

Portfolio Holder Cabinet Member Report for Scrutiny Jan 2021

Update on the Work of the Community Wellbeing Hub

Since 20th March 2020 to 5th January 2021 the service has supported over 10, 300 calls into Triage and 69% of calls are resolved at this stage. The Hub has co-ordinated over 2821 volunteer tasks since March 2020 including 2259 for food, 471 for medication and 91 other activities i.e. electricity top up. To date 3SG volunteers have completed £62, 217.80 worth of shopping to support B&NES residents.

The Council Logistics Pod at the Hub has completed the following activity since March 2020:

- Total of 535 emergency food parcels delivered in B&NES which has supported 672 individuals. 25% of the boxes delivered were repeats. In November and December emergency food boxes were delivered to Bath City College to support students in need. Emergency food was also supplied to the SWEP House to support vulnerable people.
- Emergency food boxes continue to be supplemented with frozen meals supplied by the Bath Masonic Hall Trust, Square Meals project. This project is funded until the end of January 2021. It is hoped that this will continue beyond January but a further £10k is required to extend the project until Easter.
- Frozen meals have also been supplied to local charities and organisations. Since April 2020 over 33,000 meals have been distributed - 6,000 children's meals supplied by the Ivy Restaurant and 27,000 provided by the Square Meals project.
- Square Meals also provided 86 Christmas meals, 40 were distributed to Mercy in Action and the rest distributed through the Hub.

The Hub was set up in response to COVID-19 but its effectiveness has meant that it will now develop into an ongoing service for joined-up community response to support the wellbeing of residents into the long term.

During the third national lockdown the Hub will again lead on behalf of the Council, the implementation and co-ordinated delivery of the Covid-19 Guidance to local authorities on support for Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) individuals advised to shield. The CEV B&NES population will again be contacted to signpost them to the CWH for support with those registering a support need on the National Shielding Service System receiving a welfare check call and referral to a CWH pod for their required support outcome.

New Legislation - Breathing Space has been through parliament and is due to be implemented in May 2021; the legislation will for the first time allow individuals who are in 'crisis' and in debt to ask for a pause on that debt for 90 days whilst they are supported to put a plan in place on how that debt is going to be managed. The regulations sets out who determines when someone is in 'crisis' and this includes the Council Approved Mental Health Professionals.

We will confirm nearer the time the impact on Council and will share that with the Panel. Training will be rolled out as well. The biggest impact is likely to be on administrative time in holding any debts and potential loss of income for the council from Council Tax etc.

Director of Adult Social Care, Complex and Specialist Commissioning Update

1. Covid19 and Support to Individuals and Providers

We have continued to see an increasing rise in the number of people with care and support needs and staff supporting these people with Covid19. We are working closely with providers to support them alongside our colleagues in Public Health and across the widest Partnership.

The Council have written to all care homes and recommended they go over and above national guidance and close their doors to visitors in order to reduce the spread as we know many people are asymptomatic. There will of course always be exceptions to a blanket recommendation, and these will depend on individual resident and family circumstances. It has not been an easy decision as we know people need to see their loved ones, but it is a recommendation for the care homes to consider whilst we are in the third lockdown in order to keep people safe. We are keeping the recommendation under review.

We are routinely providing overview reports on the provider sector to the Health Protection Board which meets at least once per week.

We have had confirmation that PPE will remain free until the beginning of June extending this from the end of March.

We are working closely with providers and are supporting as much as possible the roll out of the vaccination programme which is underway across B&NES.

2. Update from Safeguarding Adults and the Quality Assurance Team

The Council have been participating in work undertaken by the LGA on the impact of Covid 19 on Adult Safeguarding.

Monthly reporting was provided on a voluntary basis by 92 Local Authorities who hold adult social care responsibility. The national data closely aligned with our experience in B&NES - safeguarding concerns dropped markedly during the initial weeks of the COVID-19 lockdown period, only to return to and then exceed normal levels in June 2020. The report noted a slight increase in concerns relating to domestic abuse, self-neglect and psychological abuse. Locally we did not see an increase in domestic abuse safeguarding concerns but did experience an increase in self-neglect issues. The full report can be found at:

https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/25.177_Insight%20Project_layout_FINAL%20WEB.pdf

The Panel asked for the team to look into the number of 18-25 year olds who were supported through the safeguarding adult process – it was asked following the presentation at the last Panel on the BCSSP; the information is as follows:

- 1 April 2019 – 31 Mar 2020 there were 94 concerns for 18-25 year olds (relating to 46 individuals).
- 20 of these became S42 (relating to 17 individuals).
- Outcomes of the 20 S42s: 12 risk reduced,
 - 3 risk removed,
 - 1 risk remains,
 - 2 no risk,
 - 1 inconclusive,
 - 1 still in progress.

Of the 17 who were supported through an enquiry process. Liquid Logic is showing:

- 4 – No previous involvement with Children’s social care
- 6 – Had an EHCP and CIN involvement in their childhood
- 1 – Had an EHCP and had been supported through CIN, CPP and CLA processes
- 2 – Had an EHCP and CIN and CLA input
- 1 – Had an EHCP and had been supported through CIN and CPP processes
- 3 – Had been supported through CIN/ CPP and CLA processes.

In the last 6 month the following policy work has taken place:

- Review Policy for people in receipt of social care support has been ratified and shared with Virgin care and AWP (<https://beta.bathnes.gov.uk/policy-and-documents-library/adult-social-care-review-policy>) .
- Guidance on the social care role in Continuing Health Care has also been produced and has been shared with the Local Authorities in the CCG area as a good practice example. This is not available on the public website but is available for members on request.
- The policies on Assessments, Eligibility and Care and Support Planning have also been updated to reflect changes in the national Care Act guidance. These are currently going through the ratification process and are expected to be available at the end of January.

3. Work to Support People With ASD

BSW recently bid for and has been awarded, funding to provide a ‘Waiting List Plus’ initiative to benefit autistic people. One element of this is to improve our local B&NES offer around pre and post diagnostic support for autistic people, aged 16+ (with an emphasis on those transitioning to adulthood), and for this to be delivered in partnership with the third sector. Another aspect, which is made more challenging due to Covid-19, is to complete ‘autism friendly’ audits, in a number of health and social care settings. We are currently working with our Third Sector providers, including Julian House and Bath Mind, to identify delivery partner(s) and to scope and deliver the project in B&NES

The model will consist of time-limited sessional support for adult's pre and post diagnosis. The model offers one-to-one sessions as well as group sessions that support people pre and post diagnosis. Providers will also proactively signpost individuals and carers to other local sources of support and resources. This model has already been implemented in Swindon and is reported by local experts by experience (people with ASD and family/carers) as beneficial in supporting them to live with the impact of the characteristics of their condition as well as supporting them to come to terms with a diagnosis and supporting people who may be awaiting for a diagnosis. Further updates will be provided.

4. Commissioning Fair Price Of Care Exercises

Two exercises have now been taken forward assessing a fair price of care for home care and care home provision. This has led to a clear communication with providers about pricing structures and approaches which is now being used to develop strategic engagement plans with providers. Further updates will be provided.

5. Update from B&NES Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership

Practice Reviews

Since November 2020, the Practice Review Group (PRG) has considered four Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) notifications; two Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) notifications; approved the Practitioner Briefing for a Domestic Homicide Review (DHR); and finalised a Serious Case Review (SCR) that has been on hold pending the Court hearing. Two further CSPR notifications and one SAR notification will be considered in January 2021. Following a review of each case the PRG members agreed that two of the SAR notifications met the statutory criteria for a review; two Rapid Reviews have been completed for the CSPR notifications and the recommendations submitted to the National Panel; the Practitioner Briefing is in the process of being published, pending contact with a family member; and it has been agreed that a learning event will be held to reflect on the implementation of learning from the Serious Case Review.

BCSSP Strategic Plan

The BCSSP is developing its strategic plan for 2021-2024. To do this, the current strategic plan is being reviewed and reflected on to ensure learning is captured and where necessary, actions progressed.

The work from the first 12 months of the BCSSP is being utilised to identify priorities for the partnership and a development day is being scheduled for March to consult with partners on those priorities and transcribe them into (SMART) actions for the BCSSP subgroups. This will be shared with the Panel.

Public Health Brief Update for Scrutiny Panel

Main focus of PH work is on supporting Covid response through Local Outbreak Management Plan:

- Continuing focus on outbreak prevention and control, with significant focus on care homes, and to a lesser degree, schools.
- Local contact tracing staff recruited and trained to increase effectiveness of national programme.
- Increasing access to testing for symptomatic people across B&NES
- Scoping possible council approach to asymptomatic testing of key workers and others
- Support to NHS with vaccination campaign, including ensuring equal access for hard to reach groups when appropriate
- Maintaining communications with public including some targeted at high incidence parts of the area.
- Providing a full Covid information service for relevant council staff and elected members.

Other Public Health highlights:

- Successful flu vaccination campaign with boater community (which may provide a model for later outreach Covid vaccination work)
- Sexual health contract now in place with RUH for integrated sexual health service
- Commissioning work on early help services for children
- PH team service planning underway
- Preparatory work underway for the streamlined governance of Council's healthy weight activities, and for the Council to sign up to national healthy weight declaration.