

## **Lead Member PDS Report 14/10/2024.**

### **1. Exclusion and Attendance Report**

I am pleased to introduce Sarah Gunner, Headteacher of the Virtual School . Sarah will present a report on Exclusion and Attendance later in the meeting.

### **2. Safety Valve Update**

As previously advised, the local authorities' re-submission into the government's safe valve programme has been on hold while the new government assesses a way forward for safety valve local authorities.

We don't yet know what the new government's policy position will be in this area, but we have been asked to update our plan, tweak it, and resubmit it by the 1st of October. We have now done this, and we await instructions on the next steps.

Outside of the formal DFE process, our team has been progressing well on our Safety Valve plans. We now have a SEND and AP advice service in place, six new staff offering professional advice to schools to support pupils with SEND, and new staff in the SEND team to help cope with demand and improve decision-making. Our SEND capital projects are also making good progress. More details are in the next section.

### **3. Capital Update**

#### **Culverhay**

The project is progressing to deliver the 120 place Special Free School and 55 place Alternative Provision School on the Culverhay site. The Council has committed to deliver a cleared site to the Department of Education and this will include moving the current Alternative Provision at Rush Hill.

We have identified Dartmouth Avenue as a suitable site, a project manager has been appointed and architects are about to be appointed. A further site visit is planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October with relevant stakeholders (including the Midsomer Norton Partnership Trust) to finalise the adaptations and refurbishment required.

The next meeting between the Dept of Education Programme Managers for the Free Schools project is due on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October when we should have an update around the recruitment of their Technical Advisor for the project and progress of their feasibility study

## **Charlton House**

The service specification for residential and day special school has now been published on the Dept of Education and B&NES websites. There is a consultation event planned for 1<sup>st</sup> of October to share draft plans and information about the Charlton House site. The deadline for submissions for potential providers to run the school will be the 14<sup>th</sup> of December and the successful provider should be appointed in February '25.

A project manager has been appointed, a design team will be appointed week commencing the 14<sup>th</sup> of October, a public consultation is planned for the end of November to allow local residents and stakeholders view the plans, and the aim is to submit full planning application by the end of March 2025. The current projected opening time is September 2026 but if possible, we will open sooner.

## **4. Ofsted Annual Conversation**

I am pleased to provide an update on Ofsted arrangements.

Ofsted have confirmed that they will retain an annual conversation around social care. A Local Authority Self- Assessment will continue to be required.

Ofsted have also advised that they will move to termly conversations with the Local Authority with regards to education.

## **5. Corporate Parents**

Recent meeting had good member attendance, thank you. Venue and style of the room to be reviewed. I invite Cllr Wright to share her proposal regarding making an application to the National Trust to apply for one of the Sycamore Tree samplings for Alice Park.

## **6. Knife Crime Awareness Event for Parents and Carers**

I am pleased to announce that the B&NES Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) have now arranged a further parental knife crime awareness event at St Mark's School on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2024, starting at 6pm.

The event is aimed at parents and carers who would like to know more about the dangers of knife crime or are concerned that their children are at risk. They aim to increase awareness of key issues surrounding knife crime, empowering you and your children to make informed and positive decisions to stay safe.

You will have the opportunity to hear from guest speakers with lived experience, who have been personally affected by knife crime. There will also be a presentation by Street Doctors, followed by a panel discussion with the opportunity to ask questions.

For queries, please email [VRP\\_Events@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:VRP_Events@bathnes.gov.uk).

Or book your ticket now on Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bnes-vrp-knife-crime-awareness-event-for-parents-carers-tickets-1022634837327>

I would welcome some update on the task and finish exercise on serious knife crime that the CAHW is leading on.

## 7. **DFE Update**

Policy Paper to include schools, social care ,SEND and Transport due November 2024. I will begin this to CAHW in due course.

DFE have announced match funding for Capital Development, to include residential homes. B&NES colleague and ICAS colleague attended a briefing session with DFE. Children's Services will be developing a residential homes options and have agreement to secure external specialist expertise input to progress.

## 8. **Schools Streets**

I am pleased up to update as promised, that one pilot has been agreed and they have sought expressions of interest from schools.

## 9. **Black History Month**

There are a number of events planned around our city to celebrate Black History Month in October. Please see list below.

### **Changing Narratives of Bath's Heritage**

Michael Tippett Centre, Newton St Loe, Bath, BA2 9BN

Thu 17th October 2024

Welcome to Black History Month at Bath Spa University, where we are celebrating the rich heritage and contributions of Black communities under the theme 'Reclaiming Narratives'.

<https://www.bathspa.ac.uk/news-and-events/events/bhm24-changing-narratives/>

### **Dispelling Health Myths'**

MS Teams meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 1-2pm

With this year's theme being 'Reclaiming Narratives' and one of the core goals being to correct historical inaccuracies, this event hosted by the RUH, will be a panel talk focused on dismantling healthcare myths. [Dispelling Health Myths at the RUH](#)

Avon Fire and Rescue Service are excited to invite you to our Black History Month Coffee Morning at Bath Fire Station on **Tuesday, 3rd October**, from **10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**.

If you have any questions or would like to confirm your attendance, please feel free to reach out to [kyle.rees@avonfire.gov.uk](mailto:kyle.rees@avonfire.gov.uk).

### **Diane Abbott: A Woman Like Me**

Thursday, 24 October 2024 7-8pm at St Swithins Church, Bath

From challenging expectations as a bright and restless child of the Windrush generation to making history as the first elected Black female MP in the UK, **Diane Abbott** has had her share of barriers to break down.

<https://www.batharts.co.uk/events/diane-abbott-a-woman-like-me>

## **10. Ofsted Inspection Report of Adoption West Regional Adoption Agency**

The annual report for Adoption West Regional Adoption Agency for 2023/2024 has been shared with CAHW. I would be pleased to accept any comments/feedback on the report.

I am very pleased to now include the recent Ofsted Inspection report for Adoption West. Ofsted inspectors were on site 12-16<sup>th</sup> August 2024. The agency is owned by the 6 Local Authorities and the Board was chaired by Mary Kearney-Knowles at the time of the inspection

Ofsted judgements:

- **Overall experiences and progress of service users** -GOOD
- How well children, young people and adults are helped and protected- GOOD
- The effectiveness of leaders and managers-GOOD

Link to the report : [50257608 \(ofsted.gov.uk\)](#)

## **11. Youth Justice Inspection**

The Youth Justice Service has had an HMIP (His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation) Inspection announced. The Inspection will focus on the work of the Youth Justice Service and the wider multi-agency partnership work to prevent offending and to support children in the justice system.

The work towards the inspection began at the start of last week and will last for 5 weeks.

4 Inspectors will be onsite, at the Civic Centre Keynsham, for one week, starting at midday on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October until approximately 1pm on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October. T

While on site, the inspectors will conduct a range of interviews with practitioners and managers and some focus groups with colleagues from partner agencies.

I will be pleased to provide feedback post the inspection.

## **12. Regional Fostering Southwest Hub.**

I previously updated you on the Regional Fostering Southwest Hub.

The website, **Fostering South West**, is live and contains updates: please see attached link:

<https://www.fosterwithyourlocalcouncil.org.uk>

## **13. Health and Wellbeing Board**

As agreed at last CAHW, please see link to the Health and Wellbeing Board Meeting 05.09.2024

<https://democracy.bathnes.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=492&MId=6473>

Key papers for discussion:

- Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Plan- Quarter 2 Exception Report
- Pharmacies and the Prevention agenda
- Bath and North East Somerset Community Safety and Safeguarding Partnership (BCSSP) Annual Report.

Following the thematic review Ofsted CQC Preparing for Adulthood, a report and the action plan will be shared at the November Health & Wellbeing Board and CAHW.

## **14. Children with Complex Needs**

The review of children with most complex packages of support, both in the community and in care is still underway, across the 3 Local Authorities (B&NES, Swindon and Wiltshire) and the ICB. I will provide a further update when it is completed.

