

**Children, Adults, Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel,
Tuesday, 8th November 2022, 10.00 am**

Lead Member PDS Report

I am pleased that you will have received a number of reports today with regards to children and young people- Music service, IRO report and Education Report.

You have also received the DCS 6 month update today, which provides detail on the excellent work underway across Children's Services to ever improve the outcomes for children, young people and families across B&NES.

Young People's Awards 2022

I had the pleasure of attending and "closing" the Youth Connect South West Awards evening on 2/11/2022. The awards showcased the outstanding personal effort by young people though another tough year. A range of awards were presented to include young volunteer award, apprenticeship award, student placement and special recognition award. It was wonderful to see these young people and their families celebrate their achievements. Youth Connect South West spun out from the Local Authority as a Staff Mutual 3 years and it is evident that they have gone from strength to strength.

SEND Review, Care Review & Education White Paper

I understand that the government is expected to respond to the recommendations from each review in December 2022. I will update panel accordingly.

Early Years investment

The DFE announced £180 million investment to improve children's development in the early years on 20/10/2022. Thousands of early years professionals will benefit from investment to drive quality and training, and to better support the next generation of children.

Every region in England will benefit from programmes to improve teaching of children's early speech, language and numeracy, along with professional development to build strong leadership skills and improve the understanding of children's development. New opportunities will also be provided for graduates looking to embark on a career in early years teaching, as well as staff looking to train as early years special educational needs co-ordinators (SENCOs).

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/180-million-to-improve-childrens-development-in-the-early-years>

Further information will be made available as we understand the increased offer in B&NES

B&NES Living Safely and Fairly with COVID-19 Plan

A B&NES Living Safely and Fairly with Covid-19 Plan has been developed through consultation with partners and based on national guidance. This plan replaces the previous B&NES Local Outbreak Management Plan and reflects the national move from an acute response to COVID-19, to learning to live safely and fairly with the virus. The aim of the plan is:

- to enable the residents of Bath and North East Somerset to live safely and fairly with COVID-19
- through the Council, partners, and communities working together
- and by retaining resilience and capabilities to respond to new variants, outbreaks and any resurgence of COVID-19

Through the plan we will ensure the following:

- A joined-up approach to the prevention and control of COVID-19 infection
- We seek to protect those individuals, communities and settings that remain more vulnerable to COVID-19
- A focus on reducing inequalities as we recover from the pandemic, so that we ensure more equal outcomes for our whole population
- Local resilience and capacity to flex up the response in the event of outbreaks and/or new variants that pose an additional threat to public health, or any national resurgence of COVID-19
- Robust communications and engagement with communities and partners, informed by intelligence and behavioural insights approaches
- Effective surveillance and monitoring to inform the early identification and proactive management of potential outbreaks, and to inform how we prioritise our resources i.e. the targeting of vaccination outreach clinics

The Plan has four strands to it: Prevent and Protect; Surveillance and Monitoring; Respond; and Communications and Engagement.

Please see below Plan on a Page (next page)

Plan on a page

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Improving People's Lives

How we will live safely and fairly with COVID-19 in Bath & North East Somerset

Prevent and protect

- Safer behaviours i.e. maintaining regular and good handwashing, “catch it bin it kill it”, stay at home if unwell
- Vaccination
- Community resilience; communities have the resources and expertise to prepare for, respond to and recover from threats
- Addressing inequalities

Surveillance and monitoring

- Use of national, regional and system-wide surveillance
- Local gathering of intelligence i.e. to support vaccination uptake



Respond: outbreak management response

- Support to higher-risk settings
- Testing and treatment
- Preparedness to flex up the response

Communications and engagement

- Local campaigns
- Use of behavioural insights; to encourage good choices by communities
- Work with communities

A more detailed summary of the B&NES plan is on the internet and can be found [here](#).

Oversight of response to COVID-19 and delivery of the plan lies with the generic B&NES Health Protection Board.