are designed to understand more about the overarching spend of the Public Health Ring-fenced Grant, be supportive in nature, and capture good practice. For B&NES the first of the two meetings will be on 9th June. The date for the second is being confirmed.

3. Physical activity and leisure services

The number of people playing sport and taking part in physical activity in England is at the highest level on record, according to the latest Active Lives Adult Survey Report. The new figures show that, between November 2023 and November 2024, 63.7% of the adult population met the Chief Medical Officers' guidelines of doing 150 minutes, or more, of moderate intensity physical activity a week.

For Bath and North East Somerset 68.2% of adults are classed as active which is higher than the national figure. 19.8% of adults are inactive compared to 25.1% of adults nationally. There has also been growth in activity levels for older adults and disabled people, but more work is needed to support those living in the areas of greatest deprivation.

<https://www.sportengland.org/news-and-inspiration/record-numbers-playing-sport-and-taking-part-physical-activity>

A consultation process has just started on revised proposals for further development of the Odd Down Sports Facilities: [can be viewed online](#). Feedback from the proposals will be used to shape the revised planning application for this site.

The Bath Beach is about to open for its summer season in Royal Victoria Park.

Midsomer Norton's new attraction, the coal heritage-themed Dynamite Adventure Golf Course, opened on Saturday 17th May. The 18-hole adventure golf course is now welcoming visitors and is a fun-packed and informative experience for all the family. The course is suitable for anyone aged four and upwards, with paths for pushchairs and wheelchairs.

4. Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

Legislation requires that every three years every Health and Wellbeing Board assesses the need for pharmaceutical services in its area and publishes a statement of its assessment. The Public Health Team leads this work on behalf of the HWB. In May a public consultation for the [2025-2028 B&NES Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment](#) was launched. This has already been circulated to all PDS members with an invitation to comment on the consultation. The consultation will close at 5pm on Tuesday 1 July 2025.

5. Holiday Activities and Food Programme

The Easter *Activate Your Holidays* programme supported 711 children and young people, 276 of whom were SEND. 73.5% of attendees were primary-aged, while 26.5% were secondary-aged. During the last year, more local providers are supporting the delivery of the programme to increase the range of enriching sessions available to those eligible to access the programme. Plans are well underway for the Summer Holiday programme.

Alison Born – Cabinet Lead Adult Services and Public Health