

**Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel,  
Tuesday, 5th July 2022, 10.00 am**

**Lead Member PDS Report**

**Items for Cabinet Members**

**Examinations & supporting the performance of our vulnerable pupils**

For the first time in two years, young people in B&NES will have begun to sit their GCSE and A-Level Examinations and Primary children will have received their SATs. We wish all of them the best of luck.

As things have returned to normal and in line with DFE advice, we will begin to collect the results of our children's education performance, this will include highlights of GCSE & A Level Performance in the August of this year and an examination of all Education results in time for PDS in March 2023.

We expect Schools in B&NES for most pupils to perform well and above national averages. As ever, we will be keeping a close eye on the performance of our disadvantaged cohort of children.

Despite the pandemic, we have continued to work on developing strategies for this group of children to achieve in line with their peers. As previously reported to PDS, Officers in the LA have worked alongside the St. Johns Foundation to develop specific programmes to improve the results of our disadvantaged cohort of children.

**Early Years**

In the Early Years, our Language Life Programme is in its second year and we will look to see some early results of the impact of this programme later this summer.

<https://blogs.stjohnsbath.org.uk/blog/language-for-life-initiative-launches-for-under-5s>

**Targeted Intervention**

St Johns, with the support of the LA, has rolled out their Primary Empowerment programme, aimed at seven schools in B&NES with the most significant disadvantaged gap; this programme is coming to the end of its first full year of implementation. The programme is valued by the schools involved and we will share any formal learning as we receive it.

<https://blogs.stjohnsbath.org.uk/blog/primary-empowerment-programme-begins>

**Whole area approach**

Finally, the Local Authority is embarking on an area-wide programme to understand why our disadvantaged children don't achieve as well as they can and how we can improve this.

This Improving Disadvantage Educational Outcomes Programme (IDEOP) has developed with school colleagues and LA officers and is supported by the St John's foundation as joint commissioners.

The first phase of this programme is the discovery & research phase. This phase is being commissioned and interviews are held to appoint the most appropriate provider for B&NES for the start of the next academic year. The second phase will oversee the implementation of learning and the third phase will consider impact and recommendations.

## **Virtual School**

You will remember from previous updates that our Virtual School has successfully delivered a pilot to expand its role to support Children in Need and Children on Child Protection Plans. This was completed and the outcomes were feedback to the DFE. Following this, the DFE provided all LA's with funding to roll out this expansion across the country in the academic year 2021/22. Again this funding has been given to LA's with the expectation that this expansion will become a permanent feature of the Virtual School. This development would be very welcome.

## **Refugee and Asylum Seeker children**

We continue to receive children from Ukraine via our Homes 4 Ukraine Scheme. We are liaising closely with our Academy school colleagues and have I have chaired an online event for Host families, which included a briefing on the admissions process. We have yet to receive DFE funding and guidance for these children, but we are hopeful that it will arrive before the end of term.

## **Independent Care Review**

The final report of the Independent Care Review has been published and within it makes numerous recommendations with regard to a 'dramatic whole system reset'. It is suggested that it is a once in a generation opportunity to reset children's social care. Furthermore, it is proposed that the implementation of the recommendations be delivered at pace and with determination through a single five year reform programme. The government have announced that they will publish their response to the review and recommendations in the autumn 2022

## **Keynsham Civic Centre**

Children's Services returned to Keynsham Civic Centre on 18/06/22- staff have welcomed the return to the newly refurbished office and the opportunity to sit within teams and colleagues across the council.

## **Early Help Conference**

There is an Early Help Conference taking place on 12/07/22- there is an excellent agenda with a guest speaker from the Early Help Foundation and most importantly hearing from some families that access our services. Agenda attached, register interest with Lynett White [Lynett\\_White@BATHNES.GOV.UK](mailto:Lynett_White@BATHNES.GOV.UK)

## **1. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (also called the Strategic Evidence Base)**

The updated Strategic Evidence Base to inform local decision making will be published at the end of June / beginning of July. The following information and evidence will be published:

- Main document containing summaries of a variety of topics, c.130 pages
- Summary slide set
- Infographic summary document

- Background documents, e.g. adult substance misuse needs assessment from 2019, mental health needs assessment, etc.

#### Summary for B&NES:

- The overall picture of the population remains positive, with good outcomes
  - But these outcomes are not equally experienced, with existing inequalities still evident
- We are experiencing rapid changes in demand for services in the context of a national cost of living challenge
- We are also forecasting growth in housing, transport and employment, in the context of a commitment to reduce our carbon emissions, an ageing population and reducing wages
- It is still too soon to understand the longer term impact of the pandemic
  - But there is increasing evidence of worsening mental health and wellbeing
- We also have a lot more to learn...

## 2. Monkeypox

The Monkeypox (MPXV) outbreak in the UK continues to grow, and as of Sunday 26 June, there were 1,076 confirmed cases in the UK. Of these, 11 were in South West England. The number of cases by local authority is not being published at this time. Cases are expected to continue to rise further in the coming days and weeks. Currently the majority of cases have been in men who are gay, bisexual or have sex with men. However, anyone who has had close contact with an individual with symptoms is also at increased risk.

In B&NES, the diagnosis and treatment of any local MPXV cases is led by our sexual and reproductive health (SRH) service, the Riverside Clinic: this has been nationally mandated because SRH services are heavily experienced in viral diagnosis, analysis and contact tracing, and already have an infrastructure in place that is better placed to manage this type of infectious virus than other healthcare settings. Secondly, whilst Monkeypox can affect anyone, to date the vast majority of cases across England have been in men who identify as Gay, Bisexual or who have sex with other men, many of whom already have good contact and relationships with their SRH service.

Riverside Clinic has adapted its assessment and triage procedures to ensure that B&NES residents with MPXV symptoms can be identified and prioritised. This, along with implementing necessary infection control measures within the clinic and the ongoing identification of possible cases however are causing a substantially increased workload. As a result, Riverside is deprioritising some non-essential SRH care for B&NES residents to ensure they have capacity to cope with Monkeypox demand. The main impact is that B&NES residents may find our SRH service less accessible than they have been used to whilst the Monkeypox situation continues. For example, they may have to wait longer for non-urgent SRH appointments at Riverside.

All SRH clinics across the country are experiencing the same challenge as we are locally. The B&NES Public Health and Preventative Services team is working with Riverside, B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG, UK Health Security Agency and the British Association of Sexual Health and HIV to share good practice guidance and provide wider support. However we expect that SRH services, including Riverside locally, will continue to

be involved in MPXV work for at least the next six months, so these significant pressures will continue to be a factor for some time. Work is ongoing to ensure that vulnerable people, and cases of urgent SRH need can continue to be seen. We will continue to closely monitor the local epidemiology of MPXV cases and their impact on Riverside Clinic and will keep you updated as the situation progresses.

### **3. Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG)**

The SSMTR Grant has been awarded to B&NES council to directly address the aims of the treatment and recovery section of the UK Government's 2021 [drug strategy](#) published on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021. SSMTR Grant funding aims to support improvements in the quality and capacity of drug and alcohol treatment 2022/23 to 2024/25. B&NES has been successful in securing £322,760 (in 2022/23) from the Department of Health & Social Care revenue funding, which represents the first year of grant funding allocated in the Spending Review Settlement. This funding is managed by the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) and is awarded for the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant (SSMTR Grant). In line with the national drug strategy the funding will support the increase in the number of treatment places, prevent drug misuse and alcohol related deaths, optimise access to treatment for individuals referred from custody suites, courts and prisons and increase provision of residential rehabilitation. It will result in more people in treatment and ultimately in long-term recovery from substance dependence.

### **4. Children and young people**

- The Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Survey is currently underway and 100% of secondary schools have completed it. Results are due in July. 74% of primary schools are now completing the questionnaires and results are due in September.
- B&NES continues to be the lead provider for the BSW Senior Mental Health Leads training. DfE data shows that engagement from B&NES schools (40%) is above that of England as a whole (35%). The programme was recently selected by the DfE for a deep dive evaluation and was rated as meeting all the quality standards with notice taken of the "*localised and tailored approach, grounded in a strong understanding of the local context*"
- A new Refugee Support section has been developed and added to the Early Help App. The [Early Help App survey](#) is still live until the end of August.
- The Take Action Today, Put them Away Campaign was launched during Child Safety Week by the B&NES Injury Prevention Partnership (a recording is available at <https://vimeo.com/720324117>). This is a national campaign aimed at preventing accidental poisoning at home and partners are now actively handing out resources and going through safety checklists with families.
- The Holiday Activity Food summer holiday programme is currently being finalised and bookings will be open on 1<sup>st</sup> July. There are 13 providers delivering varied and engaging activities and new programmes will be delivered in Peasedown and Paulton.

### **5. Leisure services**

As part for the Tennis Participation Strategy, the tennis courts in Alice Park, Sydney Gardens and Keynsham Memorial Park have been refurbished at a cost of £600,000. An operator, West of England Sports Trust (Wesport), has been appointed who is responsible

for providing coaching and engagement programmes plus general maintenance. The courts have seen significant usage since the programme started in August 2021 with over 4300 people using the courts and a range of children and adult coaching programmes offered.

Odd Down Sports Ground is one of five sites managed by GLL in B&NES and currently includes a 1.5km cycle track, a 3G pitch, grass pitches, a cricket square and a car park. A new gym, a fitness studio doubling as community space, a climbing facility and Padel tennis courts are among the proposed improvements for this site. The new studio and gym are hoped to encourage more daytime visitors to enjoy the site and to be active. The studio would also be used as a space for community events. An additional pedestrian and cycle entrance, linking up with an accessible path around the site, will make the site easier for people to visit on foot or by bike. The project is a collaboration between the council and its leisure partner Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL). Plans are currently out to public consultation. <http://new-banes-website-dev/odd-down-sports-ground-development-consultation/introduction-and-policy-background>

## **6. Violence Reduction Unit update**

The work of the VRU is becoming more embedded following the announcement that it will be funded for another 3 years. B&NES will receive £178,086 this year (and a possible further £112,503 in each of the next 2 years, based on funding predictions from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner). Our local ambition, as part of the wider Community Safety and Safeguarding partnership, remains that local people should lead lives free of serious violence and we work across a wide partnership, focusing on preventative work with children but also looking to support others affected, including those with a street-based lifestyle. Last year saw a number of key developments in B&NES, including the appointment of a dedicated Co-ordinator, Sophia McKenzie, and a number of initiatives such as a project to support children at high risk of school exclusion, a pilot mentoring project and initial roll out of trauma informed awareness training. We were pleased to bring together the agencies we have worked with in our first serious violence conference to share learning, held online with over 130 professional participants, and opened by the Police and Crime Commissioner, Mark Shelford.

The latest needs assessment highlighted continuing concern about girls' involvement in serious violence, and the risks of exploitation into criminal activity including violence for children who are not engaged in school.. However, it also showed that reported knife crime has reduced in the last 12 months, as has serious violence overall, bucking a wider trend across Avon and Somerset. The Serious Violence Steering Group has signed off a work plan that includes procurement of continuing detached youth work in hotspot areas and a lived experience mentoring project. We would also like to work with the RUH to introduce a 'teachable moments' project, offering screening, information, sign posting and follow up contact to those who have been harmed by serious violence.

As we are already engaged in this work, we are well placed to meet the requirements of the new serious violence duty being introduced through the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The national consultation is now live and runs until 21 July.