

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

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

Tuesday, 14th March, 2023

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

Co-opted Non-Voting Members: Chris Batten and Kevin Burnett

Cabinet Member for Adult Services: Councillor Alison Born

Also in attendance: Rebecca Reynolds (Director of Public Health), Mary Kearney-Knowles (Director of Children's Services and Education), Christopher Wilford Director of Education & Safeguarding), Ceri Williams (Policy Development & Scrutiny Officer), Sally Churchyard (Head of Young People's Prevention Services), Laura Ambler (Place Director for Bath and North East Somerset, BSW ICB) and Paul Scott (Associate Director for Public Health)

77 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

78 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chairman drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

79 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Paul May and Councillor Dine Romero, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities had sent their apologies to the Panel.

80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Gerry Curran declared an other interest with regard to agenda item 8 'Cabinet Member Update' as he is an employee of HCRG Care Group and his partner works for Bath Area Play Project (BAPP).

81 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

82 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

There were none.

83 MINUTES; 17TH JANUARY 2023

The Chairman asked if it was known how much of the £50m funding B&NES had been allocated to allow for international recruitment relating to care home staff.

Councillor Alison Born, Cabinet Member for Adult Services replied that she would try to find out and respond to the Panel.

The Chairman informed the Panel that the additional £5,000 for SACRE had been granted as part of the Council's budget setting process.

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

84 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

Councillor Alison Born, Cabinet Member for Adult Services addressed the Panel and highlighted the following areas from her update report. A copy of the update will be attached as an online appendix to these minutes.

Death Rate in Local Care Homes

Figures published on the second wave of Covid infections showed B&NES to be an outlier in that a high proportion of local Covid deaths occurred in care homes with a low proportion occurring in hospital. This was investigated by Public Health and Prevention who identified:

- During the second wave, B&NES had a lower rate of cases of COVID-19 and a lower death rate than the England average
- Nearly all deaths from COVID-19 in B&NES during the second wave occurred in either a care home or hospital, with a small number occurring at home.
- The rate of deaths in local care homes was higher than the England average
- The rate of deaths at the Royal United Hospital was lower than the England average

For some years B&NES has been ahead of many other areas in ensuring that care homes are well supported by a dedicated GP service and that proactive work is done with care home residents, to plan choices for care and treatment in the event of a future severe illness. This has enabled more people who chose to, to have a dignified death at home and has reduced the number of admissions to hospital where treatment is unlikely to affect the outcome.

This resulted in emergency admission rates from care homes to hospital being much lower in B&NES than in neighbouring areas for a number of years prior to the pandemic and that continued during the pandemic.

The above information confirms that the overall death rate from COVID in B&NES has been lower than average.

To supplement this analysis, the public health team also commissioned an independent Applied Research Collaboration, ARC West to undertake additional research in local care homes to identify any factors that were associated with COVID-19 cases and deaths.

The findings of the ARC research have been delayed to allow for further staff interviews to take place, in the meantime, an interim report is available on the B&NES Strategic Evidence Base Document Library.

B&NES Managed Care Homes

There is a comprehensive action plan to address the concerns identified by the CQC relating to Charlton House and good progress is being made but I thought it would be useful to share some of the issues identified in a recent report by Care and Support South West which summarised the challenges that providers across the South West (and indeed, the rest of the country) are facing. These include:

- Problems recruiting and retaining staff with local turnover rates far exceeding the national average of 15%. This is a particular problem for management and clinical lead roles.
- Over reliance on agency staff, with agencies filling shifts for many providers on a daily basis. This is very costly and impacts on continuity, reducing the quality of the services provided
- Managers having to cover shifts so not having the time to manage services effectively. This reduces their ability to embed effective systems and to improve services.
- Services reducing or closing, with knock on effects for those with care needs their families and for other health and care services

Staff in the Care sector work with these challenges on a daily basis and the shortage of people available to work in leadership roles played a significant part in the problems experienced in Charlton House.

A major factor in the progress we are making at Charlton House is that we have been able to recruit an experienced manager who came into post just before the January meeting of this group. We were still struggling to recruit to clinical leadership roles and were reliant on agency nurses until the RUH agreed to second one of their senior nursing staff across to us. She also came into post in January and she and the new registered manager are working together to address the long standing structural issues at Charlton house.

The new leadership has also helped attract more staff into the service which is key to sustained improvement. However, we cannot under-estimate the scale of the ongoing challenge in providing high quality care services. The new Panel, under the next administration may wish to receive regular updates on this subject.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if there were known to be any particular reasons for the high percentage of staff turnover and was it related to pay.

Councillor Born replied that this had been something that they had been assessing and said that staff were now receiving an extra £2 per hour. She added that it was felt that the rates paid now were favourable in comparison to the rest of the sector.

Councillor Joanna Wright asked what the data was for people who have died at home within B&NES.

The Associate Director for Public Health replied that very few deaths occur at home, around 4%.

Kevin Burnett said that it was good to see that the Clinical Lead role was making an impact and asked if any thoughts have given to the overall structure of the service.

Councillor Born replied that there is a CRC Manager in place with an overall Operational Manager working above them. She added that each home has its own individual manager. She said that it was possible that a new model may be devised in the future following further clinical input.

Kevin Burnett asked if the ICB had a role in this area of work.

Councillor Alison Born replied that they have more of a commissioning role.

Laura Ambler, BSW ICB Director of Place Bath and North East Somerset added that they are working with both the Council and the RUH in terms of sharing resources and upskilling of staff.

Councillor Andy Wait asked what the next stage in the process would be for the CQC to return to Charlton House.

Councillor Born replied that they are expected to make a return visit and would do so whenever they want to.

The Chairman asked if the voluntary sector were being required to re-tender for all their current contracts. He believed that there were around 100.

Councillor Born replied that this was part of changes being made to the Community Health and Care Service, although these had not taken place yet. She added that discussions have been held with representatives of the voluntary sector regarding the potential that further tendering would be required.

The Chairman explained that although Councillor Dine Romero, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People, Communities was unable to attend she had submitted a written update and asked if the Panel had any questions.

Councillor Liz Hardman referred to Secondary School Admissions and asked what happens if a child is not allocated a school place.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that should they wish to the parents can make an appeal to get a place at their preferred school. He added that through the allocation process this year no child is without a school place.

Kevin Burnett asked if there were any other areas of service that could benefit from following the path that Youth Connect South West has taken.

The Chairman asked for Councillor Romero to respond in due course.

Councillor Gerry Curran addressed the Panel regarding Bath Opportunity Playgroup (BOP) and its proposed move from Odd Down, Bath to Broadlands School in Keynsham. He explained that BOP was founded 30 years ago to support local families and that he was aware that some staff and families using the service were unhappy about the move.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that BOP is a service that supports families within the whole of B&NES and that he was aware that the commissioner has been meeting with parents. He added that as part of the proposed move an extra 30 spaces will be able to be provided at Three Ways School.

Councillor Curran said that he remains disappointed and would welcome the Panel input on such a decision. He added that he was concerned that Bath families would be losing access to such experienced staff. He asked if it was an option to use the Culverhay site for this service.

Councillor Andy Wait referred to plans for a future Special School in Keynsham and said that he was not a fan of the bidding process involved. He asked if it was known what money could be drawn down from Government for this project.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that the opportunity to run the school would be listed on the Create:Schools website. He said that any contribution from the Local Authority would only be required for excessive costs, for example, if any new roads were required.

He said that a final decision regarding the Special School was likely to be made by DfE, but he hoped that the Council would be able to have some input. He added that this stage he did not know of a defined amount of money for the project.

Councillor Andy Wait asked if he knew of a timeframe for the project.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that this was dependant on elements such as Land Searches and Planning. He said that as provisional date the school might be open by September 2025.

The Chairman thanked the Cabinet Members for their updates on behalf of the Panel.

85 **B&NES, SWINDON & WILTSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (BSW ICB) UPDATE**

Laura Ambler, BSW ICB Director of Place Bath and North East Somerset addressed the Panel, a copy of the update will be available as an online appendix to these minutes, a summary is set out below.

Development of BSW Integrated Care Strategy

The BSW Integrated Care Strategy is an important document which sets out what improvements BSW Together Integrated Care System partners will deliver for local people including tackling health inequalities and delivering better, more personalised services.

It draws on elements from individual strategies that already exist and, while the ICS does not intend to replace those strategies, it will provide a summary of how these different elements will work together.

The strategy is under development at the moment but there is a lot of consistency in the themes emerging from other strategies across the area, including tackling inequalities, prevention and wellbeing, development of communities, addressing environmental issues and looking at the wider factors that contribute to health and wellbeing such as housing, education, social mobility, income and employment.

In January, the draft strategy was presented to members of local VCSE sector umbrella group 3SG and the Bath Area Forum. Active engagement took place at both events with audience members with participants saying they looked forward to working with BSW ICB and having an ongoing meaningful dialogue beyond the creation of the strategy.

The Integrated Care Strategy is being developed on behalf of the Integrated Care Partnership and will be presented for formal adoption in Spring 2023. The document will continue to remain 'live' and engagement with partners will continue on the strategy after it has been published.

The Implementation Plan, which is also known as the Joint Forward Plan (JFP), is due to be published by 30th June 2023.

Public engagement update

BSW ICB's core values reflect that the organisation is committed to ensuring the voices and opinions of local people influence key decisions and helps to shape services across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire.

Patient and public engagement groups bring together members of the public, carers, and representatives from voluntary organisations and local Healthwatch organisations to hold the ICB to account for how it involves local people in the design and commissioning of local health services.

In Bath and North East Somerset, the Your Health, Your Voice group meets every two months.

The group in B&NES is encouraged to inform and support the ICB's engagement with the wider public by advising on different approaches and groups we should consult with. We are reviewing with the group how we can further co-develop the role, reach and participation in this forum.

In addition to this, BSW ICB operates the Our Health, Our Future Citizens Panel to further help engage with local people and get their views on health and care issues.

The online panel is made up of a representative sample of the population from across our region. Panel members take part in regular surveys throughout the year.

Full reports of every survey are made publicly available on the BSW ICB website, and insights gained from the panel are used to inform our decision making, strategy, service design and service change.

Industrial action

BSW Integrated Care Board continues to work hard to keep local people safe during planned strikes, while delivering the best care possible.

While recent nurses and ambulance worker strikes have been stood down or paused, Junior Doctors were currently taking part in industrial action from 06:59 on Monday 13th March to 06:59 on Thursday 16th March 2023

In BSW, system partners are working together to ensure operational oversight and sharing of intelligence.

No-one should put off seeking urgent or emergency care during the strikes and people with serious, life-threatening conditions will continue to be seen at our Emergency Departments.

On days when there is strike action, people should only call 999 if it is a medical or mental health emergency. Ambulances will still respond in these situations, but this may only be where there is an immediate risk to life.

Community Investment Fund

BSW ICB has been working with B&NES Council and the Quartet Community Foundation to administer a catalyst grants programme of £100k.

The Community Investment Fund (CIF) aims to bring the work of BSW ICB and B&NES Council closer to communities and individuals who we know have inequalities and are our most vulnerable, to provide practical help and support.

Funding has now been received to set up a catalyst grant programme which the following organisations will be invited to join.

1. Southside Hardship Fund
2. Julian House
3. Citizens Advice Bureau
4. Age UK

5. West of England Rural Network - (B&NES locality only)

These partner organisations are part of the Community Wellbeing hub and are able to identify those who need this help and can administer grants for cost of living support including food, clothing costs and warm home grants.

We intend to make every connection count and ensure that people are helped to access further support, and to develop a long -lasting relationships and a legacy with our communities through this programme.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if there was any say in how the CIF funding was spent with regard to the West of England Rural Network.

Laura Ambler replied that the programme is designed for individual needs and therefore it was not applicable to be used on matters such as general transport / bus provision. She added that issues such as this should be tackled through the Integrated Care Strategy.

Kevin Burnett asked if the Integrated Care Strategy was to be seen as an overarching strategy, and if so, what is being replaced.

Laura Ambler replied that the ICS was not overarching and was there to show how we all come together as partners. She added that the strategy is intended to be complimentary to other areas of work.

Kevin Burnett suggested that local groups such as Off The Record and the Youth Forum could be approached to take part in their public engagement work.

The Chairman commented that he felt that involvement would be likely to increase if they were able to arrange additional face to face meetings rather than online.

Laura Ambler replied that they could try to create a blend of meeting types – in person, hybrid and online.

The Chairman thanked her for the update on behalf of the Panel.

86 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY: PANEL FEEDBACK REPORT

The Policy Development & Scrutiny Officer introduced the report. He explained that all Panel members were invited to a briefing on the draft Health and Wellbeing Strategy on 27th February 2023. He said that they were provided with an overview of the strategy and then given the opportunity to provide comments before its consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Board which would take place later in the afternoon of 14th March 2023.

Councillor Joanna Wright commented that she welcomed that housing data had been highlighted in the feedback report. She said that she would still like to see that online safety, especially for children and young people, be addressed as the work of the strategy progresses.

The Director of Public Health replied that it is difficult to find the balance between devising a strategy and its implementation and that therefore work on certain elements remain ongoing. She thanked Councillor Wright for her comments.

Councillor Andy Wait asked how many people had taken part in the public consultation.

The Director of Public Health replied that she did not have that information to hand, but could provide it to the Panel in due course. She added that an online survey had been in place as part of the consultation and that third sector involvement had been gathered through a series of focus groups.

The Chairman commented that he felt that the four priorities identified in the strategy were very appropriate. He added that he welcomed schools becoming more involved in gardening / nature work as suggested in the briefing by Councillor Malloy.

The Director of Public Health replied that the breadth of the priorities was significant to the work of the strategy. She added that the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) would recognise Mental Health needs across the Council.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to;

- i) Thank the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Communities and the Director of Public Health for the briefing
- ii) Note the summary of the briefing.

87 SERIOUS VIOLENCE DUTY

The Head of Young People's Prevention Services introduced the report to the Panel and gave them a presentation. The presentation will be attached as an online appendix to the minutes and a summary is set out below.

Serious Violence Duty

- On 31 January 2023, the Duty commenced under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022
- Requires specified authorities (Local Authorities, Fire and Rescue, Probation, Police, Youth Offending Teams and Integrated Care Boards to collaborate to prevent and reduce serious violence
- Makes tackling serious violence an explicit priority for Community Safety Partnerships

What is already in place?

- Avon and Somerset 'hub and spoke' Violence Reduction Unit - Police and Crime Commissioner working with 5 Local Authorities - Focusing mainly on so-called 'street crime'
- B&NES Youth@Risk Strategy and 6 Protocols (2019)
- Delegated funding until March 2025

- Multi-agency meetings under the B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership

What does the Duty require?

- By 31 January 2024, a multi-agency strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence
- A public health approach, based on a theory of change and including clear lines of accountability
- Annual review and monitoring and evaluation of impact
- Some particular expectations – Local Authorities to support prevention and early intervention activities

What is a public health approach?

- Violence is preventable
- No one sector has the solution
- Focus on root causes
- 5 Cs – collaboration, co-operation, co-production, counter-narrative, community concerns

How will we measure success?

- The three national metrics are:
 - Homicide rates
 - Hospital admissions for knife or sharp object assault
 - Police-recorded knife crime

Next Steps

- 17th March: Review model and funding and roles and responsibilities of hub and spokes
- 23rd March: Update Serious Violence Steering Group
- 31st March: Notify Home Office of preferred approach
- 4th April: B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership Executive review definition and governance
- Ongoing: Promotion of the Duty, working with Crest Advisory, continuing work of the Violence Reduction Unit, updating Youth@Risk Strategy and strengthening children's and community participation.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if with the introduction of the Serious Violence Duty for local authorities in January 2023, will Banes make any changes to its strategies towards violent crime. She said that in the report, it states it will build on existing arrangements and asked if these could be explained.

The Head of Young People's Prevention Services replied that the only relevant strategy we have at present (B&NES Youth@Risk Strategy 2019) will need to be updated to become an all-age strategy in light of the Duty, although a focus on children and young people remains. She added that the Duty really challenges us on

what it means to embed a Public Health approach and so we will need to take a longer-term view, probably across generations.

She said that although peer on peer (or child on child) violence remains a concern, we need to strengthen our contextual safeguarding approaches in the face of exploitation and embed trauma informed and trauma recovery work. She added that we are also challenged to co-produce our strategy with children and communities and would expect their voices to be more prominent.

She stated that we are asking the BCSSP Executive Group to provide a steer on the definition of violence to be used and on the local governance arrangements.

Councillor Hardman commented that in the report it says the Police and Crime Commissioner will take a lead role working with partners such as BANES and that we have to decide our approach. She asked what different approaches are there and which one are we likely to choose.

The Head of Young People's Prevention Services replied that the Duty does not specify a lead authority for the serious violence partnership. She explained that the guidance suggests that where there are Violence Reduction Units (now across 20 Police Force areas), we may want to build on them, but that we can also consider Community Safety Partnerships, multi-agency safeguarding arrangements, Integrated Care Boards and Health and Wellbeing Boards as possible vehicles. She stated that the B&NES' Senior Leadership Team has agreed we will continue to work with the Violence Reduction Unit and this is led by the Police and Crime Commissioner (who is not subject to the Duty).

She added there is a piece of work underway to review respective roles and responsibilities and shape the way the Violence Reduction Unit will develop in light of the Duty.

Councillor Hardman spoke of how serious violence disproportionately affects people living in areas of greater social deprivation, children from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic heritages and those with special educational needs. She asked if this will be taken into account in our response to the Serious Violence Duty or does it form part of our serious crime strategy anyway.

The Head of Young People's Prevention Services replied that we are very aware that whilst everyone is affected by serious violence to some extent, it disproportionately impacts certain groups within our community, including those with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic heritages and those living in areas of economic deprivation. She added that we also see comparatively high numbers of children with SEND needs affected by serious violence. She said that our strategy will address disproportionality and take account of recommendations in the Identifying Disproportionality report on racism in the criminal justice system and that these include a focus on school exclusion and the 'school to prison pipeline.'

Councillor Hardman asked if it could be explained why domestic abuse is not part of the serious violence strategy.

The Head of Young People's Prevention Services replied that our definition of serious violence has always had at its core, public space violence, as highlighted in the national Serious Violence Strategy 2018 - It has also focused on the under 25s. She said that we agree that much domestic abuse is serious violence and we have procured some domestic abuse services in our time as a VRU since late 2019. She informed the Panel that there is a separate, well established domestic Abuse Partnership that has been looking at work arising from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

She added that we will be asking the BCSSP Executive for a steer on the definition we will adopt for our serious violence work, including how it relates to violence against women and girls and work to address serious sexual assault. She said that we receive comparatively little national funding for this work and need to prioritise what we can do with it.

Councillor Joanna Wright commented that she would like to see the ability to provide teachable moments as part of this work. She added that in her opinion further youth services were required to give young people more opportunities in life.

She stated that as well as identifying what services we can provide it was also important to have on record the lack of services in certain areas.

The Head of Young People's Prevention Services replied that they have discussed with the RUH if they would be able to assist with teachable moments in the future. She added that she was aware that there was a small Police & Crime Commissioner grant for services for young people, but recognised the need for more.

Councillor Wright said that as part of work with regard to the Online Safety Bill it was important to address the way in which young people use their phones.

The Head of Young People's Prevention Services replied that they do take online safety seriously and was aware that there was more work to do on the issue. She added that there are parental resources provided via the Council's website.

Kevin Burnett asked if the Panel can be advised of when any local metrics are agreed and whether the PCC would provide additional funding for them.

The Head of Young People's Prevention Services replied that the B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) will set the priorities whilst establishing a local focus. She added that she felt it would be unlikely to gain any further funding.

She stated that by 31st January 2024 the multi-agency strategy to prevent and reduce serious violence needs to be published. She added it would be widely consulted and that officers were prepared to update the Panel in due course.

The Chairman said that he was also concerned about the use of technology by young people across the Council and their safety.

The Director of Children's Services & Education suggested that an update is provided to the Panel in September 2023 ahead of the January 2024 deadline.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Note the introduction of a Serious Violence Duty on Local Authorities, Police, Fire and Rescue, Probation, Youth Offending Teams and Integrated Care Boards as of 31st January 2023.
- ii) Note that B&NES Council has indicated it would like to fulfil this Duty by building on existing arrangements, as part of a wider partnership led by the Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner.
- iii) Note that B&NES Council has asked the Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership Executive to review its definition and governance arrangements for addressing serious violence in light of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022, including governance arrangements for tackling violence against women and girls and serious sexual violence.

88 EDUCATION PERFORMANCE 2021/22

The Director of Education & Safeguarding introduced this report to the Panel and gave them a presentation. A link to the presentation is contained within the report and a summary is set out below.

He said that there was a lot to be positive about the results that had been achieved, but he also acknowledged that there was further work to be done in relation to specific groups of young people.

Pupil Numbers

- There were 32,230 pupils in 91 schools in B&NES as of January 2022, a slight increase (1.2%) from 31,857 in 2021.
- Of these, 86% were attending state-funded schools (Primary, Secondary and Special schools).
- As of January 2022, 14% were attending independent schools, over twice the national figure (6.5%).

Pupil Characteristics & Educational Inequalities

The profile within B&NES by pupil characteristic is broadly similar to the national picture (see table). However, the FSM cohort in B&NES is smaller in each Key Stage (e.g. 19% in B&NES compared to 25% nationally for KS2). B&NES also has a slightly higher proportion of girls at EYFS (51%) compared to nationally (49%) as well as slightly higher SEN EHCP cohorts at KS2 and KS4 compared to national (5% vs 4%).

In 2021/22 the national disadvantage gap index increased to their highest levels since 2012 for both KS2 and KS4 suggesting that disruption to learning during the Covid-19 pandemic had a greater impact on disadvantaged pupils.

Early Years Foundation Stage

In 2021/22, 71% of children had a good level of development in B&NES. This is higher than both the South West (66%) and England (65%) values. 70% of children in B&NES were at the expected level for all 17 ELGs, again higher than both the South West (65%) and England (63%) values.

In 2021/22, on average, children were at the expected level in 14.9 out of the 17 ELGs in B&NES. This is higher than the South West (14.4) and England (14.1).

There was a 28% attainment gap between children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) and those not known to be eligible for FSM in B&NES, with 47% of the FSM cohort achieving a GLD compared to 75% of those not known to be eligible. This is wider than the same gap observed nationally (20%), which appears to be driven by the higher proportion of pupils achieving a GLD in the non-FSM cohort in B&NES compared to nationally (75% vs 69%), whereas the proportion of pupils in the FSM cohort achieving a GLD is slightly lower in B&NES than nationally (47% compared to 49%).

Phonics Screening

In 2021/22, 78% of pupils in B&NES met the expected standard of Phonics screening. This is higher than both the South West (75%) and England (76%). Results are lower in 21/22 in B&NES and nationally compared to pre-pandemic levels (82% in 2017/18 and 2018/19).

KS1

Attainment at KS1 has decreased in all subjects compared to 2018/19 both in B&NES and nationally. In 2021/22:

- 60% of pupils in B&NES met the expected standard in Writing, higher than the South West and England (both 58%).
- 73% of pupils in B&NES met the expected standard in Reading, higher than the South West (67%) and England (68%).
- 71% of pupils in B&NES met the expected standard in Maths, higher than the South West and England (both 68%).
- 83% of pupils in B&NES met the expected standard in Science, higher than the South West (80%) and England (77%).

KS2 Attainment

Attainment in Reading, Writing and Maths (RWM) combined has decreased in 2021/22 compared to 2018/19 at both the expected and higher standard in B&NES and nationally.

In 2021/22, 60% of pupils in B&NES reached the expected standard in RWM combined, a decrease from 67% in 2018/19. This figure is slightly higher than England (59%) and the South West (57%).

In 2021/22, 7% of pupils in B&NES reached the higher standard in RWM combined, a decrease from 13% in 2018/19. This figure is the same as the South West and slightly higher than England (6%).

Girls consistently perform better than boys in B&NES and nationally in RWM combined. The gender attainment gap in B&NES fell in 2021/22 to 4% (down from 9% in 2018/19 and 11% in 2017/18). The comparable gap in England also fell slightly from 9% in 2018/19 to 8% in 2021/22.

KS2 Attainment by Pupil Characteristic

The attainment gap in RWM combined between pupils identified as Disadvantaged and those who are not, was 33% in 2021/22, slightly higher than the gap seen in 2017/18 and 2018/19 (31%). The percentage of disadvantaged pupils reaching the expected standard in RWM combined in 2021/22 was lower in B&NES than England (34% compared to 43%). The percentage of non-disadvantaged pupils reaching the expected standard in RWM combined in the same period was slightly higher in B&NES than nationally (67% compared to 66%).

In 2021/22, the attainment gap in RWM combined in B&NES for those with a Special Education Need (SEN) identified compared to those with no SEN identified increased slightly from 50% in 2018/19 to 53% in 2021/22 (the comparable attainment gap in England was 51% in 2021/22, a slight decrease from 52% in 2018/19) 19% of pupils in B&NES with any SEN identified reached the expected standard in RWM combined compared to 72% of pupils with no SEN identified.

KS4 Attainment

GCSE Results:

- In 2021/22, pupils in B&NES achieved a higher proportion of grades (9-5) in English and Maths (57%), compared to the South West (49%) and England (50%).
- Similarly, pupils in B&NES achieved a higher proportion of grades (9-4) in English and Maths (75%), compared to the South West (69%) and England (69%).

Attainment 8 results:

- The average attainment 8 score in 2021/22 was higher in B&NES than the regional and national average (52% compared to 49%).

KS4: GCSE and Attainment 8 by Pupil Characteristic

Overall, girls perform consistently better than boys at GCSE level, with 59% of girls attaining grades 9-5 in 2021/22 compared to 54% of boys. The attainment gap for

gender has decreased in B&NES over recent years from 10% in 2017/18 to 5% in 2021/22.

The percentage of disadvantaged pupils achieving grades 9-5 in 2021/22 was similar in B&NES and England (29% B&NES, 30% England), whereas the percentage of non-disadvantaged pupils achieving grades 9-5 in the same period was higher in B&NES than nationally (63% B&NES, 57% England). This pattern is also consistent in the attainment gap between pupils eligible for FSM and those who are not.

In 2021/22, the percentage of pupils achieving grades 9-5 in B&NES is higher within each Special Education Need (SEN) cohort in comparison to England (SEN with EHCP: 13% B&NES, 7% England; SEN Support: 28% B&NES, 22% England; No identified SEN: 63% B&NES, 56% England).

In 2021/22, the average Attainment 8 score for girls in B&NES remained higher than for boys with an average score of 54.2 for girls and 50.2 for boys.

Attainment in disadvantaged pupils in B&NES 2021/22 is similar to national attainment (average Attainment 8 score of 37 in B&NES compared to 38 nationally). Attainment in those not identified as disadvantaged in B&NES is higher than the national figure (56 compared to 53).

Average Attainment 8 scores in pupils with no SEN identified, SEN with EHCP or SEN support are all higher in B&NES in 2021/22 compared to national (20.1 vs 14.3 for those with SEN EHCP; 38.8 vs 34.8 for those receiving SEN support; 55.8 vs 52.5 for those with No SEN identified).

Councillor Rob Appleyard commented that he felt that using FSM eligibility wasn't that fair as some pupils could miss that threshold by a small amount of money.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding acknowledged the comment and replied that it was a national measurement that is always used when reporting on this data.

Councillor Ruth Malloy asked if any figures were available for Key Stage 3.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that no data was collected by the Council for this age group. He added that schools would maintain their own data for KS3.

Councillor Rob Appleyard said that he believed that the current figure for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) had doubled in comparison to recent years. He asked how this had affected the time taken to complete assessments.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that assessments were taking longer due to the increase in numbers, although they were improving slowly. He added that the availability of staff within Occupational Health, Speech & Language and Educational Psychology also needs to be taken into account.

He added that the Local Authority have 20 weeks in which to complete the assessments and that historically B&NES had a record of around 80% - 90% for this. He said that during the pandemic this did fall to around 50%.

Kevin Burnett asked if a Multi Academy Trust was able to appoint their own Educational Psychologist as part of the assessment.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that they could not as it was prescribed that the Local Authority must make this appointment.

KS5 Attainment

- In 2021/22, the Average point score (APS) per student entered for at least one A/AS Level was 38.9 in B&NES, giving an average A level result of a grade B. This is slightly higher than England (APS 37.8, average grade B-) and the South West (APS 37.7, average grade B-).
- In 2021/22, the percentage of students achieving at least 2 A levels in B&NES was 88% compared with 88% nationally, and 89% in the South West.
- In 2021/22, the percentage of students achieving grades AAB or better at A level in B&NES was 33% in B&NES, slightly higher than England (31%) and the South West (30%).

FSM Attainment Gap across Education Stages

- In 2021/22 in both B&NES and England, the attainment gap worsens as children progress through the education system (28% at Age 5 vs 34% at Age 16 in B&NES; 20% at Age 5 vs 27% at Age 16 in England)
- In 2021/22 B&NES ranked 36th out of the 59 English Unitary Authorities for Age 5 and Age 7 attainment in the FSM eligible cohorts, 54th (i.e. 5th worst) at Age 11 whereas at Age 16, B&NES ranked 12th best among all English Unitary authorities.

School Exclusions

- In the 2020/21 academic year the rate of suspensions increased to 6.9% in B&NES, higher than both the South West (5.5%) and England (4.3%) figures. This is also slightly higher than the B&NES rate observed in 2018/19 (6.5%).
- In the 2020/21 academic year the rate of permanent exclusions was 0.06% in B&NES, similar to the South West (0.05%) and England (0.05%) figures. This equates to 16 permanent exclusions in B&NES in 2020/21. This number ranged from 4 permanent exclusions in 2007/8 to 31 in 2018/19.
- In 2020/21 B&NES ranked the 9th highest of all English unitary authorities for suspensions and had the highest rate among our near statistical neighbours

Councillor Liz Hardman said that she was disturbed by the number of exclusions (16) and asked if the Local Authority has a say in this process.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that the Local Authority's role has changed over time and that Academies will now have their own disciplinary panels. He added that they do provide written advice to the relevant Trust / Body on those exclusions. He explained that parents can request for an Exclusion Panel to be arranged and that these are then administered by Democratic Services.

He said that in his opinion the Secondary figures were too high. He informed the Panel that there have been no Primary exclusions over the past two years and that only a small number of children finish their education in alternative provision.

Councillor Hardman asked if the Local Authority should facilitate a more direct dialogue between the Violence Reduction Unit and the Education Dept. She also wished to comment on the importance of the role of the Virtual Headteacher.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied and assured the Panel that conversations are held across the Local Authority with regard to Violence Reduction. He added that role of the Virtual Headteacher / Virtual School was vital.

Councillor Gerry Curran said that he was aware of the impact an exclusion can have on a child, but did not necessarily think that this should be linked to any increases in violence in the area.

School Ofsted Ratings

- In 2021/22, the percentage of Primary schools in B&NES judged to be Good or Outstanding was 87%, similar to national and regional figures (89% and 86% respectively). This has gradually decreased from a high of 93% in 2016/17.
- In 2021/22, the percentage of Secondary schools in B&NES judged to be Good or Outstanding was 86%, higher than both national and regional figures (80% and 77% respectively). This has continued to increase from 73% in 2018/19.
- In 2021/22, all 3 Special schools in B&NES were judged to be Good or Outstanding (100%), higher than both national and regional figures (89% and 86% respectively).

Councillor Joanna Wright asked what has changed to make it far more difficult to achieve an Outstanding rating.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that he believed that there were now only two schools who had obtained Outstanding under the new OFSTED framework within the South West of England. He said that he felt that schools now need to be able show that all pupils are making a significant level of progress to be judged Outstanding.

Councillor Ruth Malloy asked who inspects the Independent Schools.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that it was His Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) who carry out these inspections.

Councillor Malloy asked if he knew how the two compared.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that he was not able to answer that question.

Councillor Hardman asked how the local authority can continue to work strategically with schools and partners to improve education and outcomes for groups of pupils in BANES who do not perform as well or/and are disproportionately suspended from school more than their peers.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that conversations of this nature are held at meetings of the Schools Standards Board and that the Local Authority should always remain interested in the results of their children & young people.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to;

- i) Note our pupils' overall positive education performance in B&NES schools for the academic year 2021/22.
- ii) Be assured that Local Authority Officers continue to work strategically with schools and partners to improve educational outcomes for groups of pupils in B&NES who do not perform as well or/and are disproportionately suspended from school more than their peers.

89 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Chairman asked if Panel members had any items to suggest to be placed on their workplan. He added that such items could then act as a guide for members and officers to work from following the Local Elections in May.

Councillor Joanna Wright proposed future reports on Excess Deaths and Online Safety.

Kevin Burnett said that they had earlier agreed to receive an update on the Serious Violence Duty in September 2023.

Councillor Liz Hardman proposed a future report on local dental provision.

Councillor Michelle O'Doherty proposed a future report on homelessness and the Council's responsibility.

Councillor Hardman wished to thank the Chairman and the Vice-Chair for all their work over the past four years and for allowing Panel members to ask a fair number of questions at their meetings.

Councillor Gerry Curran announced that he would not be standing in the upcoming Local Elections and said that he was proud of the good work the Panel has done as it covers a lot of the big issues within the Council.

Councillor Michelle O’Doherty thanked the Democratic Services Officer for his work and support to the Panel.

The Chairman thanked all officers that had contributed to the work of the Panel.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the proposals that had been made for future reports.

The meeting ended at 12.44 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

Adult Social Care Cabinet Lead Report – March '23

This report provides an update on two issues that have caused some concern and speculation in recent months so I felt it would be helpful to appraise the panel of the current situation prior to the end of my term of office, due to the upcoming local election:

1. Death Rate in Local Care Homes

Figures published on the second wave of Covid infections showed B&NES to be an outlier in that a high proportion of local Covid deaths occurred in care homes with a low proportion occurring in hospital. This was investigated by Public Health and Prevention who identified:

- During the second wave, B&NES had a lower rate of cases of COVID-19 and a lower death rate than the England average
- Nearly all deaths from COVID-19 in B&NES during the second wave occurred in either a care home or hospital, with a small number occurring at home.
- The rate of deaths in local care homes was higher than the England average
- The rate of deaths at the Royal United Hospital was lower than the England average
- B&NES has a higher number of nursing home beds and a lower number of residential care home beds than the England average (people with more complex needs and physical frailties are more likely to require nursing rather than residential care)
- People with more complex health needs and physical frailties are more likely to die from COVID so a higher proportion of our care home population had an increased risk of death from COVID.
- Data on deaths from all causes in the years prior to the pandemic showed that, compared to the England average, B&NES has had a consistent pattern of:
 - a higher percentage of deaths (from all causes) occurring in care homes
 - a lower percentage occurring in hospital
 - and a lower rate of deaths overall than the England average
- For some years B&NES has been ahead of many other areas in ensuring that care homes are well supported by a dedicated GP service and that proactive work is done with care home residents, to plan choices for care and treatment in the event of a future severe illness. This has enabled more people who chose to, to have a dignified death at home and has reduced the number of admissions to hospital where treatment is unlikely to affect the outcome.
- This resulted in emergency admission rates from care homes to hospital being much lower in B&NES than in neighbouring areas for a number of years prior to the pandemic and that continued during the pandemic

The above information confirms that the overall death rate from COVID in B&NES has been lower than average. That a higher proportion of people in B&NES care homes are likely to be physically more vulnerable due to the higher number of nursing beds and that the established trend of more people choosing to die at their place of residence with fewer people dying in hospital, continued during the pandemic.

To supplement this analysis, the public health team also commissioned an independent Applied Research Collaboration, ARC West to undertake additional research in local care homes to identify any factors that were associated with COVID-19 cases and deaths. This included interviewing care home staff and that element of the work has been delayed due to staffing shortages and pressures in care homes making it difficult for staff to be released for the research interviews.

The findings of the ARC research have therefore been delayed until all data is available and this delay has led to some unhelpful and ill-informed speculation about COVID deaths in local care homes. I hope that this report assures the panel that the number of deaths in B&NES due to COVID was lower than average, that the location of deaths was in line with local trend data and reflected individual wishes and that a comprehensive report, which this panel may wish to discuss, will be published when ARC West complete their research. In the meantime, an interim report is available on the B&NES Strategic Evidence Base Document Library.

2. B&NES Managed Care Homes

B&NES council took on the management of three Care Homes when the Community Resource Centres (CRCs) transferred back in house in October 2020. It was recognised that the CRC services would require investment and modernisation and the council has started that process. However, as was discussed in some detail at the last scrutiny panel in January '23, significant concerns were identified in relation to Charlton House Nursing home which was rated as inadequate by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) in December '22

There is a comprehensive action plan to address the concerns identified by the CQC and good progress is being made but I thought it would be useful to share some of the issues identified in a recent report by Care and Support South West which summarised the challenges that providers across the South West (and indeed, the rest of the country) are facing. These include:

- Problems recruiting and retaining staff with local turnover rates far exceeding the national average of 15%. This is a particular problem for management and clinical lead roles.
- Over reliance on agency staff, with agencies filling shifts for many providers on a daily basis. This is very costly and impacts on continuity, reducing the quality of the services provided

- Contracted staff having to work excessive amounts of over time, leading to poor health and burnout.
- Managers having to cover shifts so not having the time to manage services effectively. This reduces their ability to embed effective systems and to improve services.
- Services running short staffed due to the lack of availability of staff with impacts on the care provided.
- Services reducing or closing, with knock on effects for those with care needs their families and for other health and care services

Staff in the Care sector work with these challenges on a daily basis and the shortage of people available to work in leadership roles played a significant part in the problems experienced in Charlton House.

A major factor in the progress we are making at Charlton House is that we have been able to recruit an experienced manager who came into post just before the January meeting of this group. We were still struggling to recruit to clinical leadership roles and were reliant on agency nurses until the RUH agreed to second one of their senior nursing staff across to us. She also came into post in January and she and the new registered manager are working together to address the long standing structural issues at Charlton house. Many of the changes they are introducing will be relevant to our other two care homes and the clinical lead will be providing input to all 3 facilities.

I hope this provides some reassurance that, despite the many challenges experienced across the care sector, we are now making measurable progress on the improvements that we need to make and are confident that the quality of care continues to improve. The new leadership has also helped attract more staff into the service which is key to sustained improvement. However, we cannot under-estimate the scale of the ongoing challenge in providing high quality care services. The new panel, under the next administration may wish to receive regular updates on this subject.

Alison Born – Cabinet Lead ASC

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