

Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel

Date: Monday, 11th December, 2023

Time: 9.30am

Venue: Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

Councillors: Dine Romero, Liz Hardman, Alex Beaumont,
Paul Crossley, Dave Harding, Michelle O'Doherty, Lesley Mansell and
Joanna Wright

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

The Panel will have a pre-meeting at 9.00am



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NOTES:

1. **Inspection of Papers:** Papers are available for inspection as follows:

Council's website: <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1>

2. **Details of decisions taken at this meeting** can be found in the minutes which will be circulated with the agenda for the next meeting. In the meantime, details can be obtained by contacting as above.

3. **Recording at Meetings:-**

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Advance notice is required not less than two full working days before the meeting. This means that for meetings held on Thursdays notice must be received in Democratic Services by 5.00pm the previous Monday.

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**Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel - Monday,
11th December, 2023**

at 9.30am in the Council Chamber - Guildhall, Bath

A G E N D A

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

2. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair will draw attention to the emergency evacuation procedure as set out under Note 5.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting declarations of interest are received from Members in any of the agenda items under consideration at the meeting. Members are asked to indicate:

- (a) The agenda item number in which they have an interest to declare.
- (b) The nature of their interest.
- (c) Whether their interest is **a disclosable pecuniary interest** or **an other interest**,
(as defined in Part 4.4 Appendix B of the Code of Conduct and Rules for Registration of Interests)

Any Member who needs to clarify any matters relating to the declaration of interests is recommended to seek advice from the Council's Monitoring Officer or a member of his staff before the meeting to expedite dealing with the item during the meeting.

5. TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

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

At the time of publication no notifications had been received.

7. MINUTES: 13TH NOVEMBER 2023 (Pages 7 - 20)

8. CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Member(s) will update the Panel on any relevant issues. Panel members may ask questions on the update provided.

9. B&NES, SWINDON & WILTSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (BSW ICB) UPDATE

The Panel will receive an update from the B&NES, Swindon & Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) on current issues.

10. COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES CONSULTATION (Pages 21 - 30)

11. FOOD INSECURITY - PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT (Pages 31 - 40)

This report updates the Panel on local levels of food insecurity and reflects on the local support offer and work of the B&NES Fair Food Alliance since its last report to Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing PDS Panel (May 2022).

12. HOMELESS HEALTH (Pages 41 - 46)

The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel asked for a report on the health of homeless people in B&NES, particularly the health of people sleeping rough. The report included in this paper summarises key points for the Panel.

13. PANEL WORKPLAN (Pages 47 - 52)

This report presents the latest workplan for the Panel. Any suggestions for further items or amendments to the current programme will be logged and scheduled in consultation with the Panel's Chair and supporting officers.

The Committee Administrator for this meeting is Mark Durnford who can be contacted on mark_durnford@bathnes.gov.uk 01225 394458.

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

**MINUTES OF CHILDREN, ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY
DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING**

Monday, 13th November, 2023

Present:- **Councillors** Dine Romero, Liz Hardman, Alex Beaumont, Paul Crossley, Dave Harding, Lesley Mansell and Joanna Wright

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

Also in attendance: Mary Kearney-Knowles (Director of Children's Services and Education), Christopher Wilford (Education and Safeguarding Director), Ceri Williams (Policy Development & Scrutiny Officer), Paul Scott (Associate Director, Public Health), Sarah Watts (Complaints and Data Protection Team Manager), Richard Morgan (Education Business Manager) and Laura Ambler (Director of Place, B&NES, BSW ICB)

42 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

43 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

44 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Michelle O'Doherty had sent her apologies to the Panel.

45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Paul May declared an other interest as he is a non-executive Sirona board member.

46 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

The Chair informed the Panel that the first meeting of the Knife Crime Task & Finish Group had been held and that their Terms of Reference had been approved. She said that they intended to work through some of the issues that had already been identified as quickly as possible.

She added that a meeting was also due to take place in the coming weeks between herself and the CEO of the B&NES, Swindon & Wiltshire Integrated Care Board, Sue Harriman.

The Chair spoke on behalf of the Panel to say that following a direct question relating to Charlton House at the previous meeting they believe that the response given was not as full as it could have been.

Councillor Liz Hardman questioned why the Panel had not been asked to take part in any pre-consultation work and why only a general answer had been given at the last meeting. She stated that she would like the Panel to be given a full explanation of the process at their December meeting.

Councillor Joanna Wright asked that the Panel formally write to the Cabinet Member for Adult Services to convey their disappointment and that they feel let down.

The Chair said that she would write to Councillor Born and explain that it would have been helpful for the Panel to have received information prior to the consultation commencing. She asked that a report on the process of the Single Member Decision re: Community Resource Centres: Proposals for Consultation be prepared for the December Panel meeting.

Councillor Lesley Mansell requested that the Equality Impact Assessment be included as an appendix to the report.

The Panel agreed with these proposals.

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

There were none.

48 MINUTES: 9TH OCTOBER 2023

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

49 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Councillor Paul May addressed the Panel. He said that within his update he wanted to highlight some of the problems that were being faced by the service, in particular the increase in demand and complexity of issues being raised. A copy of the update will be attached to these minutes as an online appendix.

Kevin Burnett asked if the pressures were likely to lead to a deterioration in services.

Councillor May replied that currently, good and experienced staff were operating well under the pressures and said that he was meeting with them on a regular basis. He added that the numbers of children requiring Education Health Care Plans (EHCPs) had doubled since just before the pandemic, but that the number of staff working in this area had remained the same. He said that agency staff were being used as and when required to alleviate some of the strain and that this work was being kept under close review.

Kevin Burnett asked what pressure, political or otherwise, could be applied to attempt to gain further funding for the service as a whole.

The Director of Children's Services & Education offered her assurance to the Panel that they have a well established staff leadership group in place. She said that the number of complex cases that had been presented to the service had risen and that steps were hopefully due to be taken to recruit additional staff where possible.

She said that lobbying for further funding has taken place with the Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS) and the Department for Education (DfE) relating to the increase in demand. She added that discussions have also been held with representatives of the South West Councils.

Councillor May said that pressure on Children's Services budgets was a national issue, but the DfE were attempting to help with their Safety Valve Scheme. He added that meetings have and will continue to take place with Lead Members from other councils to discuss the matter of Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children. He said that between age of 18 – 25 these young people remain the responsibility of the Council, but there is no direct funding available.

The Chair asked whether the Panel should consider having a future report on the subject of EHCPs.

Councillor May replied that he believed the Council was an outlier in terms of its EHCP work and would welcome the Panel receiving such a report.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding added that officers do pride themselves of the delivery of their services and as a team were committed to making improvements to the service.

Councillor Joanna Wright asked if any rewards or incentives could be put in place to add value to the roles of officers within the service to retain their employment or to attract further staff that may currently work for an agency.

Councillor May agreed that the Council needed to do what it could to keep the staff that they have. He added that he still felt that the Council was an employer that people want to work for.

The Director of Children's Services & Education said that over the past year the Council has reduced its use of agency staff.

The Chair asked has there been any work carried out to encourage agency staff to come and be employed by the Council on a full time basis.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that they have carried out some onboarding work with agency staff to discuss the possibility of full time employment and the general response has been that the Council cannot match the flexibility in hours and the rate of pay. She added that they were considering offering a higher rate of pay for some entry level positions.

She explained that similar discussions have also been held with Independent Foster Carers as to whether they could join the employment of the Council.

Councillor May said that he would take on board the points that had been raised and commented that the annual celebration of work event was always well received.

The Chair added that she would consider if any similar events could be held on behalf of the Mayor.

Kevin Burnett asked if the proposed savings were on track to be made.

Councillor May replied that they were.

Kevin Burnett asked if there would be enough funding in place for the announcements regarding Early Years Childcare.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that this would be a challenge, but that they welcome the initial funding and prospect of further. He added further information will be required on matters such as pay rates and provider costs.

Kevin Burnett asked if the bid from Children's Social Care to be part of the Sector-Led Improvement Programme would lead to more work for the staff involved.

Councillor May replied that it was recognised that benefits can be achieved by working with colleagues from other Local Authorities.

Councillor Paul Crossley asked if the Council could offer more flexible contracts to those prospective staff that would benefit from having them in place.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that they do offer a degree of flexibility within the current contracts and support requests for secondments etc. as much as possible.

Councillor Lesley Mansell commented that she was aware of similar issues relating to staff recruitment and retention within the NHS and asked what procedures are in place to talk to staff about their reasons for staying / leaving and whether any issues can be reduced.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that they are looking to increase staff number to attempt to reduce some of the pressures. She stated that risk assessments are carried out across the service and that exit interviews do take place. She added that in the main, leaving members of staff have said that has been due to the pressure of the role and not the processes that the Council have in place.

Councillor Liz Hardman said that she was always concerned when seeing the phrase 'efficiency savings', but hoped that this would lead to the right amount of resources being put in the most appropriate areas. She stated that the availability of Free School Meal Vouchers in school holidays was due to end in Easter 2024 and that she would like the Council to do all that it could to continue this much needed resource for as long as possible.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel, thanked Councillor May for his update.

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

The Director of Place, B&NES, BSW ICB addressed the Panel and highlighted the following areas from her update. A copy of the update will be attached to these minutes as an online appendix.

Sulis Elective Orthopaedic Centre (SEOC) Update

A planning application has been submitted to BaNES Council by the RUH for a new wing at Sulis Hospital in Peasedown St John. If approved, this will allow for an increased capacity at Sulis for non-emergency orthopaedic surgery.

Surgery would be protected from disruption and cancellations caused by surges in emergency hospital admissions because Sulis is not an acute hospital with an emergency department, and as such the SEOC will enhance the resilience of services into the future.

The SEOC would serve patients from the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) area, and beyond, from the whole of the South West region.

Dyson Cancer Centre

Work is also continuing at the hospital to build the new Dyson Cancer Centre which is now expected to welcome patients in spring 2024 rather than at the end of 2023.

Once open, the Dyson Cancer Centre will bring together the majority of the RUH's cancer services, including research, under one roof. It will provide oncology, chemotherapy and radiotherapy services and a 22-bed inpatient ward as well as a Macmillan Wellbeing Hub.

The centre will provide a nurturing and therapeutic environment, with a 'land, water, sky' theme, making extensive use of natural light and external spaces as well as the work of local artists and designers.

The £50m Dyson Cancer Centre is backed by over £40m in Government New Hospitals Programme funding and supported in part by a £4m donation from The James Dyson Foundation to create a cancer services hub for half a million people in the South West of England.

A further £1m was donated by the Medlock Charitable Trust, £1.5m by Macmillan Cancer Support and £5m was also raised by RUHX (formerly known as The Forever Friends Appeal), the official charity of the Trust, thanks to the kindness and compassion of thousands of supporters.

RUH - CQC inspection

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) report published in October on the RUH followed its focused inspection of aspects of Medical Care in July 2023.

The inspectors had many positive things to say about their visit, including particular praise for the 'outstanding programme' for international nurses and how managers and ward leaders were supported to make the wards a welcoming place to work.

The report however also reflected some areas requiring more attention resulting in a reduction of the rating of Medical Care Services at the RUH from 'good' to 'requires improvement'.

An action plan to address these is already well underway including improving storage space on wards, ensuring consistent completion of fluid chart documentation and a continuing focus on Healthcare Support Worker recruitment.

Integrated Community-Based Care Programme

The BSW Primary and Community Care Delivery Plan is seeking to redesign the way community-based health and care services operate. It supports the delivery of the ambitions set out in the BSW Together 'Integrated Care Strategy' and to drive forward the implementation of elements of the BSW Care Model.

The Integrated Community Based Care (ICBC) Programme is the method by which services will be procured in support of the ICP strategy and Primary and Community Care Delivery Plan.

The Programme lies at the heart of our aspiration to implement a greater focus on prevention and early intervention in our approach to supporting the health and well-being of the BSW population. The approach being undertaken aims to enable BSW to achieve fairer health outcomes for the whole population and to deliver excellent health and care services.

BaNES Integrated Care Alliance Winter Update

BaNES Integrated Care Alliance has developed a joint approach to delivering services and supporting citizens across BaNES during winter 2023/4. It will focus on maximising capacity through the following measures:

- Two virtual wards have been established in B&NES – step-up model to reduce avoidable admission provided by HCRG and step-down model provided by RUH to expedite discharge.
- Our step-up virtual ward includes access to diagnostics including imaging and rapid blood tests working in collaboration with the RUH. The team, which includes specialist nurses and paramedics, also provide IV medication at home.
- Funding confirmed to run PUSH (respiratory illness) clinics for children and young people in areas of known deprivation and prevalence – with the BaNES

GP federation BEMS. Start date Dec, 105 clinics between start and March 31st.

Kevin Burnett referred to the Integrated Care Programme and asked if any points of contact had been established, for example, was it to be a GP.

He also spoke in relation to Community Pharmacies and asked if this would lead to an increase in independent prescribers.

Furthermore, he asked if the technology was in place to link records between GPs, Pharmacies and Hospitals.

The Director of Place, B&NES, BSW ICB replied that she was not able to offer a full update at the present time as work relating to this was still ongoing. She added that it was about getting the care co-ordination right and making sure it is seamless. She stated that across the BSW footprint they were looking at a central care co-ordination approach.

Addressing the technology issues, she explained that a number of digital workstreams were being pursued, including Integrated Care Records.

She added that when the Community Pharmacies update is formally presented to the Panel that the Primary Care view is also addressed.

Councillor Liz Hardman welcomed the update regarding Community Pharmacies and asked how they are chosen and would every area of the Council have one.

The Director of Place, B&NES, BSW ICB replied that she would need to discuss this matter with colleagues and then respond to the Panel.

Councillor Joanna Wright informed the Panel that she had recently attend a further seminar on Dental Deserts and explained that there was a shortage in NHS Dentists due to the numbers that were retiring and working privately.

She stated that a large number of newly qualified dentists could not afford to work through the NHS due to their level of student debt and asked if there was anything the Council could do to help with this situation.

She said that due to the increasing age of patients there are now simply more teeth to look after.

She stated that she felt that the issue of Oral Care needs highlighting, especially for children.

The Associate Director of Public Health replied that work is carried within school settings in terms of what level of cleaning needs to be done and the good types of food to eat. He added that work with specific groups of families was also ongoing. He offered to send the Panel further information in writing following the meeting.

Councillor Lesley Mansell asked for further information on the Community Wellbeing Hub.

The Director of Place, B&NES, BSW ICB replied that it is based in Peasedown St. John and also has a space within the Atrium at the RUH. She explained that the Hub provides a central place for people to access a range of services to improve their health and wellbeing.

She added that it is run in partnership with many local voluntary groups, including Age UK, Bath Mind and the Council. She explained that a range of services are offered from the Hub and include Housing Advice, Cost of Living Support and Access to Food.

The Chair said that it was a fantastic establishment to have in place for the Council and was able to provide a wide range of support to the public. She asked if a briefing note regarding the Hub could be circulated to the Panel in due course.

Kevin Burnett asked if the findings of the RUH CQC Inspection Report were of particular concern.

The Director of Place, B&NES, BSW ICB replied that they were aware of the issues that had been raised and were already addressing them.

Councillor Dave Harding asked if figures relating to dental hygiene could be included in a future report that comes to the Panel that issue.

Councillor Paul May commented that the Community Wellbeing Hub was a credit to all involved and said that the funding for it would be retained.

The Chair, on behalf of the Panel thanked the Director of Place, B&NES, BSW ICB for her report.

51 INDEPENDENT REVIEWING OFFICER (IRO) ANNUAL REPORT

The Director of Education & Safeguarding stated that it had been a challenging year for the service and that improvements had been seen despite resources remaining an issue. He added that additional IRO's were being sought.

He explained that some placements for children and young people are still required to be out of area.

He stated that a positive relationship exists between the IRO's, Social Workers and their managers.

The Chair commented that the number of placements outside of the Local Authority had increased which results in young people not being near their relatives or the Council as their Corporate Parents.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that these decisions are not made by the IRO, it was their role to make sure the placements are suitable. He added that they were seeking to develop some in house provision.

The Director of Children's Services & Education added that a sufficiency statement is carried out annually and that it can be difficult to locally home young people with complex needs, but that they do try to keep a connection in place where possible.

Councillor Paul Crossley asked if the Council knew the whereabouts of all the young people that had left its care.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that the Council now had a responsibility for them until the age of 25 and stated that they were currently in contact with all of those young people.

Councillor Crossley asked if Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children should be placed nearer to relatives or families that they know.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that the Council is part of the Voluntary Dispersal Scheme and do challenge where appropriate to home young people near to relatives that are already in the country.

Councillor Paul May said that this was a known national issue and that funding becomes more of a pressure once the young person turns 18.

Councillor Crossley referred to section 14.1 of the report and asked why some 'Areas for development' were still marked as outstanding from 2019.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that this relates mainly to 'life story' work where feedback is gathered from children and the need for this to be more in depth where possible.

Councillor Crossley stated that he would like to see more realistic targets within future reports.

Councillor Paul May commented that the report could be given further scrutiny at the next Corporate Parent meeting.

Kevin Burnett asked if the IROs have a role with regard to Children in Care that offend / re-offend.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that the IROs will review all Children in Care.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding added that their individual plans would be scrutinised by the IROs and that input would also be received from the Youth Offending Team.

Councillor Lesley Mansell commented that the last Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed in October 2020 and asked what actions had been taken as

part of this and when would it be reviewed / updated to include any changes relating to disability, ethnic minorities, LGBT and religion.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that he would ask for the EIA to be updated.

Councillor May said that it had been good to have the reminder of the Pledge to Children in Care at the May 2023 Council meeting.

Councillor Mansell said that the Pledge was quite broad on equalities and would expect LGBT to be included on future EIAs.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked what the impact would be if the request for additional posts and funding were not achieved.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that the caseloads of current staff would need to be increased and that this would affect their ability to meet agreed timescales.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to;

- i) Note the growing pressures on the IRO service as a result of the increasing numbers of children being placed in the care of Bath and Northeast Somerset and the continued work and commitment of IROs to maintain contact with children in care, regularly reviewing the plans for these children to ensure their needs are being met.
- ii) Recognise and value the impact of the IRO role in providing scrutiny and at times, challenge when there are concerns that the needs of children are not being met or plans progressed.

52 BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COMMUNITY SAFETY & SAFEGUARDING PARTNERSHIP (BCSSP) ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair commented that there were recommendations referred to in the report but she could not actually locate them.

Councillor Paul Crossley said that he endorsed the work of all staff involved in this area. He asked if the 'missing children' data in this report was recorded differently to the last report (IRO Annual Report).

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that this data was collected differently by Avon & Somerset Constabulary and concentrated on those under the age of 18.

Councillor Crossley stated that there was no place for any type of race hatred within our community.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that the Council does work very closely with SARI (Stand Against Racism & Equality) on these issues and takes any such notification seriously.

Kevin Burnett asked if Operation Encompass was now fully in place across the Council.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that it was.

Kevin Burnett asked how many Domestic Homicide Reviews have been carried out.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that in the period covered by this report, the BCSSP has not completed any Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Kevin Burnett referred to safeguarding and asked if the new managing allegations protocol had had an impact on staff in schools and had any training taken place.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that multi-agency training opportunities have been available from the Police. He added that support and training was in place for schools from the LADO and supporting IROs.

Kevin Burnett asked if a review of how allegations are processed had been carried out and who is involved in that process.

The Director of Education & Safeguarding replied that he would provide further information in writing to the Panel.

Councillor Dave Harding asked if there was a known reason for the increase in missing children or was it a case of better reporting in place.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that the data used by the Police was rolling data and that the Council uses data across the financial year. She added that there were currently three children missing from care and that this was an improvement on the previous year.

She added that the repeated missing children were not in care and would be at home or within their community and would be receiving support from the Police alongside the Council.

She said there could be a combination of reasons as to why they are missing, including having fallen out with their parents, not wanting to live with extended family or being at risk of exploitation.

Councillor Dave Harding referred to page 52 of the agenda and asked if there was any lag in terms of the information relating to the Safeguarding Adult Reviews.

The Director of Children's Services & Education replied that she would relay that question to the Director of Adult Services for a response. She added that she was aware that the Practice Review Group meet on a monthly basis.

Councillor Joanna Wright commented that she was surprised that there was no reference in the report to online / cyber behaviour.

The Director of Children's Services & Education apologised for this omission and assured the Panel that this area of work is addressed.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the Annual Report and Executive Summary for the BCSSP.

53 CHILDREN'S SERVICES ANNUAL COMPLAINTS REPORT

Kevin Burnett referred to section 4.9 of the report and asked if there were any specific areas of complaints to the Children in Care Team.

The Complaints and Data Protection Team Manager replied that they were varied, but often about the number of placement movements over time or moves that they did not agree with.

Councillor Dave Harding praised the officers concerned for the compliments that had been received within the report.

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

54 SCHOOL MEALS

The Chair commented that she would find it useful to have the information in the report broken down on a ward by ward basis.

The Education Business Manager replied that allocating the information to specific wards could be difficult and said that it would be more possible to do it school by school.

The Chair said that she felt the Council should do more / use different types of media to make parents aware that they are eligible to apply for Free School Meals.

The Education Business Manager replied that they do currently use a range of resources to raise awareness, such as local libraries, the One Big Database and the Council's Facebook page, but said they were willing to do more.

Kevin Burnett asked if there was a defined break even point for schools on this matter.

The Education Business Manager replied that this does really depend on the make up of the school and whether the provision is in house or sourced from an outside provider. He explained to the Panel that either cold or hot food constitutes provision and that all but one of the local schools were providing hot meals.

Kevin Burnett asked if there had been an increase in overall pupil numbers within schools.

The Education Business Manager replied that there had not and that the pupil population was currently stagnant. He added that there has been a reduction within the Reception year and an increase in other years.

He informed the Panel that the Schools Organisational Plan could be discussed by them at a future meeting.

Councillor Dave Harding referred to the Holiday Activity Programme that was held at the Chew Valley Rugby Club and asked how many young people had attended it.

The Education Business Manager replied that he would need to follow up with a response after the meeting.

Councillor Paul Crossley referred to subject of the School Meals Voucher Scheme and said that while the funding is guaranteed until Easter holidays 2024 it must continue beyond this date and called for the Cabinet Member to address this within the upcoming budget.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if many self-assessment audits were carried out within schools regarding food standards and is there any control over quality / provision.

The Education Business Manager replied that the standards are applied to all forms of food provided in school. He added that he was unsure of the numbers of self-assessments that had been carried out.

Councillor Joanna Wright commented that she would like to see the data for how many Free School Meals (FSM) there are per school and the take up of FSM Vouchers for the different areas of the Council in a future report. She also asked if the Holiday Activity Programmes were situated in the right areas.

The Chair replied by saying that the topic of Leisure could be discussed in more detail at a future Panel meeting.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the information within the report.

55 **PANEL WORKPLAN**

The Chair introduced this item and noted the following items to be added to their workplan.

- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) Overview
- Community Resource Centres: Proposals for consultation

Kevin Burnett suggested that the Panel receive further information at a future meeting from 3SG on their current work.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to agree with these additions.

The meeting ended at 12.32 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Childrens and Adults Health and Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	11th December 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Community Resource Centres: Proposal for Consultation	
WARD:	Keynsham South, Twerton and Radstock	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
No appendices included with the report.		

1 THE ISSUE

1.1 The Community Resource Centres (CRCs) were part of the original integrated community services contract held by Virgin Care Services Limited (jointly commissioned by B&NES Council and Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) which commenced in April 2017. In September 2019 Sirona, as a sub-contractor in the prime contract, gave notice on the CRC contract to Virgin Care. B&NES then undertook an options appraisal and Cabinet took the decision to transfer the service back to be run by the Council. The contract value at the point of transfer did not reflect the actual costs of delivering the service.

1.2 Since transferring the service back in-house in 2020, B&NES has invested significantly across all areas of CRC services, including increased pay for staff and training and equipment to support care.

1.3 The CRC provision includes Charlton House which is registered to provide 30 nursing care beds over 2 separate floors, Combe Lea which provides 30 registered care beds and Cleeve Court which provides 45 registered care beds. Following Charlton House CQC inspection in October 2022, which identified a number of concerns, the council took the decision to temporarily close 15 nursing care beds on one floor. Significant improvements have been made since this time and the Care Quality Commissioner (CQC) currently rates the service as 'requires improvement'.

1.4 However, the budget for the 3 homes remains underfunded and when using the actual costs of delivery of care, the block budget is only sufficient to provide 1 floor at Charlton House. This is due to increased wage costs and inflationary pressures on goods and services. In addition to this, the budget does not cover any agency cost pressures over and above 17% contingency costs. The 2023-24 CRC outturn forecast at Q2 is a £288k budget pressure. If the second floor was opened this budget pressure would rise by circa £1 million and a decision has been made to review the services provided.

1.5 There is good supply of provision of general nursing care home and residential services for older adults in B&NES but there are shortfalls in more specialist services and services for younger age groups including 16-25 year olds with complex needs and younger adults in their 40-50's with physical and neurological needs. The proposals for the CRC consultation outline the opportunity for repurposing all of the CRC services to better meet the needs of these groups of people in B&NES.

1.6 Links to the Care Quality Commissioner (CQC) inspection reports for each of the CRC's are provided below:

Charlton House - <https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-9633487397>

Combe Lea - <https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-9633487460>

Cleeve Court - <https://www.cqc.org.uk/location/1-9633487324>

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

2.1 Agree to contribute to the consultation on the following proposals for Community Resource Centres (CRCs). The consultation runs until 18th December 2023 and has included all key stakeholders i.e. staff, residents and relatives and members of the public.

2.2 The proposals in the consultation include:

2.2.1 To develop Cleeve Court residential home into a centre of excellence for dementia care including nursing care.

2.2.2 To enhance our offer at Combe Lea residential home to enable younger people with more complex needs to remain closer to home.

2.2.3 To close the remaining 10 places at Charlton House Nursing home and then develop the site to provide alternative care provision and/or housing options that would meet the needs of the local community now and into the future.

2.2.4 To offer community groups/charitable organisations use of the day centre spaces at the Community Resource Centres at a reduced rental rate if the organisations offer services that are accessible to the care home residents and the community.

2.3 Agree for officers to bring forward a further report to Panel, including recommendations following the consultation, prior to Single Member Decision.

3 THE REPORT

3.1 The council operates 9 distinct provider services under 5 separate Care Quality Commission (CQC) registrations. The services operate on a fixed budget excluding any income from self-funders or out of area placements. This paper deals exclusively with the Community Resource Centres (CRCs) which are registered residential and nursing homes..

3 Community Resource Centres - included in the consultation	Charlton House Combe Lea Cleeve Court
5 Extra Care Housing Schemes - not included in the consultation	Bath – Avondown House Bath – The Orchard Bath – St John’s Court Keynsham – Hawthorn Court Midsomer Norton – Greenacres Court
1 Domiciliary Care Agency- not included in the consultation	United Care B&NES

3.2 Community Resource Centres are located across 3 locations in B&NES:

- Bath – Cleeve Court, Cleeve Green, Newton Road, Twerton BA2 1RS**
Cleeve Court (currently residential care) provides 45 beds for people living with dementia. There are 2 floors: Lansdown View (provides 20 dementia residential beds) and Kelston Rise (provides 25 complex dementia residential beds). CQC - currently rated as Requires Improvement and last inspected December 2022.
- Midsomer Norton – Combe Lea, Greenacres, Midsomer Norton, BA3 2RD**
Combe Lea (currently residential care) provides 30 beds for people living with dementia There are 2 floors: Willow View (x15 beds,) and Gardiner’s Row (15 beds). CQC Inspection – imminent, currently rated as Requires Improvement and last inspected September 2022.
- Keynsham – Charlton House, Hawthorns Lane, Keynsham BS31 1BF**
Charlton House is a nursing home with 30 nursing beds. There are 2 floors: Somerdale (15 nursing beds, of which 10 are occupied) and Abbey Park (15 nursing beds- currently closed as referenced in section of 1.3 of this report). CQC – currently rated Requires Improvement improved from Inadequate and last inspected April 2023.

3.3 As part of the approach to service development at CRCs, our aims have been to:

- Improve services to the most vulnerable and ensure we are focusing on areas of highest and most complex need - this means addressing the gaps in the availability of dementia nursing placements. At present, none of our 105 CRC beds provide the complex dementia nursing care that is increasingly needed.
- Align the costs of providing care with the funding available - funding comes from council commissioned services and from self-funding residents. Balancing the costs with the available budget will contribute to the stability and viability of these services over the longer term. Occupancy across the CRCs is currently only at 67%. The current operating budget for CRC's is under pressure, due to the gap between the costs of running the services and the current market rates that commissioners can pay. Operating the CRCs on their current basis is expected to cost £6.8 million in 2023 to 2024.
- Reduce the number of out of area placements - there are a significant number of people who are placed out of area because we do not have enough local services to meet their specific needs. These out of area placements cost up to £1,400 per bed per week for dementia nursing and costs can be significantly more for people with complex needs. Out of area placements can make it more difficult for links to be maintained with family, friends and community support networks.
- Increase inter-generational living - this will mean that older people and people of working age can have their needs met together, where appropriate.
- Enable more activities at our CRCs to be delivered by voluntary and community organisations - this will bring life and activity to these settings and help to make them true community resources.

3.4 The proposals in the consultation detail how we cannot deliver our aims without making some changes to the specific services that each CRC provides. We want to see each CRC offer a specialist focus on a particular area of need, to allow for improvements to services and make much better use of the resources available. In particular there is a pressing need to establish a new facility for cost-effective, dementia nursing care, something which the CRCs cannot currently provide. This type of service is complex and needs to cover a wide variety of situations. For example:

- Specialist nursing care for people living with complex dementia, including early or young on-set dementia
- Dementia patients who also live with a long-term illness or disability, and need more complex clinical support

3.5 The proposal is to establish a new complex dementia nursing care service on a single site, rather than spread across the existing sites. This would allow for the following opportunities:

- Greater investment in modern facilities, such as telecare, and ensuring the services operate in line with national guidance
- More cost-effective staffing and supervision, with more attractive jobs and better opportunities for career progression

- More opportunities for Bath and North East Somerset residents with specialist care needs to remain within the area, closer to family and friends
- Better use of bed space and increased occupancy levels
- Reduction in our use of temporary and agency staff

3.6 All three CRCs will continue to be used wholly for care, but we are proposing the following changes to the range of services at each site.

3.6.1 Charlton House - to close the remaining 10 places at Charlton House nursing home and then develop the site to provide alternative care provision and/or housing options that would meet the needs of the local community now and into the future:

- If we go ahead with this option, we would ensure that the current 10 Charlton House residents would get support to identify new accommodation to meet their needs. We would hope that people would want to remain with B&NES, at either Cleeve Court or Combe Lea but we also recognise that some individuals may wish to stay in the Keynsham area
- Moving to one of our other two homes would offer continuity of care, as many of our staff would also move to one of our other locations. Moving existing permanent staff across from Charlton House to Cleeve Court would also reduce some of the recruitment issues we are facing and reduce the amount we are spending on agency staff

3.6.2 Cleeve Court - to develop Cleeve Court residential home into a centre of excellence for dementia care including nursing care:

- Cleeve Court is a dementia residential home with 45 places, 25 on floor 1 and 20 on floor 2. The cost of running Cleeve Court based on the need for nursing staff is £2,589,951. The unit cost at full occupancy is £1,103.48 pw.
- There is a shortage of nursing dementia beds in B&NES and converting floor 2 to nursing is possible. The high staffing levels mean that we would not be increasing staffing levels but changing the skill mix. The change requires employing a nurse rather than a senior support worker and a nurse associate rather than a support worker. The additional cost would be circa £300k, less health funded nursing care contributions of circa £206k (18 eligible) would give a net cost of £94k which has been factored into the proposals.
- To enable the Council to continue to operate a nursing service, a submission has been made to the CQC for dual nursing and residential registration at Cleeve Court. Cleeve Court has 14 bed vacancies which are currently being held to offer to the residents at Charlton House, subject to a review of their needs and to allow for recruitment to permanent posts at Cleeve Court

3.6.3 Combe Lea - to enhance our offer at Combe Lea residential home to enable younger people with more complex needs to remain closer to home:

- Combe Lea is a residential home with 30 places, 15 on floor 1 and 15 on floor 2. The cost of running Combe Lea (based on proposed structure) = £2,075,652. The unit cost at full occupancy being £1,326.90. Both floors are operational.
- There are no proposals to make any changes to Combe Lea aside from focusing on admissions for people with higher needs that can be met at Combe Lea thus reducing the pressure on the commissioning budget for external placements. However, it needs to be noted that the bed cost is significantly higher than the Fair Cost of Care level £968 and a decision will need to be made on charges for self-funders who are currently charged at the Fair Cost of Care rates.

3.7 We would retain Charlton House for other community provision to meet the current and future needs of the local community and the premises remain suitable for community and care uses. If we choose this option, we would do further work and consultation on the type of provision that Charlton House would specialise in. This plan would not affect the Extra Care service at Hawthorns Court, which is also on the Charlton House site.

3.8 We are proposing to make these changes because Cleeve Court is a bigger unit and the Cleeve Court environment, unlike Charlton House, has been specifically designed to support people with dementia. It already has support from community mental health teams and relationships with our voluntary sector partners.

3.9 The staff at Charlton House already work as a team across the B&NES area and we would support them to continue to do so, if they wished to. We do not anticipate that the proposals would result in any compulsory redundancies. We will of course be keeping all staff affected by these proposals fully informed at every stage, and we are especially keen to hear staff views.

3.10 As these proposals are considered, we are aware that we are talking about people's homes. We will consider views received as part of the consultation before any decisions are made. If any decisions are made which mean residents have to move to another home, we will work with residents, relatives, staff and others to ensure a smooth transition, subject to best interests of individuals.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Human Rights Act, Care Act, Care Act Statutory Guidance and Mental Capacity Act.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 In October 2022 a decision was taken to close the 2nd floor of Charlton House reducing the bed base to 15, as referenced in section 1.3 of the report. There are currently 10 people living at Charlton House all requiring nursing care. Following the closure of the second floor of Charlton House the staffing was adjusted and a focused recruitment drive enabled the service to reduce its reliance on agency staff. The budget available for the 3 CRCs is £7,168,761 gross. This budget was overspent in 2021/22 and 2022/23 this was largely due to increased overheads, staffing costs and agency spend.

CRC Budgets Net Exp	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	Q2 2023/24
Profiled Budget CRCs	£922,500	£3,529,867	£4,706,431	£5,031,349
CRCs Outturn against budget	£637,392	£3,839,007	£5,769,873	£5,319,259
Overspend*	(£285,108)	£309,140	£1,063,442	£ 287,910

5.2 Several mitigations have been put in place to bring the costs of delivery in line with the budget available to the service. These include a focus on recruitment, market supplement for nursing staff, controls on the non-staff cost expenditure, restructure of staffing rotas and a preferred provider for agency staffing.

5.3 The cost of the staff structure and the operating of 2 rather than 3 CRCs is in line with 2023-24 staff budget. If, however, the council continued to operate 3 CRCs, the budget is only sufficient to provide 1 floor at Charlton House when using the actual costs of delivery of care and does not consider any agency cost pressures over and above 17% contingency costs. If all factors remain the same the service is facing a budget pressure of £288k in 2023/24 and this would rise by circa £1m if the second floor of Charlton were opened.

5.4 If following consultation all proposals were to be approved, there is estimated to be a total saving to the council of £300k in 2024/25. This estimation assumes all individuals have been accommodated at either Cleeve Court or in alternative nursing care.

5.5 Depending on the outcome and decision on the consultation proposals this could impact on current service users and staff at Charlton House. Engagement sessions have been undertaken with service user relatives and staff at Charlton House on the proposals for consideration as part of the consultation process. However, moving some of the existing permanent staff across from Charlton House to Cleeve Court would mitigate some of the recruitment issues and the bed costs compare favourably to the external market of up to £1,400 for a dementia nursing bed.

5.6 The Charlton House building is relatively new and is of high quality, so is suitable for several alternate uses. The estates department and children's services have begun to scope the building for possible long-term accommodation.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk register related to the issue and recommendations has been developed in compliance with the Council's decision making and risk management guidance and monitored as part of the Adult Social Care Risk Register process.

6.2 A risk assessment for each individual, if they are impact by the outcome of the consultation, will be undertaken in line with the Care Act duties and best interest decision making process.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and submitted as part of the October 2023 Single Member Decision (Decision Reference E3488). A link to the Equality Impact Assessment is available below.

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=1956>

7.2 The equalities profile of service users is:

- 75 people currently living at the CRC's (10 Charlton House, 35 Cleeve Court and 30 Combe Lea)
- 72 of the individuals are over the age of 65
- 73 of the individuals identify as White British
- 75 of the individuals have some level of physical disability
- Of the 10 people living at Charlton House 5 are originally from Keynsham, 3 from Radstock and 2 from Bath

7.3 A further Equality Impact Assessment will be completed following the outcome of the consultation and subsequent recommendation for the Single Member Decision.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 The Charlton House, Cleeve Court and Coombe Lea buildings will continue to be owned by the council and have been retrofitted in line with the council's green agenda.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 The council continues to operate the 3 CRC services with an additional investment of £795k into the base budget year on year. The service aims to maintain occupancy levels at 90% and increase the numbers of self-funders which provides additional income to the Council. This option has been discounted due to the difficulties in recruiting staff and the impact on the council budget.

9.2 The council ceases to operate Charlton House and no longer provides nursing care. The 10 service users who require ongoing nursing care will need to be placed with independent providers. This option has been discounted as the council has applied to the CQC to continue to be a provider of nursing care. This option would have a financial impact on the commissioning budget if external providers were commissioned as opposed to using the vacant beds at Cleeve Court.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 A Single Member Decision was taken in October 2023 (Decision Reference E3488) to commence public, staff and resident engagement to inform the consultation on the Community Resource Centres.

10.2 Consultation started on 9th November 2023 and will close on 18th December 2023.

10.3 The consultation has been promoted through the following channels:

- Posted on B&NES newsroom
- Sent to the local and regional media (picked up by Bath Echo, The Week In and Keynsham Voice)
- Sent to all B&NES Councillors
- Sent to all B&NES town and parish councils
- Sent to both MP's
- Published in the weekly e-connect newsletter (about 6,500 subscribers)
- Is being regularly shared on B&NES corporate social media accounts with links signposting to the consultation page (
- Posted on Nextdoor
- Included in Interagency Bulletin

10.4 Link to the consultation on B&NES Council website:

<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/consultation-plans-community-resource-centres-crcs>

10.5 A range of consultation engagement activity has been undertaken by officers in the Adult Social Care Team.

Date	Engagement Activity
14.09.23	Staff briefing to inform of intention to consult
10.10.23	Relatives of Charlton House received an individual letter on proposals to consult
07.11.23	Letter to service user families for an invitation to attend consultation engagement session on 23 rd November 2023 at Charlton House
09.11.23	Consultation start date and mailbox opened (questions and responses managed by Assistant Director Operations)
23.11.23	Community drop in event and service user families invited to attend
18.12.23	Consultation end date

10.6 To date (28th November 2023) 19 responses to the consultation have been received.

10.7 A community drop in event was held on 23rd November 2023 and 5 families attended the engagement event. Council officers and the Lead Member were able to speak directly to attendees and receive their feedback on the proposals within the consultation. Paper copies of the proposals for consultation were made available at the community drop in event for those that preferred this route over feedback online.

10.8 Engagement sessions have been held with staff at each of the 3 CRCs prior to the consultation questionnaire going live. All staff have been given the link to the consultation and hard copies of the consultation have been provided at each of the CRCs.

10.9 Once the consultation has ended on 18th December 2023 the following activity will be undertaken in preparation for a decision.

Date	Activity
21 st December 2023	Review and analysis of consultation feedback and briefing with Cabinet Lead Member
Proposed January 2024	Report to Scrutiny Panel the details of consultation outcomes and provide Scrutiny Members the opportunity to provide feedback prior to Single Member Decision
Proposed late January 2024	Single Member Decision (with Equality Impact Assessment)
February 2024 onwards	Implementation of decision

Contact person	Suzanne Westhead – Director Adult Social Services Ann Smith – Assistant Director Operations
Background papers	Lead Member Update to Scrutiny Panel on 9 th October 2023 E3488 – Single Member Decision Community Resource Centres: Proposals for Consultation 22 nd October 2023
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING DATE:	11 December 2023	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	Update on Food Insecurity in B&NES	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 B&NES Fair Food Alliance (BFFA) has been in operation since March 2020, (previously called the B&NES Food Poverty Steering Group) following a motion which was passed by B&NES Council in July 2019 requesting that a local food poverty action plan be developed for Bath and North East Somerset.
- 1.2 In February 2021 B&NES Food Poverty Steering Group members decided by consensus to change the name of the partnership to the B&NES Fair Food Alliance (BFFA) to better reflect a solution focused and collaborative approach to addressing food insecurity. Similarly, we have moved from using the term food poverty to a preference for the term ‘household food insecurity’ to describe a situation where people do not have means to reliably meet their needs for food of sufficient quantity, quality or variety in socially acceptable ways.
- 1.3 This report updates the panel on local levels of food insecurity and reflects on the local support offer and work of the B&NES Fair Food Alliance since its last report to Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing PDS panel (May 2022).

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel / Committee is asked to;

- 2.1 Note the work of the B&NES Fair Food Alliance and its progress on delivering the ambitions of the B&NES Food Equity Action Plan 2022 – 2025

- 2.2 Support the ambitions of the B&NES Fair Food Alliance by considering ways in which other Council and partnership strategy and policy can help to increase income equality and food security locally.
- 2.3 Cllr Ruth Malloy, as a previous Panel member was representing PDS panel on the B&NES Fair Food Alliance alongside Cllr Liz Hardman. Consider nominating an additional councillor to represent the panel on the B&NES Fair Food Alliance.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 A recent report from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)¹ has highlighted increasing levels of destitution in the UK since 2017. The JRF reports that destitution is no longer a rare occurrence in the UK, with 1.8 million households containing 3.8 million people affected by it in 2022.
- 3.2 According to the JRF² destitution denotes the most severe form of material hardship. People are considered destitute if they have not been able to meet their most basic physical needs to stay warm, dry, clean and fed. Whilst those most likely to be affected are living in major cities they report a spread of destitution to wider areas and to different groups including families with children, older people, those with long term health conditions, migrants and people from some ethnic minority groups. When people were asked what they lacked, food was the most common answer, followed by heating, clothes and toiletries.
- 3.3 The JRF report states that ‘insufficient income from the social security safety net is the most significant driver of food-bank need’ and that benefit sanctions are also likely to become an increasing factor in the future.
- 3.4 The Office for National Statistics (ONS) report³ on energy and food insecurity during the winter of 22/23 identified renters, those who report moderate to severe depressive symptoms, those aged between 35 – 64 and those with annual income below £30,000 as more likely to be experiencing energy and food insecurity.
- 3.5 The B&NES Council annual resident survey (Voicebox) has asked questions on food insecurity since November 2019. The 2022 survey⁴ showed self-reported levels of food insecurity in B&NES have increased significantly. In 2021, 14% of respondents reported some level of food insecurity compared to 21% of respondents in November/December 2022.
- 3.6 Research carried out by University of Bath in 2022⁵ on behalf of B&NES Council identified that the main drivers of food insecurity for those accessing food banks and pantries locally was the same as elsewhere in the country and included low wages, insecure employment, problems with the benefits system and health issues.

¹ <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/destitution-uk-2023>

² Destitution is defined as living on less than £95 per week for a single adult living alone, £125 for a lone parent with one child, £145 for a couple with no children and £205 for a couple with two children.

³

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/wellbeing/articles/characteristicsofadultsexperiencingenergyandfoodinsecuritygr eatbritain/22novemberto18december2022>

⁴ <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/strategic-evidence/document-library/voicebox-residents-survey-2022>

⁵ https://purehost.bath.ac.uk/ws/portalfiles/portal/246477564/BANES_Food_Insecurity_Full_Report.pdf

- 3.7 Two further studies by the University of Bath in 2023 focusing on older people's food insecurity⁶ concluded that social connection, as well as health and financial resources, are key to reducing the risk of food insecurity amongst this group of residents.
- 3.8 A questionnaire to B&NES residents receiving pension credit in February 2023 showed that nearly half of respondents (46%) reported some degree of food insecurity over the past 12 months. 1 in 10 respondents sometimes or often didn't have enough to eat in the past 12 months and 23% said they had no one in the local area that they could depend on. Other groups of older people at risk of food insecurity include those just above the pension credit entitlement threshold and those under the state pension age (aged 55 – 66).
- 3.9 Nationally, Citizens Advice report helping more people than ever before in 2023. Numbers of people requiring help for energy/energy debt, charitable and food support, council tax arrears and homelessness peaked in March 2023 when nearly 125,000 people were supported. Whilst numbers have decreased slightly since then, just over 100,000 people were helped in the month of September 2023, higher than at the same point in any year from 2014.
- 3.10 The top three issues people present to Citizens Advice with currently are crisis support/food banks, energy support and benefit entitlements. In September 2023 nearly half of the people helped by Citizens Advice were in negative budget. This is where their necessary expenditure exceeds their income. Some groups are deeper in debt than others, including single parents, private renters, disabled people, ethnic minorities, the self-employed and, more recently, mortgage holders.
- 3.11 In B&NES, in August 2022, 8,956 households were in receipt of Universal Credit. In August 2023 this figure was 9,828. This represents an increase of 872 people or 9.7%.
- 3.12 Locally B&NES Citizens Advice supported 4,874 new clients during 22/23 as well as 3,222 repeat customers. From April – September 2023 they have supported 1,749 new clients and 2,079 repeat customers.
- 3.13 Most recent data estimates that 1 in 5 (20%) children and young people in B&NES live in relative poverty (after housing costs), amounting to some 6,500 children and young people aged 0 to 15.⁷
- 3.14 The numbers of children eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in B&NES has risen year on year since May 2020, partly due to transitional protection which means that children eligible from 1st April 2018 will continue to be eligible to April 2025 even if their household income goes above the threshold for FSM in the interim period. 4671 children were eligible for FSM in Oct 23 which is 16.91% of children on roll in B&NES schools (inc nurseries and 6th Forms).
- 3.15 There are many families who are on low income but do not qualify for FSM. The challenge they face is the very low earned income threshold that currently exists as criteria for being eligible to a benefit related FSM under Universal Credit.

⁶ https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library?keys=&field_service_area_target_id%5B1871%5D=1871

⁷ [B&NES Strategic Evidence Base](#)

The earned income threshold is £7,400 per year, equal to £616.67 per month, if a claimant is on Universal Credit with a job.

- 3.16 In B&NES there are three Trussell Trust affiliated food banks operating from 10 venues in Bath, Keynsham and the Somer Valley. The table below show trends in their activity since 2017/18.

Period	Total number of food parcels given out
April 2017 – March 2018	6870
April 2018 – March 2019	7755
April 2019 – March 2020	9935
April 2020 – March 2021	9706
April 2021 – March 2022	7106
April 2022 – March 2023	9028

- 3.17 Locally food bank usage peaked in B&NES during 2019/20. Numbers dropped in 2021/22 which may be attributable to the amount of Government support available during this period. Numbers increased again during 2022/23. During 2023 local food banks report increasing demand, more complex need and new people attending who have never accessed crisis support before. University of Bath is now a referral agency into the food banks for staff and students should they need it. This reflects the reported challenges students face in meeting daily living costs due to increasing rent costs absorbing the majority of the average maintenance loan⁸. The food banks have also seen a drop in donations as people are less able to make additions to their weekly shops to put in the supermarket collections, which has depleted warehouse stores. Trussell Trust affiliated food banks report good support from the Trust to manage these pressures.

- 3.18 According to Citizens Advice, there are signs that policies brought in in April 2023 including the cost of living payments (delivered between April and May), benefits uprating and the National Living Wage increase have made a difference to demand for crisis support. However, the number of people helped with food bank referrals by Citizens Advice has been on an upward trend since May 2023.

- 3.19 Food supply and affordability has been affected by a number of factors over the past year including food price inflation (which has been particularly high for staple foods), household incomes not increasing in line with rises in household costs, a reduction in surplus food supply due to better waste management policies and drought and conflict affecting major food exporting regions. All these factors mean that access to affordable healthy food is increasingly difficult for those on low incomes.

- 3.20 The B&NES Council Welfare Support team are now supporting significantly more clients compared to pre pandemic levels in 2019. The team have logged 3668 applications for support in 23/24 financial year to date. During the same period in 2019 the team had logged 2265 applications. In addition to this level of activity the team is also administering the Household Support Fund totalling £1.934 million, during 23/24.

⁸ <https://www.hepi.ac.uk/2023/10/26/student-rents-now-swallow-up-virtually-all-of-the-of-the-average-maintenance-loan-as-market-reaches-crisis-point-in-affordability/>

3.21 The **Household Support Fund** is being used to provide the following support to local residents during 23/24.

- £800,000 of **Free School Meal Vouchers** for all school holidays including half term periods up to Easter 2024 holiday at £15 per FSM pupil per week
- £250,000 contribution to Citizens Advice **Fuel Voucher scheme**.
- £50,000 allocated to **Care Experienced Young People** in B&NES. This is being managed by the Care Experienced team and awards are being made to clear rent arrears, make payments to clients and purchasing household items.
- £350,000 **Crisis Payments** to households in B&NES.
- £400,000 has also been allocated to provide a **Winter Support payment** scheme

3.22 From January to December 2023 St John's Foundation estimates it will have distributed £195,000 to B&NES residents through its **Crisis Programme**. This is a slight reduction on 2022 of around £30,000 which they attribute to the availability of additional support from Council Welfare Support. The majority of grants given out are for housing needs including white goods and furniture. St Johns is also jointly funding a pilot project with Curo to ensure those with new social tenancies have access to key essentials on moving in.

4 LOCAL ACTION ON FOOD INSECURITY

4.1 The **B&NES Fair Food Alliance** (BFFA) provides the governance and structure to drive the strategic direction and co-ordination of food insecurity work locally. Its overall aim is to ensure that everyone living in B&NES can reliably afford and access suitable food to meet their needs for energy, nutrition, and social and cultural connection, with dignity and without resort to emergency food aid. The work of the Alliance is informed by the Food Ladders approach developed by Sheffield University⁹ which aims to move away from crisis emergency support where people are given food and money as one off support towards more sustainable solutions which focus on building resilience within individuals and communities and focusing on building relationships, support networks and longer term solutions to food insecurity.

4.2 The Alliance membership includes representation from local, regional and national charities with a focus on food insecurity and financial wellbeing including Feeding Britain, Fare Share South West, St John's Foundation, the Trussell Trust, Clean Slate and Citizens Advice. Council departments including welfare support, public health, youth services, business and skills and children's services are also represented.

4.3 The Alliance oversees the work of three task groups focusing on affordable food, income maximisation and hearing the voice of those with lived experience of food insecurity (see image below).

⁹ <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/research/features/food-ladders>

B&NES Fair Food Alliance



AFFORDABLE FOOD
NETWORK



HEAR MY VOICE



INCOME GROUP



- 4.4 In July 2022 Council endorsed the **B&NES Food Equity Action Plan 2022 – 2025**¹⁰ which was developed by the Fair Food Alliance. Below is a summary of some of the activities of task groups and members supporting delivery of the aims and objectives of the Food Equity Action Plan.
- 4.5 The **B&NES Affordable Food Network (AFN)** has run a number of food supply workshops over the past year to help members to work together to address supply, storage and distribution issues in the network. During 2023 the AFN has welcomed a new Curo-run pantry in Westfield, and a Community Kitchen enterprise supporting the Holiday Activities and Food programme, lunch clubs and cookery skills workshops in collaboration with other network members. However, some projects are no longer in operation. Penny's Pantry in Batheaston and the Vegan foodbank have closed. Food supply issues continue to be a focus, with attention currently on sourcing affordable purchased stock and preparing for the Christmas period. Surplus and donated food do not meet need and there is increasing pressure on network members to adjust business and funding models to stay afloat. An estimated 4,200 people a week benefit from the services of this network and the wraparound support offer continues to develop around money, health and skills building.
- 4.6 **Fare Share South West** provides wholesale surplus food to 26 projects in B&NES. This includes the 10 food bank outlets, 7 community cafes, 7 food clubs/pantries and 2 community fridges. Between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 Fare Share South West redistributed a total of 128 tonnes of food into B&NES. Of this 119 tonnes was allocated to projects working with children and families. The estimated retail value of this food is over £402,000 with 39% fruit and vegetables, 19% potatoes/rice/pasta/bread and 14% dairy and other alternatives.
- 4.7 During 2023 **B&NES Crop Drop** increased the number of allotments sites it now works with to eight and the number of projects receiving surplus produce to nine in total. The group work with local allotment sites and with local farms through the Avon Gleaning network to maximise the number of projects receiving surplus produce throughout B&NES. They now also work very constructively with ROOTS allotment sites and their generous growers. In 2024 they plan to work with Bath Allotments association to connect more allotments with food projects on the East side of Bath.

¹⁰ <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/bnes-food-equity-action-plan-2022-25>

- 4.8 During 2022/23 a new provider Activate was commissioned to deliver the **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme**, working with local providers across B&NES to deliver free places at holiday clubs for children and young people in receipt of free school meals during Easter, Summer and Christmas.
- 4.9 The HAF programme engaged a total of 2,314 unique children and young people across the 5,920 attendances to 476 clubs and activities including outdoor education, sports camps, drama, singing, cycling proficiency, technology activities and trips including bowling, cookery classes and theme parks.
- 4.10 The **Healthy Start** programme provides a pre-paid card to enable people to purchase milk, fruit, vegetables, pulses and vitamins. It is available to those on a low income who are more than 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under 4 years. In B&NES take up is currently in the top quartile at 74%, which is above the national average of 68.4%. Work is ongoing to continue to maximise take up of this key benefit.
- 4.11 The **B&NES Affordable School Programme** aims to increase understanding of the barriers and challenges faced by pupils and families who are living in financial hardship and to help schools make positive changes to policies and practice that alleviate these. Schools are provided with training and a suite of B&NES resources that will help them review their existing practice, identify the impact on their whole school community and develop creative ideas for making school an inclusive environment. This will include a review of uniform and equipment needs, bullying policies, engagement and attainment, school trips, additional educational opportunities, support and advice for families, fund raising and school social events.
- 4.12 Despite the many other pressures upon them, to date 35% of B&NES state schools have engaged with the programme and are actively seeking to make their provision affordable for all families. In January 2024 Public Health will be writing to all B&NES state schools to invite more of them to join our Affordable School Programme.
- 4.13. The **Pathways from Poverty** model, developed by Feeding Britain, involves placing specialist advice workers into community-led food projects to help resolve some of the wider issues that households are facing when they receive help with food. The advice workers build trusted relationships with households in these familiar settings, and can then provide expert support around benefits, debt, budgeting, housing, energy, or employment.
- 4.14 During 22/23 the Pathways from Poverty pilot programme in B&NES supported 167 people to access £73,361 via Citizens Advice B&NES and Clean Slate Ltd wrap around support within food banks and food clubs/pantries. This intervention provided debt relief and increased income for clients. This local programme has now received additional three-year funding from the Trussell Trust to enable Citizens Advice to continue to provide this support in B&NES food banks. A business case to develop this support offer to more affordable food projects in B&NES is in development.
- 4.15 The **Income Maximisation group** has focused its efforts on raising awareness of safer credit and illegal lending during 2023. They have worked with the England

Illegal Money Lending Team¹¹ to deliver training to 86 frontline staff from 25 different departments and agencies to date. The training raises awareness of loan sharks, how they operate and the support available to people who owe money to them. Further training and promotion of support will be offered with a focus on learning disabilities, dementia care and farming communities. The group are also working with Great Western Credit Union to look at ways of supporting people to save and borrow safely. The group is exploring local development of the Food Savers model which has been successful in Bradford and Leeds¹².

4.16 According to **Feeding Britain**, the Pathways from Poverty approach, remains hugely successful in maximising incomes and addressing the underlying causes of hunger in households that seek help. The feedback they have received from projects across the country suggests advice services are largely under resourced, struggling to meet additional need, struggling to recruit advice workers, and face uncertain or short-term funding arrangements. Cases being handled have become more complex and time consuming, with up to six different issues in play for one household, rather than a single benefit or debt-related issue which in previous years could have been resolved more quickly.

4.17 The Alliance works closely with the Feeding Britain network to provide evidence, case studies and examples of good practice to inform suggested improvements and changes to national policy and legislation. Key areas that the Feeding Britain network is currently lobbying for include;

- Working to agree funding allocation and extension of the Holiday Activities and Food Programme beyond 2024
- Piloting automatic registration for those eligible for free school meals and the healthy start programme
- Raising awareness of the link between Universal Credit deductions and the need for food banks and continuing to push for a further easing of the rate of deductions from Universal Credit.
- Calling for an Essentials Guarantee¹³, alongside the Joseph Rowntree Foundation which asks for Universal Credit payments to at least cover the cost of essentials such as food, household bills and travel.

4.18 The Alliance continues to work to influence the agenda of wider Council and partner strategies to raise awareness of the importance of access to affordable healthy food and financial wellbeing to health and wellbeing and economic prosperity of the area. Food security, living wage and access to good jobs, are included in the draft B&NES Economic Strategy. This is a welcome development and commitment to addressing income inequality and the sustainability of our local food system.

4.19 Priorities for the Fair Food Alliance in the coming year include;

- Gaining a better understanding of the food and financial wellbeing needs of young people living away from home (18 – 25)
- Developing the local safer credit and savings offer

¹¹ <https://www.stoploansharks.co.uk/who-we-are/>

¹² <https://foodsavers.org.uk/>

¹³ https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/guarantee-our-essentials?_ga=2.34542561.1994691723.1699953190-1634871596.1699953189

- Expanding wrap around financial support in local food projects
- Recruiting more schools to the Affordable Schools programme
- Increasing uptake of key entitlements such as Healthy Start and Pension Credits.

4.20 The work of the Alliance supports delivery of local priorities and strategies including B&NES Council Corporate Strategy¹⁴ with its key focus on improving people's lives and core ambition to focus on prevention, and the B&NES Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy¹⁵ with its focus on addressing health inequalities and creating compassionate and healthy communities. The Alliance will continue to look for opportunities in the development of local and sub regional strategies and policy, including housing, planning, transport, health improvement and climate and nature emergency to contribute to the financial wellbeing and food security of all local residents including those on low incomes, and with no recourse to public funds¹⁶.

5 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Through the Food Equity Action Plan, B&NES Council as part of the B&NES Fair Food Alliance will support residents through seeking to prevent, reduce and mitigate against the effects of experiencing household food insecurity and thereby take preventative collective action to address health inequalities longer term.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

6.1 Funding for a 3yr fixed term post to co-ordinate the delivery of the B&NES Food Equity Action Plan has been received from St John's Foundation. This post sits within the Council Public Health team (Aug 2021 - July 2024). A proposal to continue this post for a further 3 years has been provided to St Johns. The BFFA does not have an operational budget. Funding for the continuation and/or development of projects within the Action Plan will be the subject of separate business cases/funding bids as required.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

8 EQUALITIES

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has previously been carried out for the B&NES Food Equity Action Plan 2022 – 25¹⁷.

9 CLIMATE CHANGE

¹⁴ <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/corporate-strategy-2023-2027>

¹⁵ <https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy>

¹⁶ <https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9790/>

¹⁷ <https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/documents/s73624/Appendix%202%20-%20B&NES%20Food%20Equity%20Action%20Plan%20EIA%20April%202022.pdf>

9.1 This work has the potential to contribute to achievement of carbon neutrality as part of a wider focus on food and food systems in B&NES which aims to reduce food waste and increase access to fresh, seasonal local produce.

10 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

10.1 None

11 CONSULTATION

11.1 This report has been approved by Cllr Alison Born, Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Liz Beazer, Senior Finance Manager, B&NES Council.

Contact person	Cathy McMahon cathy_mcmahon@bathnes.gov.uk and Milly Carmichael Milly_carmichael@bathnes.gov.uk
Background papers	B&NES Food Equity Action Plan 2022 – 2025 https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/document-and-policy-library/bnes-food-equity-action-plan-2022-25 B&NES Food Equity Action Plan report to Council July 2022 https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=272&MId=5494&Ver=4
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Children, Adults, Health & Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	11 December 2023	<small>EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:</small>
TITLE:	The health of the homeless population in B&NES	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
None		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel asked for a report on the health of homeless people in B&NES, particularly the health of people sleeping rough.
- 1.2 The report included in this paper summarises key points for the Panel.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the information in the report.

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The focus on this report is on people who are sleeping rough in B&NES.
- 3.2 There are a wider group of people in B&NES, at risk of rough sleeping, who are either threatened with homelessness (277 households in 2022/23¹) or currently homeless (218 households in 2022/23). These are defined nationally, falling in to two categories and place certain duties on local authorities.

¹ ²DLUHC - Tables on homelessness - [Detailed local authority level tables: financial year 2022-23](#)

- 3.3 Households assessed as being owed a prevention duty is where a household is assessed as being at risk of homelessness within the next 56 days; a relief duty is where a household is assessed as being already homeless².
- 3.4 B&NES has had a consistently lower rate of households owed a prevention duty (risk of homelessness) than England over the last 5 years. However, the rate has increased from 1.9 to 2.6 per 1,000 households in one year, representing an increase of 37% (77 additional households). B&NES has also had a consistently lower rate of households owed a relief duty (already homeless) than England over the last 5 years. Nonetheless, B&NES has seen a 40% increase in the last year³.
- 3.5 Of the 495 households in B&NES owed a prevention or relief duty, two-thirds (67%) had additional support needs. 30% were for a history of mental health issues, and 29% physical ill health and disability. Homelessness and ill health are intrinsically linked and households living in unsettled accommodation are more likely to experience mental ill health.
- 3.6 Where a duty is owed, the local authority must ensure that suitable temporary accommodation is available. The duty continues until a settled housing solution becomes available for them, or some other circumstance brings the duty to an end.
- 3.7 Rough sleepers are defined by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities for the purposes of rough sleeping counts. The definition is:
- (1) people sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments)
 - (2) people in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or 'bashes').
- 3.8 The definition does not include people in hostels or shelters and so underestimates the wider community of people at risk of sleeping rough.
- 3.9 An annual rough sleeping snapshot takes place on a single date chosen by the local authority in Autumn, between 1 October and 30 November. The most recent figures in B&NES estimated that 12 people were observed to be sleeping rough on that one night. However, local housing data suggests that around 180 people are sleeping rough at some point over the course of the last year in B&NES⁴.
- 3.10 National figures show around 66% of rough sleepers have problematic drug and alcohol use (Crisis, 2021), the majority being opiate use. This equates to 160 rough sleepers in B&NES. Only about 50 people are actively engaged with local treatment services.
- 3.11 Data from the Royal United Hospital (RUH) in Bath suggests half of homeless patients seen by them had an alcohol dependency.

³ B&NES Council [Strategic Evidence Base](#)

⁴ Internal analysis.

- 3.12 The Local Authority has been successful in gaining funding from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) worth £1,372,231 over 3 years to improve drug and alcohol treatments support outcomes for people experiencing, or at risk of, rough sleeping who have drug and alcohol dependency needs.
- 3.13 The additional investment and associated innovative working practices has been effective. The most recent figures show the total number of rough sleepers and people at risk of rough sleeping who engaged in structured treatment is 86, exceeding the 2023/24 target of 70 people.
- 3.14 Chronic homelessness is characterised by physical ill health, mental ill health and substance use.
- 3.15 The long-term homeless often die at a much younger age than the general population and have a much poorer quality of life. Being homeless for even a short period of time increases the risk of long-term health problems.
- 3.16 When homeless people die it is usually due to treatable medical problems.
- 3.17 Many people who are affected by homelessness are very high users of NHS hospital services, attending A&E departments up to six times as often as the general population, are admitted four times as often, and once admitted tend to stay three times as long in hospital.
- 3.18 Evidence shows that people who experience homelessness for three months or longer and do not have access to a Homeless Healthcare Service, cost on average £4,298 per person to NHS services and £2,099 per person for mental health services per year.⁵
- 3.19 Using these figures, the cost of healthcare for the 50 homeless patients currently receiving care at Julian House in B&NES would be £214,900 for NHS services and £104,950 for mental health services, totalling £319,850⁶.
- 3.20 B&NES has the highest number of rough sleepers relative to its population size compared to Swindon and Wiltshire⁶.
- 3.21 In recognition of the greater need in B&NES, the locality currently has a dedicated homeless healthcare service comprising of daily clinics co-located with the homeless hostel and outreach services. The service has proved effective in engaging with homeless patients that would not otherwise present at a mainstream GP practice. In Swindon and Wiltshire, provision is through Locally Commissioned Service contracts offered to primary care.
- 3.22 The Local Authority reviews sudden deaths suspected to be from alcohol or drugs. A significant minority of these deaths are amongst homeless people. We build on learning from these deaths to inform the action plan of the B&NES Drug and Alcohol Partnership, jointly led by the Council and the Police.
- 3.23 Due to the poor health of homeless people in B&NES, they have been identified as one of the 'Plus' groups within the Core20Plus5 inequalities programme for

⁵ Crisis (2016) Better than Cure?

⁶ BSW NHS ICB analysis

B&NES. This focuses on the 20% most deprived areas, 'plus' other groups known to have worse outcomes than others in the local population and who may face marginalisation and difficulties accessing services. Through this programme, a small amount of fixed term funding has been awarded to two third sector organisations to support 1) hospital discharge for people at high risk of homelessness and 2) end of life care for people who are homeless.

- 3.24 As people sleeping rough are at high risk of poor health outcomes or even death during cold weather episodes plans are put in place to support those who are sleeping rough locally. Services can trigger Severe Weather Emergency Protocols (SWEP) which enables them to identify who and where the most vulnerable individuals are, how accommodation will be provided for them when SWEP are triggered, and other ways to help through periods of cold weather. This work is led by the Council's Housing team with key local partners Julian House and overseen by the B&NES Homeless Partnership.
- 3.25 Key preventative measures are also promoted such as COVID-19 and flu vaccination for people sleeping rough, and for eligible staff members, to reduce risks of infection.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 places duties on local housing authorities to take reasonable steps to prevent and relieve an eligible applicant's homelessness. Once the local housing authority has agreed that the applicant is homeless or threatened with homelessness and is eligible for assistance (based on their immigration status), they will work with the applicant to develop a personalised housing plan.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 There are no specific financial implications for the local authority addressed in the report.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 The work described in the report aims to improve the health of one of the most marginalised groups in our community.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 There are no specific climate change issues addressed by the report.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 None.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 The report has been approved by the Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Public Health.

Contact person	Paul Scott, Associate Director of Public Health, B&NES Council 01225 394060
Background papers	
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	

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

This Forward Plan lists all the items coming to the Panel over the next few months.

Inevitably, some of the published information may change; Government guidance recognises that the plan is a best assessment, at the time of publication, of anticipated decision making. The online Forward Plan is updated regularly and can be seen on the Council's website at:

<http://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1>

The Forward Plan demonstrates the Council's commitment to openness and participation in decision making. It assists the Panel in planning their input to policy formulation and development, and in reviewing the work of the Cabinet.

Should you wish to make representations, please contact the report author or, Democratic Services (). A formal agenda will be issued 5 clear working days before the meeting.

Agenda papers can be inspected on the Council's website.

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
11TH DECEMBER 2023				
11 Dec 2023	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Community Resource Centres - Proposals for Consultation	Ann Smith Tel: 01225 396212	Director of Adult Social Care
11 Dec 2023 Page 46	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Food Poverty - Public Health Report	Cathy McMahon Tel: 01225 394064	Director of Public Health and Prevention
11 Dec 2023	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Homeless Health	Rebecca Reynolds Tel: 01225 394074	Director of Public Health and Prevention

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
15TH JANUARY 2024				
11 Jan 2024 15 Jan 2024 Page 47	Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Budget item	Andy Rothery Tel: 01225 477103	Chief Finance Officer (S151)
15 Jan 2024	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	SEN Home to School Transport Policy	Gemma Vittozzi	Director of Children and Education
15 Jan 2024	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Dental Services Provision	Laura Ambler	Director of Adult Social Care, Director of Children and Education

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
15 Jan 2024	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	School Organisation Plan	Helen Hoynes, Christopher Wilford Tel: 01225 395169, Tel: 01225 477109	Director of Children and Education
15 Jan 2024	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Community Resource Centres - Outcomes of the consultation	Ann Smith Tel: 01225 396212	Director of Adult Social Care
15 Jan 2024	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Sufficiency Report - Fostering Placements	Mary Kearney-Knowles Tel: 01225 394412	Director of Children and Education
FORTHCOMING ITEMS				
	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Child Sexual Exploitation		Director of Children and Education

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Covid - Care Homes Study		Director of Public Health and Prevention
Page 49	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Covid 19 - Impact of Long Covid across our communities		Director of Adult Social Care, Director of Children and Education, Director of Public Health and Prevention
	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Budget 2024-25 discussion		Director of Adult Social Care, Director of Children and Education
	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Education Performance Update		Education and Safeguarding Director

Ref Date	Decision Maker/s	Title	Report Author Contact	Director Lead
	Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel	Community Services Transformation - Community Health Services offer from April 2025	Laura Ambler, Natalia Lachkou	Director of Adult Social Care
The Forward Plan is administered by DEMOCRATIC SERVICES: Democratic_Services@bathnes.gov.uk				