

**Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel,
Tuesday, 18th January 2022, 10.00 am**

Lead Member PDS Report

Schools – CV19, additional measures & vaccine progress – co 2 monitors have been supplied to schools. Eligible schools can also apply for air purifiers, this is limited availability at present, special schools with vulnerable pupils can apply for these as a priority. We will continue to monitor this situation with our schools via our weekly meetings with the DFE.

The majority of schools supported to manage cases and outbreaks since the latter half of last term have been primary schools and some early years settings. Outbreaks in secondary schools have decreased substantially since September, although since January there has been some increase in covid-19 cases in early years and education settings overall.
Summary: outbreaks in primary schools is high but relatively stable, and the situation in secondary schools is improving overall.

On 7th January the SW Directors of Public Health sent a consensus statement to schools outlining that additional advice and actions previously issued continues to be relevant and necessary. This includes continued use of good infection prevention and control, reducing mixing between groups of students and staff where possible, continued efforts with testing and vaccination and use of face coverings where guidance suggests.

To date we have not advised a school move to remote learning on health protection grounds. In previous times of high prevalence (particularly before Christmas) we have seen schools move to online learning for business continuity reasons due to staffing pressures and a lack of agency staff, so we expect to continue to see this impact on early years and education settings this term as we are continuing to see staff cases.

Most children aged 12-15 are eligible to receive two doses of the Covid-19 vaccination. Children can book first or second vaccination appointments through the National Booking Service, find a walk-in vaccination site to get vaccinated without an appointment, or get the vaccine at school. The school aged immunisation service will attend most schools between February and April to vaccinate eligible children where they have a positive consent and will offer first and second doses.

Free School Meals - I am pleased to announce that B&NES will continue to ensure that free school meals vouchers continue to be provided over the holiday periods. These were distributed over Christmas 2021. Provision will also continue over the February half term, communications with schools and families will begin shortly.

Culverhay Plans for ongoing education delivery on the Culverhay site are progressing. A feasibility study on the building/relocating of our Alternative Provision is underway. This will help inform our capital decisions on how best to deliver a new AP school on the site. We have also set up a working group to progress our desire to see Vocational provision on the site for 14-18-year-olds. This is alongside Bath college and critical stakeholders from the Economy and Skill sectors.

Healthier lifestyles - on 4th January the government relaunched its 'Better Health' campaign to support people to develop healthier habits for the New Year ahead. This includes losing weight, becoming more active, quitting smoking and drinking less alcohol. The campaign will run across TV, radio, social media and in the community directing people to the [Better Health website](#). The local authority is supporting this campaign through promotion of our [local wellbeing services](#) for weight management, support to stop smoking and [alcohol services](#)

Sexual health - as part of the broader sexual health strategy, consultation on improving the B&NES C-card (condom scheme), SAFE (quality standard) scheme and website is now live:

- <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/C-cardscheme>
- <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SAFEscheme>

Drug and Alcohol Services – several pieces of work have recently been completed all aimed at continuing to improve drug and alcohol prevention and treatment provision including; creation of a pathway and action plan for people with blood-borne viruses, delivery of Alcohol Awareness and Think Family training, and drug and alcohol services benefiting from government detox funding made available to enhance harm reduction interventions and deliver outreach to harder to reach communities.

The National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC).

I previously updated you on B&NES commitment to reaching our target of 0.07% of the child population, which equates to approximately 27 children and young people in total, as part of The National Transfer Scheme for Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC). B&NES currently has 6 UASC young people and are working to accommodate a further 4 people.

B&NES Practice Week.

I was delighted to be able to take part in the 2nd practice week, the week of November 22nd, 2021, the theme was Children in Need. I was able to spend time with a social worker visiting a family and observing excellent social work practice first-hand. The introduction of Practice Weeks in 2021 has supported identifying areas of strength and areas for development, as well as important direct feedback from families groups.

Independent Review of Children's Social Care

I am delighted to confirm that I met with the design team as part of the 3-day visit to B&NES in November 21. There was a mix of 1-1 meetings, roundtables, and visits to explore some themes already identified in the Case for Change. All 10 Local Authorities will be invited to a feedback session in February 2022, when a set of recommendations will be shared. The final report will be shared with PDS.

System Pressures

I previously updated you on the demand pressure across all Children Services and specifically in safeguarding part of Children's Social Care .I can advise that Senior Leaders meet weekly to review demands and plan accordingly.

Ofsted

I can confirm that B&NES had their “Annual Conversation” with Ofsted Colleagues on January 11th, 2022. A letter will be shared with the Local Authority in due course. Ofsted confirmed they have resumed their schools and Local Authority inspections. Neighbouring LA's had Ofsted focused visits prior to Christmas 2021.

Family Hubs

I am pleased to announce that B&NES submitted a bid for The Family Hubs Local Transformation Fund on December 17th, 2021. The FDE programme will fund at least 12 LAs and is worth approximately £12m over the next two financial years (£4m programme and £400k capital in 2022-2023; and £5.8m programme and £1.6m capital in 2023-2024). LAs can apply for **up to £1 million** transformation funding, comprising of:

- up to £833k available for programme expenditure per LA
- up to £167k available in capital expenditure per LA

B&NES has made the commitment to develop our Children's Centres into Family Hubs. A successful funding bid would enable us to deliver this pledge at pace, realising this goal more quickly. The Assessment of applications will take place between January – February and decisions announced March 2022.