

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET

CHILDREN, ADULTS, HEALTH AND WELLBEING POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Monday, 5th February, 2024

Present:- Councillors Dine Romero (Chair), Liz Hardman (Vice-Chair), Alex Beaumont, Toby Simon, Dave Harding, Lesley Mansell, Joanna Wright and Ruth Malloy

Co-opted Members (non-voting): Chris Batten and Kevin Burnett

Also in attendance: Suzanne Westhead (Director of Adult Social Care), Rebecca Reynolds (Director of Public Health), Christopher Wilford (Director of Education), Ann Smith (Assistant Director - Operations), Ceri Williams (Policy Development & Scrutiny Officer), Laura Ambler (Place Director, BSW Integrated Care Board), Martin Pellow (Head of Leisure & Physical Activity), Chris Chatten (Project Manager – Leisure & Physical Activity) and Rosemary Collard (Head of the Education Inclusion Service)

Cabinet Member for Adult Services: Councillor Alison Born

Cabinet Member for Children’s Services: Councillor Paul May

82 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

83 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure.

84 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTIONS

Councillor Paul Crossley and Councillor Michelle O’Doherty had sent their apologies to the Panel. Councillor Toby Simon was present as a substitute.

85 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

86 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There was none.

87 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC OR COUNCILLORS - TO RECEIVE STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BUSINESS OF THIS MEETING

There were none.

88 MINUTES: 15TH JANUARY 2024

Councillor Liz Hardman referred to minute 75 (Development of the Draft Budget 2024/25) and asked that the comment made by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services referring to the use of consultants be included.

Towards the end of the discussion of the report Councillor Paul May said that he wanted to clearly outline what we are doing both in finance and service terms so that we can have a medium term plan that shows that we are moving forward in getting our budgets down.

He added that in terms of early intervention work, there were possibly different ways in which this could progressed and that work was ongoing with the Director of Children's Services and Education and Ernst & Young, consultants working with the Council, on how information can be presented in a more effective way in the future.

Kevin Burnett stated that he was still awaiting a detailed response to his safeguarding query from the Director of Education & Safeguarding.

The Panel, with these comments in mind, confirmed the minutes of the previous meeting as a true record and they were duly signed by the Chair.

89 CABINET MEMBER UPDATE

The Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Councillor Alison Born addressed the Panel, a summary of her update is set out below and will be attached as an online appendix to these minutes.

Adult Social Care Performance at end of December 2023

The number of people with long-term services funded by Adult Social Care (ASC) at the end of December was 1,818. This was a reduction of 53 on the previous figure of 1,872 because there were more people on interim funding at that time. Those individuals are likely to become ASC funded once their interim funding comes to an end.

601 carers were identified as receiving support from services that are funded wholly or in part by Adult Social Care. This shows a significant increase from 406 carers reported previously as we are now including people supported through the carers centre in our figures.

Occupational Therapy assessments continue to be a focus of high demand however through robust waiting list management the numbers waiting has reduced from 247 people waiting to 194 people the lowest figure for 18 months. All referrals are risk rated and prioritised accordingly and people waiting have a point of contact should their needs become more urgent.

Finance

The ASC savings target for 23/24 was £5.45m, all of which has been achieved apart from a proportion of the savings earmarked for the LD pool where savings have been

contingent on a review process that we continue to work through. The actions taken to reduce expenditure since Q2 have improved the budget position for Adult Social Care. We will be making some use of reserves and are now forecasting an overspend of £1.389m at year end.

This year's budget setting has been extremely challenging because funding for Council's falls far short of what is required to meet needs. However, both adults and children's services are receiving a net investment in revenue budgets in 2024/5 to reflect cost pressures and rising demand; together with significant capital investment that will enable more services to be provided within the local area.

Since the January meeting, additional short term funding has been identified to enable a full review of commissioned services to inform any proposed reductions to funding for third sector provision. We are aware of the government's recent announcement of an additional £500m funding for social care, but no further information has been forthcoming so we do not know what impact this may have on budgets within Bath and North East Somerset.

Workforce

We are not recruiting new staff to the three care homes and the 5 extra care facilities while we await the outcome of the consultation on the three care homes. This is to ensure that we have roles for all our staff if the decision should be taken to close the remaining 10 beds at Charlton House.

We continue to need more Occupational Therapists and have just begun an Occupational Therapy apprenticeship to help grow our own staff.

ASC Provider Services Update

United Care B&NES Home Care service (UCB) was developed in 2021/22 due to the lack of capacity in the Domiciliary care market and the high number of people delayed in hospital.

However, since 2022 the local home care market has changed, there is more provision available now and the providers are in competition for work.

There are 18 people currently using the UCB and the pilot which is due to end in June is being reviewed. It is unlikely to continue as both the NHS and the Council are able to meet demand for home care through the independent sector.

Councillor Liz Hardman said that it was good that a full review of commissioned services was due to take place and would welcome the Panel receiving further information as it progresses. She said that this was important as they provide some of our statutory services.

She also referred to the Community & Wellbeing Hub and its current funding status until the end of March 2025. She asked who would be involved in the discussion over its future, strongly suggested that representatives from 3SG should be involved and said that adequate timing must be given so that those involved are aware of the future plans.

Councillor Born replied that the review would take place over the next year and had always been planned ahead of the recent budget decisions. She stated the Council has every intention to work with the third sector on these upcoming proposals.

The Director of Adult Social Care added that the Council needs to maintain its Care Act compliance and will work with the third sector to ensure that. She added that the Council as a whole does not have the same amount of funds in place as previous years and said that savings would still need to be made to the budget for commissioned services, but they were looking to lessen it as much as possible.

She explained that since the January meeting they had managed to reduce the proposed savings from £802k to £400k and would be working with partners to consider what options can be pursued. She added that there is no intention for this to be a 'cliff edge' saving.

Kevin Burnett asked if the lack of Occupational Therapists was having any impact on hospital discharge figures.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that the B&NES right to reside figures were the best in the BSW footprint and were not affected by delays to Occupational Health Assessments. She added that the main source of delay was around equipment, that a plan is in place with HCRG and that numbers are reducing.

The Assistant Director – Operations added that the Occupational Therapy apprenticeship programme should enable an increase in staffing.

Kevin Burnett referred to the United Care B&NES Home Care service and asked why had the market changed and is it a premature decision to end the pilot.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that the commissioning market had changed following the Covid pandemic and that there were now a range of small and large providers that were more person centred. She added that the pilot had worked really well for the time that it has been in place.

Councillor Ruth Malloy asked how many placements were available for the Occupational Therapy apprenticeships, how long would the course be and would it be aimed at post A-Level students.

The Assistant Director – Operations replied that they were about to advertise for three placements and that this would be done in partnership with the University of the West of England. She said that they would in the first instance be offered to any existing Occupational Therapy Assistants who were looking to progress their career.

She added that it would be a three year course and would combine a mixture of learning on sites and studying at the university.

Councillor Joanna Wright said that she was pleased to hear that following the budget discussion at the January Panel that talks with the third sector were ongoing and stated that this should have happened a lot earlier.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that a strategic review of the commissioned services had always been planned to take place during 2024 and that the budget proposals had been made because of the low Local Government Settlement that had been received. She said that the Council did not want to be in this position, but had to take steps to mitigate the situation that it is in.

Kate Morton, CEO, Bath Mind addressed the Panel and said that they had no knowledge of any proposed cuts until around 15th December 2023 and had therefore been hit quite hard by the proposed funding arrangements.

Becky Brooks, Director, 3SG addressed the Panel and said in terms of future work that any potential new contracts should be in place by September 2024 and that the third sector need to be involved in these ongoing discussions.

Councillor Joanna Wright asked for confirmation that nobody would be removed from their individually commissioned beds.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that any change in provision would follow on from an individual having had a Care Act Assessment.

The Assistant Director – Operations added that nobody would be forced to move from their existing provision and a decision would not be taken purely in relation to costs.

Councillor Wright commented that she was concerned over the rising costs associated with temporary accommodation and said that money should not be spent on using hotels as a solution.

Councillor Alison Born replied that this issue was not directly within her remit, but was aware that new facilities for this were due to be opening soon within B&NES.

The Chair suggested that the Panel received an update on their previous homelessness report at a future meeting.

She thanked the Cabinet Member on behalf of the Panel for her update.

90 B&NES, SWINDON & WILTSHIRE INTEGRATED CARE BOARD (BSW ICB) UPDATE

Laura Ambler, Director of Place, B&NES, BSW ICB addressed the Panel, a summary of the update is set out below and a copy of the full document will be attached as an online appendix to these minutes.

Prescriptions Ordering Direct Service

The Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Prescription Ordering Direct (POD) service, which allows some patients to arrange their repeat medication by phone or email, is set to discontinue in its current form later in the year, with the practices and care homes that use the system offering repeat prescribing instead. It

is expected that POD will close on or before 30 June 2024, although this date may change as plans are formed and formal timeframes agreed.

People who regularly use POD are advised to continue ordering their medicines in the usual way through POD, and not to order any more than is needed.

Improving cancer early diagnosis and survival in BSW

The NHS is working hard to save thousands more lives each year by dramatically improving how cancer is diagnosed and treated and there is some great work going on here at BSW ICB to help improve support for people with cancer.

One of the two national ambitions for cancer is to ensure more of those people who are found to have cancer, are diagnosed and treated while it is at an earlier stage, as this means that treatment is often less complex, more successful and people live longer after treatment and with fewer long-term effects. We have been doing a lot of work across BSW to help deliver this national ambition.

Councillor Toby Simon drew attention to the new screening programme for Jewish people for BRCA mutations and hoped that this would be included in the community engagement programme.

Councillor Dave Harding asked if there was sufficient capacity within the Cancer services for receiving additional patients and asked if the Panel could be assured that standards were being achieved as he was aware that they only have to report nationally on 3 targets rather than the previous 9.

Laura Ambler replied that she would be happy to bring back a full update on this matter to the Panel and would set out as much detail as possible within that report.

Kevin Burnett referred to HIP2 and asked what of future estates needs identified in 2021/22 has the ICB adopted.

Laura Ambler replied that the care model for Shaping a Healthier Future developed into the care model now in place for the ICB which focusses on personalised care within their community. She added that they were currently working with colleagues in Primary Care on how best to utilise and plan on the future use of estates and delivery of care.

Kevin Burnett asked if an update could be provided from the ICB on the future funding for the Community Wellbeing Hub as at the present time no secure funding was in place post March 2025.

Laura Ambler replied that the Hub is a significant part of their work and that its ongoing use needs to be a sustainable model. She added that they will continue to work with the third sector regarding provision and that they recognise and welcome their work and input.

Councillor Ruth Malloy asked if Macmillan Cancer Support would have space to provide their services within the new Dyson Cancer Centre.

Laura Ambler replied that they will have a base within the centre and that it will also look to provide therapeutic services within the centre.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked if the ICB would still be putting funds in place to support the running of the Community Wellbeing Hub and would they be involved in the review of services from 3SG.

Laura Ambler replied that they were looking to build on the foundations of the good work that has been achieved, but recognise that this needs to be a sustainable model to provide certainty to all concerned. She said that the ICB were committed to continue to work with the Council and the third sector on this.

The Chair asked how any pharmacy closures would affect local GP's. She added whether any comment could be given on the role of Physician Assistants within GP surgeries.

Laura Ambler replied that they are working with local pharmacists and Primary Care colleagues regarding funding settlements and levels of activity. She added that it is well recognised the pressure that a great number of staff are working under.

She added that she would need to reply at a later date regarding Physician Assistants as she did not have that information to hand.

The Chair referred to the Dental College in Bristol and asked that the ICB assess whether B&NES can benefit from the work that is being carried out there or whether B&NES should consider something similar.

Laura Ambler replied that the college in Bristol was now open and operational and that they would work with colleagues across Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) to look at how the area can benefit as a whole.

The Chair referred to a report that had been published on the worsening health and mortality rates of children under five in the UK and suggested the Panel consider receiving a future report on the issue.

Laura Ambler replied that it was a worrying report that contained information relating to mortality, teeth extractions and obesity amongst other issues. She said that there is a Children & Young People Programme Board within the ICB and that this was a priority issue for them and would bring an update to the Panel on their initiatives to a future meeting.

The Director of Public Health suggested that a joint paper on this subject be prepared for the Panel.

The Chair on behalf of the Panel thanked Laura Ambler for the update report.

91 COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRES - OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION

Councillor Alison Born, Cabinet Member for Adult Services introduced the report to the Panel and highlighted the following sections from it.

- The online consultation took place between Thursday 9 November 2023 to 5pm on Monday 18 December 2023 and included the following proposals:
 - To develop Cleeve Court residential home into a centre of excellence for dementia care including nursing care.
 - To enhance our offer at Combe Lea residential home to enable younger people with more complex needs to remain closer to home.
 - To close (de-register) the remaining 10 places at Charlton House Nursing home and then develop the site to provide alternative care provision and/or housing options that would meet the needs of the local community now and into the future.
 - To offer community groups/charitable organisations use of the day centre spaces at the community resource centres at a reduced rental rate if the organisations offer services that are accessible to the care home residents and the community.
- The Council received 45 submissions on the CRC proposals. Over half (53%) of responses were positive towards council proposals for CRCs, nearly a third (31%) disagreed and 16% were unsure.
- When considering those who supported the proposals, there was acknowledgement that the council needed to respond to the changing social care landscape, particularly around provision of specialist dementia nursing care. The importance of a stable workforce and its impact on morale, service provision and budget were also recognised.
- The Scrutiny Panel is asked to give feedback to Cabinet on the following recommendations:
 - Recommendation 1: To develop Cleeve Court residential home into a centre of excellence for dementia care without nursing.
 - Recommendation 2: To enhance our offer at Combe Lea residential home to enable younger people with more complex needs to remain closer to home.
 - Recommendation 3: To de-register the remaining 10 places in use at Charlton House nursing home and then develop the site to provide a residential school for young people with complex needs.
 - Recommendation 4: To offer community groups/charitable organisations use of the day centre spaces at the community resource centres at a reduced rental rate.

- Recommendation 5: To commence a full feasibility study in relation to the change of use for Charlton House to a residential school.

The Director of Adult Social Care thanked all involved in the initial consultation, including staff, residents and the public. She added that no formal consultation would be able to take place with staff until a decision has been made by the Cabinet.

Councillor Alex Beaumont commented that as the elected representative of Keynsham North he was concerned that should the feasibility study not support a change of use to a residential school that the Council could lose an important resource in Charlton House. He asked if further information could be given on the proposals for the residential school.

The Head of the Education Inclusion Service replied that she had looked at the building alongside officers from Property Services and that it was felt that any required adaptations could be achieved.

She added that the configuration of Charlton House currently has bedrooms over two floors and that the proposed residential school would only need to use one of those floors. She said that kitchen and communal areas were already in place and that some work would be required to secure / update the outside area.

She said that the site would have the appearance of a school with a children's home attached to it and that there would be day attendees as well as residential placements. She added that the proposed school would be for use by young people with autism and behavioural issues in the main.

Councillor Beaumont asked if a timeline for the school could be given if the proposal is agreed.

The Head of the Education Inclusion Service replied that it was hoped that this could be achieved in as minimal time as possible, given that money has been allocated for the project. She added that the Council itself cannot open the school and that therefore would be a tender process involving the Multi Academy Trusts and the independent sector to establish who would run it.

She said that internal pre-planning discussions had begun with the Planning department so that officers could be prepared for the next stages if approval from the Cabinet is received. She added that it was hoped that the process could be concluded within 18 months.

The Assistant Director – Operations said that a notice period would begin for residents, relatives and staff following any decision that is made by the Cabinet on 8th February. She added that if the decision is to close Charlton House then it was anticipated that this would be done by the end of March 2024.

She said that a number of options for the use of the site were considered during the consultation process and that if approved this could also potentially help young people as they transition into Adult Social Care Services by being closer to the services they might want or need to access.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked why Charlton House was closing considering that a lot of effort had recently been put in to keep it open.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that it had taken a long time to reach this position, 2 years. She stated that the commissioning market has changed and that the demand at present was provision for children and young people with SEND. She added that it was felt that the more that can have services provided for them locally that it will deliver better outcomes.

She explained that the majority of residents within Charlton House were bed-bound and that if it were to close, they would be given as much support as possible.

Councillor Hardman asked how far down the road was the process currently to change the use into a residential school.

The Head of the Education Inclusion Service replied that in advance of any possible decision she had been to have a general look at the site with officers from Property Services and that some internal discussions have been held with Planning officers.

She added that day placements would be offered as well as residential use and that potentially it could be used for respite care.

Councillor Joanna Wright referred to section 4.8 of the report (If Members accept the recommendations in this report and in particular the decision to de-register Charlton House, Members must be satisfied that a better use of public resources can be achieved.) and asked if the budget was considered a priority in making this decision.

Councillor Alison Born replied that the Council has to be able to live within its means and that the budget was one of many factors considered as part of the process.

Councillor Wright asked if discussions have yet been held with staff at Charlton House about potential redundancies.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that communications with staff have taken place at each stage of the process, at the beginning and the end of the consultation and staff are aware that the matter is being discussed this week at both the Panel and the Cabinet. She added that no formal process has yet begun as a decision has yet to be formally made.

The Director of Adult Social Care added that there were enough vacancies within the CRC service for the 19 staff that work at Charlton House to apply for. She added that they could also discuss appropriate vacancies that exist across the Council.

She said that those staff that have stated a need to remain working in the Keynsham area will be assisted as much as possible.

Councillor Wright asked if the staff Unions have been or will be involved in the potential next stages of the process.

The Director of Adult Social Care read out the following wording that she had received on behalf of Unison.

'We don't have anything more to add at this point. We will await any decision regarding the status of the building first. Then we will look to negotiate with the Council regarding any changes to our Members' terms and conditions.'

The Head of the Education Inclusion Service explained that the feasibility study was regarding the use of the building (Charlton House) and any adaptations that will need to be made. She informed the Panel that through the Safety Valve Project, B&NES was offered the opportunity to bid for additional capital funding. The bid was based on catering for the highest need children and young people (CYP) that are currently placed residentially out of the area and funded through the Joint Agency Panel (JAP). She said the Council was successful in securing £4m towards the project with an additional £1m being allocated through the High Needs Grant allocation.

Councillor Lesley Mansell queried how the Organisational Change process has been followed if staff are only going to be consulted formally once the Cabinet decision has been made. She added that transparency of any decision must be in place and that meetings with staff must include a union representative.

She added that she did not doubt that the proposed support for children and young people was needed.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that a consultation with staff can't start officially until any decision has been taken by the Cabinet. She added that she had attended four meetings with staff as part of the process so far and was aware that others had been held with Heads of Service.

She assured the Panel that the Organisational Change process has been followed and that they have continued to recruit staff to Charlton House whilst it has remained open. She added that the Council has every intention to support and keep staff within B&NES.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson addressed the Panel and said that she believed that for a home the size of Charlton House a minimum of 20 beds need to be occupied to make it viable and it currently only has 10 in use. She added that she had spoken with the CEO of Youth Connect South West and that he was very supportive of the proposed new residential school.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to support the following recommendations to the Cabinet.

Recommendation 1: To develop Cleeve Court residential home into a centre of excellence for dementia care without nursing.

Recommendation 2: To enhance our offer at Combe Lea residential home to enable younger people with more complex needs to remain closer to home.

Recommendation 4: To offer community groups/charitable organisations use of the day centre spaces at the community resource centres at a reduced rental rate.

Recommendation 5: To commence a full feasibility study in relation to the change of use for Charlton House to a residential school.

Councillor Joanna Wright and Councillor Lesley Mansell abstained from voting on recommendation 5.

The majority of the Panel **RESOLVED** that they were not able to support recommendation 3 and those Members cited that they felt that they had not received enough information as to why Charlton House should close and that capacity of available spaces should be retained within the service.

They added that they were unhappy about the way the process had been conducted and felt that the decision had already been agreed prior to the consultation taking place.

They said that they would need to see further information of the costs related to this decision prior to it being made.

Recommendation 3: To de-register the remaining 10 places in use at Charlton House nursing home and then develop the site to provide a residential school for young people with complex needs.

The Chair asked for the Panel to receive further reports regarding this process following the decisions made by Cabinet on 8th February.

92 COMMUNITY SERVICES TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

Councillor Alison Born, Cabinet Member for Adult Services introduced the report to the Panel and highlighted the following sections from it.

- Bath and North-East Somerset Council (B&NES) and what is now the Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon & Wiltshire Integrated Care Board (BSW ICB) made a decision not to extend the HCRG Care Group contract for the three-year extension term in May 2022.
- The current B&NES Integrated Community Health and Care Contract will cease on 31 March 2024. The Council completed a detailed options appraisal, and a decision was taken to transfer Adult Social Care (ASC – Adult Social Work, Direct Payments and Adults with Learning Disabilities and Their Families) to B&NES Council in November 2022.
- Three programmes were set up to deliver Community Services Transformation across the Council and Integrated Care Board (ICB):
 - Programme One: Adult Social Care Redesign and Community Partners (Council led)
 - Programme Two: Public Health (Council led)
 - Programme Three: Integrated Community Based Care (Integrated Care Board led for Children's and Adults Health Services)

The Director of Adult Social Care said that they had worked closely with HCRG on this process and that they support the transition. She added that all buildings and computers would be prepared for the start date of 2nd April 2024 and that 28 days prior to this the Council would receive the list of staff members that are due to be transferred.

She explained that an engagement and communications plan was in place to keep staff informed.

Kevin Burnett commented that he recalled from a previous report that there was a key 'To do list' for this programme and asked if a framework for staff would be in place, was their sufficient resources and were there any areas of concern.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that a new operation model was in place, although they want staff to be able to continue to do their current roles. She added that she did not think that there were any hidden costs within this process and that there was a plan in place to deal with the additional corporate overheads and subsequent uplifts.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked what the impact will be on Public Health with the likely incoming budget cuts and how would services commissioned through the Public Health Grant be affected.

The Director of Public Health replied that the Public Health Grant was ringfenced in order that it is used to provide certain services, some of which are mandated, such as Sexual Health Services, NHS Health Checks and Health Visitor Services.

She added that the grant must be used to achieve Public Health outcomes for the Council and that the grant does not increase alongside inflation or take account of any staffing pay awards or contractual uplifts.

Councillor Liz Hardman asked what the expectations of the Community Wellbeing Hub after April 2025 were.

The Director of Public Health replied that the Council was working across all sectors connected to the Hub to find a sustainable funding arrangement to enable a core programme to be maintained.

Councillor Joanna Wright referred to section 3.4.1 of the report (The Health and Social Care Act 2012) and asked if the Council was failing in any of its duties in this regard and were enough resources in place.

The Director of Public Health replied that the Council was not failing in any of its duties, but acknowledged that the current budget was tight.

Councillor Wright referred to section 3.4.5 of the report and asked for an explanation of what was meant by Children's Safety Equipment.

The Director of Public Health replied that this would be items such as stair gates and fire guards.

Councillor Lesley Mansell asked if the Equalities Impact Assessments for the programme could be shared with the Panel at some point. She also asked what was meant by staff working under the 'B&NES brand'.

The Director of Adult Social Care replied that it was important for staff to feel welcome as there would be slightly different processes to follow. She added that there was a training plan in place.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to:

- i) Note the progress updates for Community Services Transformation across Programmes One, Two and Three.
- ii) Note the progress update for the Community Wellbeing Hub and Direct Award 2024/25.

93 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY - IMPLICATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

The Director of Public Health introduced the report and explained to the Panel that Leisure Services moved to within the remit of Public Health in 2021 and said that this had proved to be an excellent decision.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity addressed the Panel and said that producing the report had been a useful process to have undertaken. He said that the changes to the service over the years have been monumental and that it was fantastic to now be part of the Public Health service.

Kevin Burnett asked if further comments could be given regarding any barriers to participation, gaps in provision and key priorities / funding options.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that these matters can depend on where you live within B&NES and it was known that certain populations were not so active. He added that any increase in activity is encouraged and does not have to be through a recognised sport or event.

He explained that they are working with certain community groups such as the Bath City Football Foundation to try to address the disparity and find other locations for them to hold activities.

He said that cost does remain a barrier to take part in certain activities.

In terms of gaps in provision he said that they were assessing what local leisure facilities are available and whether any can be enhanced. He added that they were looking at how green spaces can be used more and were working with the Green Infrastructure Team to look at areas across the Council.

He said that the element of 'play' would also be a focus to see how that can be developed in order to achieve healthy / active outcomes. He added that the team has a good relationship with GLL, the Council's leisure facilities provider and the

Dragonfly Trust that are based in Midsomer Norton who have recently opened a community garden and outdoor play space.

Kevin Burnett asked what resources would be required to expand any provision.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that there were only two members of staff within the Physical Activity Team, but said they were creative in finding additional resources and that funding opportunities and innovative solutions were worked upon with GLL.

The Director of Public Health added that an advantage of working within a relatively small council was being able to work with other services such as the Parks Team, in terms of play and officers working on the Local Plan to see what opportunities can be maximised. She said that Active Travel was also an element to their future work.

Councillor Joanna Wright commented that she would have liked to have seen a section within the report on Active Travel and how people of all ages can be encouraged to travel to the facilities mentioned in an active way.

She said that a large focus within the report was on group / pitch based activities, but said it was known that many girls do not want to take part in these sports. She suggested that any future report has a section addressing individual sports.

She stated that the site of the current weekly Park Run was on top of a large hill, meaning that the majority of people taking part would have to drive there to take part. She asked if any consideration was being given to finding a more accessible site for this.

She asked what work was being done to keep pricing low for certain activities at leisure centres such as family swimming and trampolining.

She referred to the HAF programme and asked what barriers there were for attending this initiative as it only had a 72% participation rate for a free activity.

She stated that the subject of 'play' needs to be considered in the context of all age groups.

She said that the Climate Change section of the report could have also been expanded to address areas such as travelling to and from leisure facilities / activities.

She explained that within North East Somerset it was a difficult situation as Parishes are not able to invest large sums of money into play areas.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity thanked Councillor Wright for her comments and said that they do work with providers with regard to travel plans. He added that for the use of active spaces, in particular team sports, that they were seeking to encourage car sharing where possible.

He stated that family memberships were incoming to the GLL run sites and that a number of concession schemes were also planned.

He suggested that Parishes could seek to apply for additional funding through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and that they have helped in recent bids for track development at Bath BMX and lighting improvements at Saltford Tennis Club and Writhlington Sports Centre.

He explained that the HAF programme was funded separately within Public Health and that compared to other areas the 75% participation rate was seen as good.

With regard to encouraging the activity levels of girls he said that they were working with a number of local football clubs to attempt to build on the recent successes of the England Women at international tournaments. He added that the numbers of female cyclists taking part in activities at the Odd Down Cycle Track had increased recently.

Councillor Dave Harding said that he would echo the comments relating to Parishes trying to gain additional funding through the CIL as he was aware that this had been successful within the Chew Valley.

Councillor Liz Hardman queried whether the strategy and approach was Bath centric and asked if they worked with any of the Parishes to seek to increase the levels of activity. She added that the HAF programme was only able to take place in Paulton once over the Summer as there was not enough funding for additional visits.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that they do try work across the whole of the Council and have carried out activities at Paulton Community Hall, Bishop Sutton FC and Bishop Sutton Tennis Club. He added that they have worked with Parks teams in Midsomer Norton and Radstock to establish local Park Runs and said they were working with the Park Run team nationally in order to seek other sites.

He said that he was willing to discuss the HAF programme in more detail with colleagues to analyse provision for any future events.

Councillor Ruth Malloy began by highlighting the relatively new Foot Golf facility, based in Victoria Park. She said that she was keen to promote the elements of informal physical activity such as Active Travel and was pleased to hear of the involvement of the Green Infrastructure Team.

She added that she was pleased to hear that the team are engaged with the Local Plan and improving our Green Spaces. She said that a good source of activity was walking and working on an allotment or garden in general as well as any localities that have access to a Community Garden.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that the Foot Golf had been well received as a new activity to the area and he was pleased that the introduction of Ten Pin Bowling and a Trampolining area to Bath Leisure Centre, replacing the previous Squash courts, had been successful and allowed for a multi-generational use.

Chris Batten asked if any of the current sites could begin or increase their use of solar panels.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that there was potential for this to happen and was aware that this was already due to take place at Midsomer Norton and Keynsham Leisure Centres and Odd Down Sports Ground.

The Chair commented that she would welcome the swimming pool at Culverhay Leisure Centre to be considered in potential use of solar panels to see if that would assist in bringing that local facility back into use.

The Head of Leisure & Physical Activity replied that they were about to embark on a playing pitch and built facilities strategy as part of the Local Plan and said that the use of Culverhay would form part of that study.

The Chair said that to have available facilities close to their localities would be of benefit especially in any identified areas of deprivation.

Councillor Ruth Malloy proposed that the Panel could receive a presentation from Alison Herbert, Bath BID on their second Rebalance Wellbeing Festival at some point.

The Chair thanked the officers from the Physical Activity Team for attending on behalf of the Panel.

The Panel **RESOLVED** to note the content of the report.

94 PANEL WORKPLAN

The Chair introduced this item to the Panel. She said that through the course of the meeting they had identified the following items that could be considered to be added to their workplan.

- Bath BID / Open Spaces use
- Knife Crime Task & Finish Group Update
- Under 5s Health Study
- Homelessness Health Update
- Dentistry Update
- Community Resource Centres – Implementation of Cabinet decisions
- Refugee Support Update

The meeting ended at 12.50 pm

Chair(person)

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services