

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Minutes of the Meeting held

Tuesday, 28th September, 2021, 10.30 am

Dr Bryn Bird	Clinical Commissioning Group
Councillor Dine Romero (Chair)	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Cara Charles Barks	Royal United Hospital
Councillor Alison Born	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Corinne Edwards	Clinical Commissioning Group
Ruth Gawler	Avon and Somerset Police
Paul Harris	Curo
Mary Kearney-Knowles	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Kate Morton	Bath Mind
Rebecca Reynolds	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Joanna Scammell	Virgin Care
Richard Smale	Clinical Commissioning Group
Suzanne Westhead	Bath and North East Somerset Council

9 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

10 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Democratic Services Officer read out the emergency evacuation procedure.

11 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Jayne Davis – Bath College
Sara Gallagher – Bath Spa University
Andrew Girdher - CCG
Will Godfrey – B&NES Council
Nicola Hazle - AWP
Amritpal Kaur - Healthwatch
Steve Kendall – Police Service – substitute Inspector Ruth Gawler
Anthony Payne – University of Bath
Nikki Rice – Avon Fire and Rescue Service

12 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

13 **TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR**

There was no urgent business.

14 **PUBLIC QUESTIONS/COMMENTS**

There were no public questions or statements.

15 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meetings held on 30 March and 22 June 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

16 **BETTER CARE FUND UPDATE**

The Board considered a report which gave an update on the Better Care Fund Plan for 2021-22 and requested members to ratify a number of Locality Commissioning Group (LCG) agreements.

Judith Westcott, Senior Commissioning Manager, presented the report and highlighted the following points:

- The Better Care Fund in B&NES totals £71m.
- A high proportion of the funding is spent on the Virgin Care contract.
- There are additional sub-sections of the fund which have different criteria.
- The fund is under continual discussion and has been reviewed by the Local Commissioning Group (LCG) prior to submission to this meeting.
- The fund is designed to be a transitional and transformational budget and there have been no major changes or developments to it over the last two years.
- There have been some underspends this year largely due to a slowdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. There is an underspend on the fund of around £1.5m.

- Some of the underspend will be used to help with emerging pressures including home care.
- There is still £600k of funding available if needed.
- The following funding applications have been provisionally approved by the LCG:
 - Participation and Engagement - £62k
 - Direct Payment and Personal Health Budget Development Officer - £40k
 - Wellbeing Representatives (Third Sector Reablement Representatives) - £216k
 - Occupational Therapy Support to Disable Facilities Grant Backlog - £60k
- The following key measures are proposed to support flow and to ensure that people can leave acute settings and be supported in the community:
 - Recruitment – costs to be confirmed
 - Care Hours - £160k
 - Live in Care - £175k
 - Weslin Care Home Beds with RUH - £484k
 - Third Sector Support – No additional cost
 - Complex Discharge and Health Assessment Support - £29k

(A copy of the presentation slides is attached as an appendix to these minutes).

Judith Westcott then responded to questions as follows:

- Key areas of development have been identified.
- There are opportunities to draw different strands together and there is scope to improve links with primary care.
- Virgin Care is carrying out a lot of work to assist people in their own homes and to ensure that the right support is provided. PCN roles are a key part of this.

The following issues were discussed:

- Although organisations are working hard for “quick wins” it is vital to have a long-term workforce strategy as the system is under great pressure.
- Social prescribing is an area that could be considered, and Board members encouraged there to be good monitoring and partnership working to support the wellbeing representative scheme.
- A focus on Occupational Therapy (OT) is desperately needed as there are currently long waits for OT visits. There are currently many OT vacancies, and it will be necessary to be creative about these roles. Seven day a week working may help.
- There could be opportunities to discuss with the local universities what skills will be required in the future with a view to creating local training programmes. Innovative solutions are required.
- Some of the emergency measures that have been required over the last 18 months have provided helpful learning opportunities.

RESOLVED:

- (1) To note the contents of the report.
- (2) To approve the new Better Care Funding applications as outlined in paragraph 5 of the report and to note the issues discussed.
- (3) To approve the recommendation to repurpose Better Care Fund funding from schemes that have underspent against their 2021/22 quarter 1 projections as outlined in paragraph 6 of the report.

17 **CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUB-GROUP REPORT**

The Board considered a report which set out the progress made against priorities. There has been positive delivery against all priority areas.

Sarah McCluskey, Strategic Commissioning Officer, presented the report. The four key outcomes are that:

- Children and young people are safe
- Children and young people are healthy
- Children and young people have fair life chances
- Children and young people are engaged citizens in their own community

Work is taking place with third sector services to ensure that good systems are in place. Officers are also working to address planned intervention programmes which can help children at risk of exclusion from school. This will provide support to child protection plans, a virtual school, the inclusion team and trauma support.

It was noted that there has been significant pressure on schools and families over the last year due to the covid-19 pandemic which is having an impact. One of the key priority areas is SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

The following issues were then discussed:

- The Board welcomed the progress made. Services have seen an increase in young people seeking support. Concern was expressed at the gap in early mental health support provision.
- The mental health transformation plan is now in place and additional support programmes will be provided in schools. It is important to continue to focus on this issue.
- It was noted that a large number of Curo tenants have mental health problems and this continues to be a challenge.
- The third sector is also witnessing increasing cases of self-harm and suicide ideation.
- It was suggested that public sector organisations could provide opportunities for vulnerable children and young people to gain employment which could lead to long-term change. Apprenticeships are available and there are plans to recruit a third Young Ambassador.
- The Board thanked officers for all the work they have undertaken to help young people over the last year despite the challenging circumstances.

- A key priority for the Board is the improvement of mental health across the whole age spectrum. The CCG has a programme board which is considering this issue as it is creating a pressure point. It is important to consider how best to provide early intervention and there should be a B&NES-wide discussion on this topic.

RESOLVED:

- (1) To note the Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) refresh for 2021-2022 and agree the CYP Sub-Group recommendation that the current plan is further extended until March 2023.
- (2) To note and approve the Children and Young People Plan Year 3 Review progress report on the priorities identified in the plan for 2018-2021.
- (3) To agree to include the CYP sub-committee in the development of the next Health and wellbeing Board Strategy (which will help to inform the next CYPP).
- (4) To approve the amended terms of reference for the CYP sub-committee.
- (5) To note the pressures across the system of meeting the emotional health and wellbeing needs of children and young people currently, especially given the impact of Covid. These pressures are felt especially in regard to meeting the emotional health and wellbeing needs of the more vulnerable children and young people, and the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- (6) To note the pressures on the capacity for SEND pupils within B&NES both special and mainstream schools and the fact that there is potential for this pressure to increase as the number of requests for Needs Assessments and the number of Education Health and Care Plans are increasing each year.
- (7) To note that there is an increase in capacity within B&NES in relation to pupils with EHCPs with a primary need of Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties in that Aspire Academy is expanding to a maximum of 84 places in 2022/23 and then a further increase to 120 places in 2023/24.
- (8) To note the reports from the Head of the Education Inclusion Service and the update regarding the SEND Education Strategy.

18 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting will take place on 30 November 2021.

The meeting ended at 11.45 am

Chair

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services