

Lead Member Update Report – Children’s and Adults Health and Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel June 2024

Adult Services Update

1. Adult Social Care Transfer

See report under a separate agenda item.

2. Community Support Services

The review of community support services started in April 2024, with a view to re-commissioning services over the period 2024/26. This work is being overseen by the new Community Services and Early Help Strategic Board which is chaired by Mandy Bishop (Chief Operating Officer), with input from relevant lead members and officers. Cllr Paul May and I are both permanent members of the board, with input from Cllr McCabe as required.

The board provides collective leadership, governance and oversight of three workstreams relating to community services, public health, and early help. It monitors progress and supports decision making and risk management, with a focus on the successful procurement of contracts and delivery of planned savings over a two-year period.

Representatives of 25 local community service providers attended a meeting with lead members and senior officers on 14 May to discuss the work of the board and the process and timescales of the review and re-commissioning processes. Further engagement meetings will be held with the sector in the coming months.

3. CQC Inspection

The government has recently introduced a new local authority inspection regime for adult social care and B&NES was told in April that along with South Gloucestershire and Wilshire Council, we will be inspected within the next 6 months. This means that BANES will be one of the first 15 councils to be inspected by the CQC. As part of our preparation for this process, B&NES elected to participate in an LGA Peer Review in September 2023. Ann Smith Assistant Director of Operations shared the findings of this review with the panel in November 2023. To help inform the inspection team in advance of their visit to B&NES, Officers were required to submit a significant amount of data by May 3rd which they did. We now await confirmation of the inspection date.

Visits to Services

Following the transfer of adult social care services back to B&NES council, I have been visiting services with Suzanne Westhead and meeting with staff and service users. To date, I have visited the learning disability day services at Connections and Carrswood and the supported living services. I have also met people working in social work and occupational therapy teams. Staff have generally been very happy

with the transfer process, are highly motivated and are pleased to be working for the council.

Following implementation of planned changes to the community Resource Centres, we also visited Cleeve Court and were delighted to see how the service is developing expertise as a specialist centre for people with dementia. We were also pleased to meet with some members of staff who had transferred from Charlton House and who have settled well in Cleeve Court.

New Supported Living Services for People with Learning disabilities and Autism

B&NES' housing team and commissioners from the specialist team have been responsible for overseeing the construction and implementation of two new build Supported Living Developments specially adapted to support adults with learning disabilities and autism, and sourcing the social care provider that will be delivering the support service within the developments. The developments are now nearing completion as follows:

Update on Hygge Park

This housing scheme consists of 6 new build 1 bedroomed flats. Work continues with Curo and the care provider Affinity. 5 people have been identified and will be moving in in early July.

Update on Sulis Park

This housing scheme consists of 6 new build 1 bedroomed flats, 1 flat will be used as a staff flat to give 24-hour support to the new residents and the other 5 flats as homes for our new residents. Affinity Trust has been commissioned as the care and support provider following a competitive tender, there are 5 identified residents who are now in different states of planning to move into their new flats.

This has been possible thanks to a partnership programme with Bromford, Curo and Affinity Trust with ongoing investment from adult social care and housing to support people to live well and independently within their own communities.

Public Health Update

1. Schools Health and Wellbeing Survey (SH&WS)

62% of primary schools have signed up to take part in the SH&WS. Pupils in Year 4 and 6 will start to complete questionnaires in the coming week, with results available to Primary schools in September. Secondary schools' results will be available in June and schools will be invited to attend a results sessions in July.

2. Reprourement of public health services

The Public Health team are taking steps to re-procure 0-19 Public Health Nursing Services, a Drug and Alcohol Community Service and a Wellness Service and recently issued prior information notices (PIN) as the first stage of the usual procurement process. Market and stakeholder engagement is currently taking place to inform the new contracts which will be in place from April 2025

3. Sexual and reproductive health

B&NES Council along with our partners in Wiltshire and Swindon Councils have been successful in our bid for Women's Health Hub funding (£54,000) to support training of general practice staff and improve access to contraceptive choice.

The Sexual Health Board has recently developed a new two-year sexual and reproductive health action plan to support the attainment of improved sexual health outcomes for the communities of B&NES.

4. Drugs and alcohol

We are strengthening our work to keep track and respond to the emerging threat from synthetic opioids. These are substances that can be found mixed with heroin or other street drugs and which are more dangerous because people don't know they are there, they have a very high strength even in tiny amounts and so can more easily lead to accidental overdose and death. The Council is working closely with Avon and Somerset Police and our local treatment services DHI and AWP.

5. Leisure services and physical activity

GLL's 'Better' brand has been endorsed by Which? as a recommended provider for leisure centres and gyms. Following a survey of customers, GLL was one of only three UK leisure businesses to achieve the endorsement for the current year. GLL is contracted by the council to provide leisure services in B&NES, so such an endorsement is positive. <https://gll.org/b2b/newsitems/gll-s-better-leisure-centres-and-gyms-receive-which-recommended-provider-status>

6. Tackling inequalities

A number of projects across B&NES to tackle inequalities in our most disadvantaged communities began in April, funded by the BSW ICB. These aim to improve outcomes across a range of issues for children and young people and adults provided mostly by local third sector organisations such as BEMSCA, Off the Record and Dorothy House.

Cllr Alison Born – Cabinet Lead for Adult Services and Public Health