

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CHILDREN, ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Tuesday, 13th July, 2021

Present:- Councillors Vic Pritchard (Chair), Michelle O'Doherty (Vice-Chair), Ruth Malloy, Mark Roper, Andy Wait, Liz Hardman, Gerry Curran and Rob Appleyard

Co-opted Members: Kevin Burnett and Gill Stobart

Also in attendance: Alison Elliott (Interim Director of Adult Social Care), Simon Cook (New Hospital Programme Director), Mary Kearney-Knowles (Director of Children and Education), Christopher Wilford (Education and Safeguarding Director) and Sarah Watts (Complaints & Data Protection Team Manager)

17 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

18 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Paul May and Chris Batten (Co-opted Member) had both sent apologies to the Panel

Apologies were also received from Councillor Alison Born (Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building) and Dr Bryn Bird (B&NES Locality Clinical Chair, BSW CCG).

20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gerry Curran declared an other interest as he is employed by Virgin Care.

21 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman raised the subject of the Serious Violence in B&NES Scrutiny Inquiry (Half day) and asked for nominations from members of the Panel to be part of the working group for developing and preparing for this meeting.

The following Councillors agreed to take part - Liz Hardman, Michelle O'Doherty, Rob Appleyard and Andy Wait.

22 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF

THIS MEETING

There were none.

23 MINUTES: 15TH JUNE 2021

Kevin Burnett referred to page 6 of the agenda and asked if there was an update on the Escalation Protocol.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that she believed that this was to be signed off by the B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership by the end of July.

Kevin Burnett referred to page 6 of the agenda and asked how the £1.2m savings from Virgin Care had been delivered.

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care replied that Virgin Care, in conjunction with the Council, carried out a Quality Assurance exercise to assess how placements / services were received and to provide alternatives to funded services.

Kevin Burnett referred to page 7 of the agenda and asked to be updated on the procedure that detailed public accountability for how MATs (Multi Academy Trusts) are run.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that he has requested that the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) provide an update at a future PDS Panel, that they have replied positively to this and that a future date will need to be agreed.

Kevin Burnett referred to page 7 of the agenda and asked if the expansion of the early help offer into schools and colleges through Mental Health Support Teams was a national or local initiative.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture replied that she believed that it was a national initiative.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding added that a pilot project on Mental Health in schools had now expanded and that Public Health England had delivered training to all staff within schools in B&NES.

Councillor Andy Wait referred to page 21 of the agenda and his proposal that a Corporate Parenting report should be received by a future meeting of Full Council.

The Chairman replied that he would enquire as to whether this would be possible for the 16th September 2021 meeting.

The Panel confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

24 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

Councillor Dine Romero, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities and Culture addressed the Panel. A copy of the update can be found as an online appendix to these minutes, a summary of the update is set out below.

Free School Meals (FSM)

I have been lobbying for FSM vouchers to continue over the summer holidays and I am pleased to announce that the central government has now provided grant funding to do this. The amount received for summer holiday FSM is less than hoped for. She added that she would be looking at what measures can be taken to resolve any shortfall in the funding.

These vouchers will now be distributed in the same manner as previously, enabling a high uptake by eligible parents. Alongside this, we will be promoting the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) to FSM children and families.

Mental Health

The Mental Health Audit in schools has been completed and a review and update of mental health resources is taking place and will be available via the Hub. She added that she felt that Mental Health in general was such an important issue for the Council that she was looking to bring together a body of agencies to collaborate on specific areas of work.

Councillor Liz Hardman commented that the head of OFSTED, Amanda Spielman, recently said that at least 100,000 children are being home-schooled and that this will seriously derail efforts to catch up on children's missed education. She asked if the Council has figures for the number of children in B&NES currently being home-schooled and are we making any extra provision for them to catch up on their missed education.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that the Inclusion Service makes contact with all parents that choose to home-school their children and that they are encouraged to join a parental network. He added that there had been a rise in numbers during the pandemic and that the DfE do monitor these figures.

He added that the Council would help with appropriate resources where possible and that some funding had been received through the Covid-19 fund. He said that there were around 120 children in B&NES currently being home-schooled.

Councillor Michelle O'Doherty referred to the written update supplied by Councillor Alison Born, Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building and said that she supported the proposal to form a Transformation of Adult Care Services Working Group.

The Chairman said that he felt that the Group should comprise of members of this Panel to have an element of governance and that it may be possible to extend the membership at a later point.

Gill Stobart asked how children were referred to take part in the Holiday Activity Food (HAF) Programme and how would the work be evaluated.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding said that the Programme is led by Public Health and Bath Rugby Foundation and that referrals were made direct from school. He added information would be supplied to those families in receipt of FSM vouchers and that he could also pass this onto the Panel. He said that the Programme would be evaluated by Public Health.

Councillor Rob Appleyard asked if any comment could be given on the relationship between the three local (BSW) Health & Wellbeing Boards and Integrated Care Partnership.

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care replied that each of the Boards remain autonomous, but that they are seen as drivers for the Integrated Care Partnership. She added that the work of the three Boards needs to be aligned.

Councillor Appleyard asked if any collaboration had taken place across the Boards currently.

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care said that there was nothing formal in place but that initial conversations had been held.

Kevin Burnett asked if the findings of a second report into the Music Service were available yet.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that a draft of the report had been received, that officers have had the opportunity to comment upon it and that they were awaiting the final version. He said that the draft was broadly positive of the Service's use of funding and that work was ongoing in terms of the Improvement Plan. He offered to bring a report on this matter to the Autumn meeting of the Panel.

Kevin Burnett asked if Quest Prime Assessment completed at Bath Sport and Leisure Centre would be carried out at other local centres and whether Paulton was included in the Tennis in Parks project.

Councillor Dine Romero replied that she did not have that information to hand and would need to reply in due course.

Kevin Burnett asked if any recent discussions have been held with the Ofsted Regional Schools Director as to what they now intend to inspect against.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that they were seeking to arrange an Autumn meeting with the Ofsted Regional Schools Director.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Romero for her update on behalf of the Panel and reminded them that written reports had also been received from Councillor Alison Born and Dr Bryn Bird (BSW CCG).

Cabinet Member Briefing (Cllr Romero) July 2021

25 SHAPING A HEALTHIER FUTURE (FORMERLY NEW HOSPITAL PROGRAMME)

Simon Cook, SaHF Programme Director and Geoff Underwood, Programme Director, SCW CSU introduced this item to the Panel and highlighted the following areas from the report.

Overview

- RUH working with partners and the public across its catchment to develop a vision and support model for the population to deliver excellence
- The new model of how we deliver support and care will inform our investment needs for the future and underpin any business case that bids for infrastructure investment
- We want to do this with the local population for the local population so your support in this is vital

Progress

- 2019-20 Clinical strategy principles developed
- March 2021 Trust launch of high-level clinical vision
- April 2021 Workshops held with staff and members
- April 2021 Development of patient champions group
- July 2021 Preparation for wider public involvement

Context - national and local drivers

- A more complex population - The over 75 population in B&NES is anticipated to rise by 36% by 2029; comparable rises will be seen in Wiltshire and Somerset
- Changing workforce - Expectations and needs of our staff are changing, reflecting generational shifts and the impact of Covid-19. What we need from our staff is also changing.
- Digital innovation - Offers new ways to provide services, share information and communicate with patients and families
- Mental health/vulnerable people - Parity and integration with physical health, for service planning and delivery

Key local challenges

- 26% children with unhealthy weight Increases risk of developing a range of chronic diseases such as heart disease and diabetes
- 18% of local population in B&NES experiencing mental health condition
- 43% Expected increase in numbers of men with dementia by 2025

Design principles

Creating a new future of outstanding healthcare with prevention and intervention when and where it is needed, working together to help our communities enjoy healthier lives.

- Provide holistic and flexible care seamlessly as one system with embedded innovation and continual improvement
- Provide person centred care and empowerment to put the person in control of their health and wellbeing, and ensuring that each interaction adds value to the person
- Provide care at home or in the community wherever appropriate, coordinated through strong primary care networks and multidisciplinary teams, and supported by sufficient emergency and specialist capacity in hospitals
- Deliver an efficient way of working to ensure financial sustainability of the system and value for money of services

Summary model – Work in progress

- Single point of access
 - Preventative and proactive population health management
 - Enhanced out of hospital care and co-ordination
 - Community based care and escalation
 - Hospital of the future and specialist care

Engagement – RUH workstreams and BSW health & care model work

- RUH Staff - 23 staff are actively involved in clinical working groups
- 14 members of the public are actively involved in health and care model working groups (Patient Champions)
- System Partners / 3rd Sector / Subject Specialists

Staff & Public feedback on vision and aims

- *'It promises a great deal but to implement it will need creative thinking and user-friendly pathways'*
- *'Exhausted. It's a great vision, but are we physically and mentally able to take this on?'*
- *'Inspired to deliver a 1st class healthcare service to everyone when and where they need it'*

Next steps

- Prepare for wider public involvement
- Development of service user 'personas' to bring it alive
- Commence wider public involvement August

Kevin Burnett commented that preventative patient centric care should be in place as you make your way through life.

Geoff Underwood replied that there is an intention to join up data across all services with regard to population health management and to use that data to understand and tailor services. He added that events and data should be shared with a Care Co-ordinator.

Kevin Burnett commented that there can be significant time gaps outside of regular health checks for a number of members of the public and that there might not be as much patient knowledge as people don't always see the same GP.

Geoff Underwood replied that there does need to be a continuity of care and that this is a challenge that will be assessed as we move forward. He added that record management will be important.

Councillor Rob Appleyard asked how residents can be informed of the best way to access the system / services, now and in the future.

Simon Cook replied that education on how to find services and making them easier to access would be key. He added that it is a challenge to ensure that resources are used appropriately to deliver the models of care required.

He said that as the public involvement increases over August – October that there will be some face to face meetings and roadshows as well the continuation of online surveys.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked how have the public have been selected for the consultation and how will wider public consultation in August will be organised.

Simon Cook said that members of the RUH Foundation Trust were invited to express areas of interest to comment on. He added that plans were now being worked on for the wider public engagement. He said that they will try to express the information to the public in a simpler form.

Councillor Hardman commented that earlier in the year, when these proposals were first brought to the Panel, we were anticipating significant investment in buildings. She asked if this is it still the case that we are expecting money to follow as a result of this work.

Simon Cook replied that this is part of a national programme and that there are no guarantees for capital being received. He added that the bid will need show a compelling case for the programme / vision and embrace digital opportunities and preventative health management.

Kevin Burnett asked if education settings would be involved in the consultation and encouraged engagement to be made with the Youth Forum.

Simon Cook replied that they do have that appreciation in mind and would welcome contact details for the Youth Forum.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that she would provide this information to them.

The Chairman asked if updates would be required at every meeting of the Panel as the programme progresses.

Simon Cook replied that he thought that would be advisable as the public engagement commences and the business case seeks approval.

The Chairman thanked Simon and Geoff for their report and attendance on behalf of the Panel.

26 COMPLAINTS AND FEEDBACK ANNUAL REPORT FOR ADULT SOCIAL CARE 2020-21

The Complaints & Data Protection Team Manager introduced this report to the Panel and highlighted the following areas.

- A total of 65 complaints were received; 16 of these complaints were referred to Virgin Care for investigation; and 1 enquiry was received from the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman.
- The number of complaints has increased compared with the previous two years, but the increase is not significant. It was anticipated that the impact of Covid-19 and the lockdowns that have happened during the year would have an impact on the volume of complaints, but this did not materialise.
- Any learning identified is captured by the Complaints and Data Protection Team when the complaint is closed and shared with the Service. The service is asked for feedback about the actions taken and evidence of this.
- The average response time for complaints in 2020 – 21 was 17 working days and 80% of complaints received a response within the 15 working day time scale. Although this does not meet the target of 90% it is a significant improvement from the previous year when only 24% were responded to within 15 working days. This was also despite the challenges to the service caused by the pandemic.

Referring to the section of the report on Advocacy Support, the Chairman asked if POhWER, who currently provide this service, were used by any other Councils.

The Complaints & Data Protection Team Manager replied that they work across a number of Local Authorities and that B&NES has a contract with them under The Care Act.

Councillor Rob Appleyard commented that with the many interactions that take place across the Council the report shows how well our services are run overall.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if it was felt that the Council were happy that there is sufficient awareness about how to make a complaint or was there more that could be done locally.

The Complaints & Data Protection Team Manager replied that she would discuss the matter with other members of the service and staff working within the Community Resource Centres. She added that it was hoped that closer work with the Advocacy Service would help.

Gill Stobart asked if any signposting is done through the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

The Complaints & Data Protection Team Manager replied that the Council does do some work with them and will signpost to them where appropriate.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the contents of the report.

27 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FRAMEWORK

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care introduced the report to the Panel and highlighted the following areas.

- In the NHS Long Term Plan mental health services are a key priority and this framework is focused transforming the model for community mental health services for people aged 16+.
- The framework implementation is being led by BSW (Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire) Clinical Commissioning Group and will create a very different way of working. It is an exciting opportunity to transform the way community mental health services are delivered, creating a new model of mental health care in our communities with joined-up services and an approach which is focussed on the needs of the whole population and which supports the development of Primary Care Networks (PCN) and personalised care.
- There is a recognition nationally and across BSWCCG on the need to improve mental health services. There is a need to improve early access and make getting support easier for people. The experience of the pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns has increased demand for mental health services.
- To meet the transformation challenge there is £10m new money across BSW over the next three years and the system response has been to bring partners and localities together to co-design the response to the National Community Mental Health Services Framework to meet the needs of local people and support them in their local communities.
- There are three system priorities for 2021/22.
 - The first is to build a new workforce by the implementation of the named wellbeing coordinator roles across Primary Care Networks, investment into Clinical Associate Psychologist trainee posts and investment in key leadership structures.
 - The second priority is to pilot the new model from Quarter 1 and key to this is building trust and confidence in the Primary Care Network (PCN)

and provider relationships. There are seven PCNs across BSW who will work more closely with the BSWCCG to pilot the new model and in Bath and North East Somerset the two PCNs involved are Heart of Bath and Bath Independents. The focus will be improving the advice and guidance pathway and understanding the impact of existing practices in relation to mental health formulary and shared care prescribing.

- The third priority is the development of the Personality Disorder, Eating Disorder, 16-25 and older adult pathways
- This is a provider led transformation, the Council can influence but is not able to determine where monies are allocated.

The Chairman asked how the £10m will be allocated.

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care replied that we have asked for clarification on our allocation but said that as the transformation is provider led most of the allocation will go to Oxford Health and AWP.

The Chairman asked if there was a need to recruit further staff for this work.

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care replied that this is a significant area of priority and that a focus will be put upon Recruit, Sustain & Retain.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked what the Mental Health Collaborative is identified in paragraph 3.12.

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care replied that this is a group of 3rd sector groups that will come together to look at services within Mental Health to ensure that the Framework meets the needs of the community.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked what was meant by a co-production event in paragraph 3.13.

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care replied that this would see Healthwatch Wiltshire and Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living working with individuals to deliver events across BSW in June & July.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the progress on the implementation of the Community Mental Health Services Framework across BSW and locally within Bath and North East Somerset.

28 DIRECTOR BRIEFINGS - ADULT SOCIAL CARE & CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

The Director of Children's Services & Education addressed the Panel, a summary of her briefing is set out below and will be attached as an online appendix to these minutes.

Care Review

Josh McCallister, Chair Independent Review of Social Care has now published The Case for Change. B&NES are actively involved in the Care Review.

Virtual School

Our virtual school for looked after children has been part of a national pilot to support children in care and children on child protection plans. We have been pleased to be able to offer this support and it has been invaluable during school lockdowns and has enabled us to provide additional support to some of our most vulnerable young people. In late June, we were notified that the DFE would be funding all LA's across the country to expand their Virtual Schools. This is positive news and we like to consider that our work on the pilot locally (1 of 3 in the country) has influenced this national rollout.

Children's Social Care Covid-19 Regional Recovery and Building Back Better Fund

Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford announced in her Association of Directors of Children Services (ADCS) Conference speech on 8 July 2021, the Children's Social Care Covid-19 Regional Recovery and Building Back Better Fund. Each Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance is invited to submit a single response on behalf of the region, with each Local Authority, including B&NES, contributing to the regional recovery plan.

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care addressed the Panel, a summary of her briefing is set out below and will be attached as an online appendix to these minutes.

Virgin Care Contract Extension

BSWCCG Governing Body and B&NES Council, as joint commissioners, have requested a report setting out an options appraisal to help to decide whether it wishes to extend the Virgin Care contract. This is a seven-year contract from 2017/18 to 2023/2024 with the option for BSWCCG and B&NES Council to extend the contract term by three years, taking the contract term to 2026/2027. Virgin Care would need to be notified of the decision to extend or not to extend the contract by no later than end of March 2022. The aim is for the options appraisal report to proceed through the decision-making governance for both BSWCCG and the Council by September 2021, but we recognise that this is an ambitious timescale and the decision-making process may require longer.

Specialist Social Prescribing Service

One of the strategic priorities for both the B&NES locality and across BSW CCG is to ensure that people can access NICE compliant Autism Diagnostic Assessments in a timely way. Unfortunately, as a result of the pandemic local diagnostic services delivered by BASS were suspended because clinical staff were redeployed. The waiting list for assessments has now grown. Some people have been waiting more than a year and referral rates for assessments are rising, as we return to 'business as usual'.

To help mitigate the risks associated with long waits for diagnostic assessments we have commissioned the Specialist Social Prescribing Service from Developing Health and Independence (DHI) which will run as a 12-month pilot from May 2021. People waiting for their Autism Diagnostic Assessment will be offered up to 4 appointments with the new service. Social prescribing is designed to support people with a wide range of social, emotional or practical needs, and there is a growing body of evidence that it can lead to a range of positive health and wellbeing outcomes.

Transformation

The Directorate has 7 main areas for transformation. The first Board meeting will be in July and all projects are in the process of developing project plans and Business Cases. The projects are focused on delivering improved outcomes for residents and providing value for money. They are focused on prevention and early help across a range of services.

Councillor Liz Hardman referred to the Specialist Social Prescribing Service commissioned from Developing Health and Independence in partnership with BASS Autism Support Service. She said though that she had been made aware that some colleagues at BASS have no knowledge of this service and asked for further information.

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care supplied the following answer after the meeting.

The service deployment began on 1st May 2021 and the Social Prescribing Practitioner has been in post with DHI since the beginning of June. The new service has so far contacted 35 people who are waiting for their full autism assessment with BASS and 6 of these people have been in touch to take up this offer.

The service will focus on those awaiting their Autism diagnostic assessment, so as to identify and mitigate any risks – however, it is a pilot and should we find that the service has additional capacity, we will broaden the offer to those already diagnosed although we do already have a small post-diagnostic service (mainly via groups), in place delivered by BASS.

I have suggested some comms go out to the wider BASS team to raise awareness of the new service and I'll liaise with DHI and my contacts in BASS to ensure that this happens.

Kevin Burnett asked if any mitigating actions were being taken given that the pressures across the health and social care system remain significant. He also asked whether Adult Social Care reported its Opel Status.

The Interim Director of Adult Social Care replied that providers report to the Council on a daily basis and the Council reports weekly. She added that it was known that complexities are increasing and that the transformation will look at how services can be provided better, but with less spend.

The Chairman thanked both of the Directors for their reports on behalf of the Panel.

Childrens Services Director Report 13.07.21

29 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Chairman acknowledged that the six-monthly Virgin Care update report was due in September and that at that meeting it was likely that the Panel would receive a further report on the Shaping a Healthier Future programme.

The Panel approved the workplan as printed.

The meeting ended at 12.55 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

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**Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel,
Tuesday, 13th July 2021, 10.00 am**

Lead Member PDS Report

Schools & early years settings

I want to start by thanking all schools and early years settings for everything they have done to support the education of our children and young people in B&NES. The pandemic has had a significant impact on education and self-isolation has undoubtedly taken its toll on children and families lives.

As we come to the end of the academic year, the DFE has signalled its intent to end bubbles and self-isolation for contacts of confirmed covid cases. This is a most welcome development. We know that the DFE has signalled that testing for secondary aged children may continue into the next academic year, but we do not have the details of this yet. All we know is contained in the updated advice below.

- [Guidance for special schools and other specialist settings](#)
- [Actions for schools during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Actions for FE colleges and providers during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Actions for early years and childcare providers during the coronavirus outbreak](#)
- [Use of PPE in education, childcare and children's social care](#)

I would also like to thank our Public Health team, who have tirelessly supported schools with Covid outbreaks and who, in turn, have earned significant praise from our education colleagues.

Free School Meals (FSM)

As you know, I have been lobbying for FSM vouchers to continue over the summer holidays. I am pleased to announce that the central government has now provided grant funding to do this. The amount received for summer holiday FSM is less than hoped for. These vouchers will now be distributed in the same manner as previously, enabling a high uptake by eligible parents. Alongside this, we will be promoting the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF) to FSM children and families.

Holiday Activity Food (HAF) Programme

The Department for Education has allocated funding to all Local Authorities to run a Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme throughout the Easter, Summer and Christmas 2021 school holidays.

The aim of the programme is for children who attend the HAF provision to eat more healthily, be more active and take part in engaging and enriching activities. This is to support their resilience and wellbeing and help them stay safe and reduce social isolation during the school holidays. The programme also aims to ensure that children, young people

and families have a greater knowledge of health and nutrition and can be signposted to other health, employment and education support where needed.

Bath and North East Somerset have a contract with Bath Rugby Foundation to lead a local consortium and ensure children and young people, who are eligible for free school meals, have access to healthy food and enriching activities during the summer and Christmas holidays.

Working collaboratively with a range of local providers, there is now a full and engaging programme of activities on offer this summer. These will be available through morning hubs where children aged 5-11 years can enjoy physical and social activities followed by a nutritious lunch, "Teen Breakout" afternoon/evening hubs for young people aged 12 – 16, access to outdoor adventure trips and Family Hubs where families can attend play opportunities across local parks. Food parcels will also be available for parent/carers when they collect their children from sessions. Children and young people with special educational needs will be supported to access the programme either through the main hubs or through other specialist holiday activities.

The HAF programme is also available for children and young people with additional vulnerabilities who may not be in receipt of free school meals including children in need, looked after children and those with a child protection plan. Any children and young people who aren't eligible will be signposted to alternative activities as providers will continue to work collaboratively and ensure a clear oversight of the wider support and activities available.

The hubs are running throughout the summer holidays across a wide range of areas covering Bath, Midsomer Norton and Keynsham. For further details, including times and venues, please visit www.bathrugbyfoundation.com/breakout

SEND Pressures

During the pandemic, the number of requests for SEND services has increased by roughly 15%. While services respond admirably, pressures on budgets (particularly the High Needs budget) support these children and young people have grown to unmanageable levels. This is an issue that isn't particular to B&NES and is affecting all local authorities. There isn't enough central government funding to meet demand. As Lead Member for children services, I will be lending my support to a coordinated approach across the South West to raise these issues directly with central government.

Music Service

As advised at previous scrutiny meetings, our music service has been going through significant changes following a review by its funding body, Arts Council England (ACE). I am pleased to report that the service has delivered a successful improvement plan to the Arts Council and is making good progress.

We are now turning our attention to the music service's long-term future. I am committed to ensuring that B&NES can sustain a local service and thrive in an increasingly competitive

environment. The service needs to be in a strong position if and when the service has to bid for future funding from Arts Council England. To do this, we are exploring a formal partnership with South Gloucestershire and North Somerset's joint music hub. We believe there are benefits to be gained by collaboration and the sharing of services that can support the long-term future of the B&NES music service. I will be looking to bring a more detailed paper on this item in the early Autumn.

Public Health Updates

- Covid-19 related work to implement the Local Outbreak Management Plan - this continues and is increasing as local rates rise. Work includes helping to manage outbreaks, supporting childcare and education settings, ensuring availability of community testing in targeted areas, coordinating the outreach vaccination bus, and advising on infection prevention and control.
- Mental Health Support for Schools - the mental health audit in schools has been completed and a review and update of mental health resources is taking place and will be available via the Hub.
- Schools Health and Wellbeing Survey – a contract has been awarded to the Schools Health Education Unit to continue providing a well-established online survey tool to all state funded schools in B&NES. This will provide valuable intelligence and insight about health and other needs and behaviours of children and young people.
- Progressing Smokefree NHS agenda and ambitions outlined in NHS Long Term Plan – working across B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire with public health and clinical colleagues to make the case for tobacco dependency and control funding from the NHS Long Term Plan allocation to support this work as part of the Integrated Care System.
- Summer physical activity challenge – The past 15 months have had a huge impact on levels of activity including for children who have not been able to enjoy their usual activities and sports and many of whom have had to spend more time at home leading a sedentary lifestyle which has implications for physical and mental health and wellbeing in the short and long term. Developed a 'Get Moving. Get Involved' physical activity challenge which will take place over the school summer holidays. Worked with a local primary school (Ubley Primary) to develop a brand logo and name and will be using a reputable activity app (buddyboost) to track sign ups and activity levels.
- Completed the Community Asset transfer of tennis courts to Saltford Tennis Club
- Tennis in Parks project is progressing well with 4 courts in Alice Park and two courts in Sydney Gardens completed. The 4 courts in Keynsham will be completed by the end of July. An operator has been appointed to run the Tennis in Parks programme and maintain the courts. The courts will go live from the beginning of August.

- Quest Prime Assessment completed at Bath Sport and Leisure Centre. The assessment offers operators and local authorities the opportunity to demonstrate that their centres have robust processes and procedures to prevent the spread of Covid-19, with modules on general pandemic management and the approaches to engaging with customers who are not using the facilities. The centre was rated Very Good.
- Community Consultation on the Entry Hill Bike Park designs will go live on 12 July and invite communities from across Bath and North East Somerset to give their views on the designs and plans. The consultation platform can be viewed at www.ehbpconsultation.com and we want residents to have their say on a range of issues.

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care Update Report for Scrutiny July 2021

As identified by the Interim Director, the health and social care system is experiencing significant pressure and I continue to work with partners to support the system. This report provides an update on current priorities.

1. Housing

Colleagues in Housing and Adult Social Care have agreed a job description to recruit a new colleague to support the development of an Accommodation Strategy that will enable us to ensure that our most vulnerable residents have access to quality housing and support over the next 10 – 20 years.

2. Virgin Contract

I have met with the Interim Director and the Head of Contracting and Performance and with colleagues from Virgin and the CCG. I will continue to work with the Interim Director to ensure that Cabinet are supported to make an informed decision on the future of the Virgin Care Contract.

I am fully aware of the current performance issues relating to social care assessments, reablement and community hospitals and am reassured that the Interim Director and CCG colleagues are working with Virgin to robustly address performance issues relating to these services.

3. Health & Well Being Board

As members will know, Dine Romero is the new co-chair with Brynn Bird. However, as Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care I will be a member of the Board and have been fully involved in the discussions relating to the role of the Board as we develop the local Integrated Care Alliance within the context of the BSW Integrated Care System.

4. Recruitment of the Director of Adult Social Care

As Members are aware, Suzanne Westhead has been appointed as the permanent DASS and will take up her post on the 23rd August 2021. Alison Elliott will continue until the 27th August to ensure that Suzanne is fully briefed. I would like to thank Alison very much for the invaluable contribution she has made during her time with B&NES.

5. Partnership Working

This month I was pleased to hear that the Chief Operating Officer from the RUH and the Deputy Chief Operating Officer from BSWCCG visited Charlton House. It is important that colleagues have the opportunity to see the range of community services provided by Adult Social Care and they were impressed with the quality of service and enthusiasm and commitment of our staff. The Chief Operating Officer (RUH) will also be visiting social workers in Virgin Care as he familiarises himself with the provision of community services.

6. Transformation

The transformation of Adult Care services is a significant piece of work that will be overseen by a Project Board. The seven work streams will deliver significant change to the way that services are provided in B&NES and I am keen to ensure cross party oversight of the project. I had originally proposed a small reference group to undertake this work but it was felt that it could be a role for this scrutiny panel. However, as this group already has a packed agenda with limited time for in-depth discussion, I am concerned about how this could be delivered. I would be grateful for views on whether or not this function would be welcomed and how it could best be delivered. I'm sorry that I am not able to contribute to the discussion (and to the wider meeting) as I am in Devon and unable to dial in as this is now an in-person meeting.

Alison Born – Councillor for Widcombe and Lyncombe

Cabinet Member for Adult Services

**Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel,
Tuesday, 13th July, 2021, 10.00 am**

Director Children's Service and Education PDS Report

Care Review

Josh McCallister, Chair Independent Review of Social Care has now published **The Case for Change**. The full interim report is attached for consideration and review.

The Department of Education has announced a number of opportunities for Local Authorities to contribute. These include:

- **Children in care councils and Coram Voice programme** – more info and link to sign up [here](#).
- Share the **workforce expression of interest survey** round to encourage sign up, you can also sign up collectively as one LA - [link here](#).
- Share the **lived experience expression of interest survey** round to carers, parents, care leavers and children in care to encourage sign up - [link here](#)
- **Feedback on the case for change** document recently published. The Case for Change is attached as a separate document for review. Feedback through the survey published on our website - [link here](#).

B&NES are actively involved in the Care Review.

Children's Social Care

Children's Social Care continues to be incredibly busy and we are seeing a rise in the complexity of work, despite this the workforce continue to work hard to support the needs of our local communities.

Children's Social Care continue to facilitate monthly multi agency meetings, all attendees find this valuable as it offers an opportunity to share any challenges and achievements across the partnership.

Children's Social Care have retained the link social workers for all schools, including independent schools and academies across B&NES, that was established in the second Covid 19 lockdown: this has been well received.

Virtual School

As the panel has been previously advised, our virtual school for looked after children has been part of a national pilot to support children in care and children on child protection plans. We have been pleased to be able to offer this support and it has been invaluable during school lockdowns and has enabled us to provide additional support to some of our most vulnerable young people. In late June, we were notified that the DFE would be funding all LA's across the country to expand their Virtual Schools. This is positive news and we like to consider that our work on the pilot locally (1 of 3 in the country) has influenced this national rollout. We will provide more detail on both evaluation of the pilot and the expanded school in the autumn.

Children's Social Care Covid-19 Regional Recovery and Building Back Better Fund

Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford announced in in her Association of Directors of Children Services (ADCS) Conference speech on 8 July 2021, **the Children's Social Care Covid-19 Regional Recovery and Building Back Better Fund.** Each Regional Improvement and Innovation Alliance is invited to submit a single response on behalf of the region, with each Local Authority, including B&NES, contributing to the regional recovery plan. We will provide an update on what that actually means for B&NES at the next PDS.

Directors Report

The pressures across the health and social care system remain significant with increased demand and the inability to recruit staff resulting in delays in social care assessments, access to Reablement, access to homecare and access to Mental Health in-patient beds. We continue to work with our system partners to mitigate the risks.

Community Wellbeing Hub

Virgin Care have been instrumental in leading the development and operation of the Community Wellbeing Hub, alongside colleagues from 3SG, their members, BSWCCG and the Council. The Hub has provided a single point of access for community response and provides a joined-up intervention for anyone seeking support or guidance on COVID-19. Response teams include food support, welfare support, mental wellbeing, housing support and physical wellbeing advice.

After more than a year of delivering emergency support to residents across Bath and North East Somerset during the Covid-19 pandemic, the third sector organisation, 3SG is stepping down from providing volunteer support for delivering shopping and medication for vulnerable residents through the Community Wellbeing Hub. This decision was taken by 3SG based on the easing of restrictions and referrals from the Community Wellbeing Hub significantly reducing. The Community wellbeing Hub has in place a range of support services for those self-isolating and vulnerable and can continue to support individual's needs. Through the Covid19 Contain Outbreak Management Fund a proposal will be submitted for the continued engagement of volunteers in B&NES so as this valued community asset can be utilized in the future should demand rise, allow for support from volunteers to again resume and be stepped up to meet need as part of the wider work of Compassionate Communities.

The Hub continues to support residents who have been shielding (CEV) and those self-isolating, this has now been extended to the Hub working in collaboration with Track and Trace colleagues to undertake follow up welfare calls to people who are self-isolating and referred to the Community Wellbeing Hub for their individual support needs to be assessed.

Virgin Care Contract Extension

BSWCCG Governing Body and B&NES Council, as joint commissioners, have requested a report setting out an options appraisal to help to decide whether it wishes to extend the Virgin Care contract. This is a seven-year contract from 2017/18 to 2023/2024 with the option for BSWCCG and B&NES Council to extend the contract term by three years, taking the contract term to 2026/2027. Virgin Care would need to be notified of the decision to extend or not to extend the contract by no later than end of March 2022. The aim is for the options appraisal report to proceed through the decision-making governance for both BSWCCG and the Council by September 2021, but we recognise that this is an ambitious timescale and the decision-making process may require longer.

A timescale has been agreed for the decision-making process for both BSWCCG and Council

Specialist Social Prescribing Service

One of the strategic priorities for both the BaNES locality and across BSW CCG is to ensure that people can access NICE compliant Autism Diagnostic Assessments in a timely way. Unfortunately, as a result of the pandemic local diagnostic services delivered by BASS were suspended because clinical staff were redeployed. The waiting list for assessments has now grown. Some people have been waiting more than a year and referral rates for assessments are rising, as we return to 'business as usual'.

To help mitigate the risks associated with long waits for diagnostic assessments we have commissioned the Specialist Social Prescribing Service from Developing Health and Independence (DHI) which will run as a 12-month pilot from May 2021. People waiting for their Autism Diagnostic Assessment will be offered up to 4 appointments with the new service. Social prescribing is designed to support people with a wide range of social, emotional or practical needs, and there is a growing body of evidence that it can lead to a range of positive health and wellbeing outcomes. Studies have pointed to improvements in quality of life and emotional wellbeing, mental and general wellbeing, and levels of depression and anxiety (The Kings Fund).

Working in partnership with the BASS Autism Support Service, the new DHI SSPS will be offered to adults in B&NES who are on the diagnostic assessment waiting list. The service has excellent knowledge of both statutory and non-statutory, local community and web-based services, resources and pathways. It is outcome and solution-focused, person-centred, and will build on the strengths of individuals and their support networks. The service outcomes and activity will be independently evaluated by the Centre for Applied Autism Research at the University of Bath.

Care Homes

We are pleased to report that despite the increase in community rates of Covid infections, infections have remained extremely low in care homes with no more than one or two infections at any one time and no further deaths related to Covid since before Easter 2021. These infections, where they have occurred, are specific to staff with no new infections amongst residents since February 2021. We have continued to work closely with Public Health, the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Primary Care Networks (PCNs), Royal United Hospital (RUH) and community teams to ensure that infection and control messages continue and levels of vaccinations within our care homes are at or above national levels.

With the high numbers of deaths in the last 18mths and a continuing preference for home care over a care home placement, many of our homes have high levels of vacancies.

For residents the choice of remaining at home, supported by home care to maintain their independence also supports the Council's priority. However, it is putting some care homes at potential risk of closure or significant financial pressure. Therefore, the commissioning team are working closely with all care homes to consider and develop their business models. This may involve closure for one or two, or diversification or consolidation for others. Currently one home has identified they are looking to close. This home is rated Requires Improvement

by CQC (Care Quality Commission) and is part of two homes run by the same organisation in B&NES (the other is rated Good and has vacancies). The Commissioning Team has initiated the Provider Failure Policy and will be working with the home to transfer the 16 residents to the provider's other home or suitable alternatives. While this will cause some upheaval for residents, we will work with the provider to minimise disruption for residents.

Home Care

In contrast home care is in significant demand and the commissioning team are working closely with providers to support new capacity into B&NES. This is proving challenging as the combination of Covid and Brexit has meant that both locally and nationally there are significant recruitment issues. All home care providers, and indeed care homes, are struggling to recruit and retain their workforce. This is a significant issue that should be noted as a risk. B&NES has supported a recruitment drive with Proud to Care¹ to help providers, but the core issue remains that there are not enough people available to be recruited into these roles.

In addition, we are working with our in-house services (community resource centres and extra care) to see how they can help. Charlton House Nursing home was successfully able to offer an alternate to Sulis Community Hospital ward while it was closed and is exploring what further help can be developed to offer an extension of the extra care service into the wider community (this will be subject the CQC registration).

Infection Prevention and Control Funds (IPC)

The team have successfully distributed £6,143,642 of additional funding to care homes, home care and third sector organisations to help them through the pandemic through the national IPC funds. This has supported shielding, testing, vaccination, recruitment, staffing and wider infection control measures. In addition, the team have supported the provision of free PPE to all care providers across B&NES. The majority of the funding has gone directly to providers with significant reporting required by Government to show how funds have been spent. Providers have been extremely helpful in joining forums to discuss how best to use this funding and ensure, despite tight deadlines, that the funding is directed to areas of most concern. The Government have just announced a further round of funding.

Community Health and Social Care

The team also works closely with the CCG to commission and support wider services in the community. A single member decision was made earlier in Spring to bring the Community Equipment contract in-house and the planning will bring this transfer to the Council in Spring 2022.

¹ <https://www.proudtocaresw.org.uk/>

Better Care Fund

Better Care Fund (BCF) is a national scheme that directs the use of existing and additional sums of money given to Councils and CCGs to work together. These schemes are agreed by the B&NES Health and Wellbeing Board and encompass a wide range of work with over 39 individual projects. New projects were agreed in Spring 2021 from across the partnership and a further set of schemes will be agreed in the summer 2021. Projects include, support to mental health, housing adaptations, an assisted technology review, expanding trusted assessors, supporting the development of day services.

Transformation

The Directorate has 7 main areas for transformation. The first Board meeting will be in July and all projects are in the process of developing project plans and Business Cases. The projects are focused on delivering improved outcomes for residents and providing value for money. They are focused on prevention and early help across a range of services.

Alison Elliott

Interim Director Adult Social Care

July 2021