

Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Council Chamber, County Hall

Tuesday, 23 May 2023, 2.00 pm

Present:

Cllr Karen May (Chairman), Cllr Christopher Day, Cllr Lynn Denham, Sarah Dugan, Mark Fitton, Cllr Ian Hardiman, Cllr Adrian Hardman, Cllr Lucy Harrison, Lisa McNally, David Mehaffey, Jo Newton, Cllr Shirley Webb, Dr Jonathan Wells and Gary Woodman

Also attended:

Fran Kelsey – Lead Commissioner, Co Chair of Worcestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board
Rachel Barrett – Speakeasy Now and an Expert by Experience
Sam Sinderberry – Chair of Having a Place to Live, and Member of People’s Parliament, Speakeasy Now and Malvern Comet Group, and an Expert by Experience
Sandra Rohan-Kickham – Carer Representative for Worcestershire Association of Carers and a Parent Carer.
Tanya Richardson – Consultant in Public Health, ICB Clinical Lead for Social Change Chair of Suicide Prevention Partnership
Lucy Chick – Senior Public Health Practitioner Chair of Suicide Audit Group
Louise McAvoy – Advanced Public Health Practitioner.

698 Apologies and Substitutes

Apologies had been received from Simon Adams, Vic Allison, Sarah Raistrick, Andy Roberts, Tina Russell, Jonathan Sutton and Simon Trickett.

Carole Cumino attended for Jonathan Sutton, Jo Ringshall attended for Simon Adams.

Ian Hardiman was welcomed to his first meeting as the new District Council representative for Wyre Forest.

699 Declarations of Interest

Carole Cumino declared that although she was attending the meeting as the VCSE representative, she would be presenting the Carers Strategy on

behalf of the Worcestershire Carers Partnership; and with regard to the items on Mental Health and CAMHS she declared that she had recently become a Associate Non-Executive Director of Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust.

Sarah Dugan also declared an interest in the items on mental health as Chief Executive of Herefordshire and Worcestershire NHS Trust.

700 Public Participation

None

701 Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 14 February 2023, were agreed to be an accurate record of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

702 Learning Disability Strategy

This item was moved up the agenda and was introduced by Fran Kelsey with support from Rachel Barrett, Sam Sinderberry and Sandra Rohan-Kickham.

The Learning Disability Strategy had been co-produced by Worcestershire's Learning Disability Partnership Board, which was Chaired by an Expert by Experience with a learning disability. People had worked together on an equal basis by holding a wide range of meetings and discussions with those with learning disabilities. The Strategy was about making Worcestershire a great place to live for those with a learning disability and had been produced to be accessible as possible with quotes and photos included. Real life examples of what success would look and feel like were included. The Strategy was intended to be the go-to guide to allow people to work together to make positive changes to the lives of those living with a learning disability. A key target area was to improve the disparity of health and life expectancy compared to the general population. Good mental health should also be on an equal basis.

Rachel Barrett explained that she was pleased that people with learning disabilities had been involved with developing the strategy and had their voices heard from the beginning. She felt that it was important being healthy in body as well as mind, and that everyone with a Learning Disability should get a good quality annual health check. Reducing health inequalities and ensuring that everyone gains a better understanding of learning disabilities were important aims.

Sam Sinderberry said that enabling people to lead good lives and including everyone were key themes of the strategy. People with learning disabilities wanted to do things which were important to them such as having a job, volunteering, taking part in different activities or developing friendships or relationships but they needed the right support to be able to carry out these activities and to feel safe. Organisations and communities needed to include

people with learning disabilities and the right housing was important along with available transport.

Sandra Rohan-Kickham was a carer for her 42-year-old son who had profound disabilities and complex health needs. She had witnessed the production of many strategies over time, but this one was different and reflected the changes and challenges that had happened following COVID. The Strategy stated that COVID should not be used as an excuse by organisations for services not being offered or people not being supported on equal terms. During that time physiotherapy, occupational health, dentistry and mental health services had all been reduced. The recruitment of care staff had been equally problematic.

She explained that from the outset this strategy had been aspirational, bold and ambitious and believed that it was important that all voices were heard. Each section asked what success should look and feel like. She said success would be for the strategy to be visible, accessible and used, so that people reading the strategy could make a difference to the lives of people with Learning Disabilities. She stated that for carers to have a better life they needed to know that the person they cared for was happy, healthy and had choices.

Board Members made the following comments:

- Board Members thanked the experts by experience for coming to speak to the Board
- The document was commended for being very clear, accessible and easy to understand
- The Board believed the year one action plan was important and organisations needed to pay attention to it
- It was suggested that improving support for job opportunities and supported internships and the wider skills network should be included in the year one action plan
- In response to a query, it was clarified that the Partnership Board owned the Strategy. Whilst there were no District Council representatives on the Partnership Board at present, there was an intention to create closer links with District Councils and District Collaboratives. This would also be achieved via the Being Well Strategic Group which had District officer and Collaboratives representatives and was focused on joint working to deliver the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- It was explained that communication with groups had initially been difficult during COVID, but everyone had learned quickly how to hold meetings virtually, however hurdles remained over how to impart information on the important issues
- The focus on independence in the strategy was welcomed.

The guests who had presented the item were thanked for their time and were invited back to give an update in a year.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board noted and endorsed the new Worcestershire Learning Disability Strategy 2023-2028 which had

been co-produced by the Worcestershire Learning Disability Partnership Board.

703 **Carer Friendly Worcestershire - All Age Carers' Strategy 2021 - 2026**

The main thrust of the strategy, which had been endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in February 2022, was that carers felt recognised and valued, that they had a life of their own, that their physical as well as mental wellbeing was important and that they felt safe.

Carole Cumino explained that there were more than 55,000 carers in Worcestershire, and in general they had worse health and wellbeing than the rest of the population. The most recent census had shown that there appeared to be a reduction in the number of carers in Worcestershire, with numbers providing 19 hours or less of care a week falling but those providing 50 hours or more increasing. However, carers groups believed that numbers were likely to have increased, so work was underway to identify why numbers seemed to be under-represented.

The Strategy was important as it was important to address inequalities for carers and financially it was sensible to support carers to reduce demand on formal health and care services. Following the approval of the Strategy the tender for the provision of support had gone to Worcestershire Association of Carers. One of the biggest priorities was sorting out issues with Parent Carers, which involved sorting out two sets of legislation, but it was important to ensure carers were not forgotten.

The Carers Partnership had been created, following the successful model of the Learning Disability Partnership, and consisted of representatives from different groups. It was noted that the next a carers strategy would copy the example of the new Learning Disability Strategy and be more accessible.

It was acknowledged that it was often difficult to persuade people they were actually carers, especially if it was part of their culture to look after family members. It was noted that Primary Care were doing a good job of identifying carers but in particular Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups often did not identify themselves as being a carer and young carers were also a group who were not easily identified.

It was important to address inequalities for carers and financially, it was sensible to support carers to reduce demand on formal health and care services.

Following the approval of the Strategy the tender for the provision of support had gone to Worcestershire Association of Carers. It was noted that Worcestershire Association of Carers were pleased that the County Council maintained its investment in carers and had signed up to the Commitment to Carers. The work being done by Worcestershire County Council in identifying members of staff who were carers was important.

A Board Member felt that the demands put on carers of those with dementia was underestimated as it could be very intensive and suggested that the strategy did not bring out the full mental and physical health impacts on carers of their caring role.

In future it was suggested that health services could be realigned so that in general pharmacies and primary care provided more services rather than hospitals but there was concern that this would add to the burden and responsibilities on carers. It was pointed out that it would be important that Equality Impact Assessments were carried out to capture the effect of any changes on carers. This was also relevant for NHS services seeking to move to digital access. It was confirmed that any new strategy being implemented by the Integrated Care Board was considering the danger of digital exclusion.

The Chair thanked Carole for her work and asked for an update in 12 months.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board noted the progress in delivering the All-Age Carer Strategy 2021 – 2026.

704 Improving Mental Health and Wellbeing and preventing Suicide In Worcestershire

This report was introduced by Tanya Richardson – Consultant in Public Health, ICB Clinical Lead for Social Change Chair of Suicide Prevention Partnership
Lucy Chick – Senior Public Health Practitioner Chair of Suicide Audit Group
Louise McAvooy – Advanced Public Health Practitioner.

The purpose of the report was to inform and assure the Board of the work which was ongoing in Worcestershire. All organisations represented on the Board were involved in the work showing true partnership working. Death by suicide is devastating but the stigma involved means that people often do not ask for help. In Worcestershire the rate was similar to the national average with the rate higher among males than females. Suicide was the result of a complex and interrelated set of factors meaning that suicide prevention work was required across a range of settings. Improving mental wellbeing across the population was important and an enhanced Herefordshire and Worcestershire Suicide Prevention programme of wellbeing support had been in place in Worcestershire since November 2020 funded by NHS England.

The Programmes objectives were to contribute to a reduction in the number of suicides across the two counties, particularly focussed on men aged 30-65. The programme was working to reduce stigma, improving identification of those at risk and creating opportunities to intervene before crisis.

The new National Suicide Prevention Plan was expected in July 2023, and the Worcestershire strategy would be assessed and updated as necessary. There would be continued engagement between the Suicide Prevention Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board to implement the Action Plan.

National Suicide mortality data was taken from death registrations following inquests so could take up to a year to be recorded. A Police led Real Time Suspected Suicide Surveillance (RTSSS) system had been in place since September 2022 in Worcestershire with the Suicide Audit Group set up to look at data to identify patterns and opportunities to intervene. The Bereavement Suicide Service had been in place since 2021.

Suicide was not just about mental health, so it was important that communities thought about early prevention. A range of activities were taking place such as the Orange Button scheme which enabled people who had received three hours of suicide prevention training to wear an orange button to let people know that they were confident to speak about suicide and signpost people to support. Some funding had been made available to develop the orange button scheme further. Webinars had been developed, as well as face to face sessions which focussed on small business which did not have support from large HR departments.

The Campaign Acting Together to Prevent Suicide was important to raise awareness and to get people to engage with the follow-on work. The Campaign was fronted by Delicious Orie, Work was ongoing with the communications team on developing campaigns for specific groups such as farmers, Gypsy Roma Traveller community and the construction industry.

Board Members made a number of comments:

- GPs in Worcestershire were keen to engage directly with Public Health and provide support
- It was pointed out that there seemed to be little joined up thinking around some issues. For example, decisions were made regarding the Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) community without members knowing about the increased risk of suicide in that group. However, it was pointed out that in the north of the County there were health and wellbeing checks for those living on GRT sites
- It was confirmed that District Councils were involved
- Following a query, it was confirmed that work had been done with the media who had received guidance from Public Health teams and groups such as the Samaritans, on how to report suicides. Public Health had worked with local journalists about safe reporting training
- The Board thanked Public Health and other partners for the work they were doing in this area and providing reassurance that a huge amount of work was going into this area
- Improving mental wellbeing and reducing suicide was the responsibility of the whole system and all of society.

The Director of Public Health thanked colleagues in Public Health and in Communications for doing a good job while acknowledging that it was a very difficult subject to work with.

RESOLVED that The Health and Wellbeing Board noted and received assurance of the breadth of partnership work being undertaken in Worcestershire to improve mental health and wellbeing and prevent suicides.

705 Scrutiny Report: Children's Adolescent Mental Health Services

The Chair explained that the Scrutiny Task Group had been put on hold during COVID but had subsequently been completed with the resulting report being received at Cabinet on 30 March 2023 and it had been suggested that the report go to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- a) **Received the Scrutiny Report about Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; and**
- b) **Agreed that the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, as a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, consider the report and responses of the Cabinet Members with Responsibility and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board to ensure a system wide collaborative approach be taken.**

706 Update on the Integrated Care Strategy and NHS Joint Forward Plan

The Board noted the discussion which had taken place at the previous Development meeting on 15 May. The final Joint Forward Plan would be further discussed at the Development meeting on 20 June.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board

- a. **Noted that the Integrated Care Strategy for Herefordshire and Worcestershire was approved by the Integrated Care Partnership on 26 April 2023, and has now been published; and**
- b. **Noted that the approach outlined in this report for involving Health and Wellbeing Board Members in the development of the Joint Forward Plan.**

707 Better Care Fund Update

Health and Wellbeing Board Members would be emailed the 2023-2025 submission in June after it had been to the Integrated Commissioning Executive Officers Group, and prior to the submission to NHS England on 23 June. The full submission would be ratified at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in September.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board

- a. **Noted the timescales and progress of the 2023-25 Better Care Fund Plan, 2023/24 budget and the BCF 2022/23 annual return, which included the year end outturn; and**

- b. **Agreed to receive and approve the relevant documents virtually due to the relevant national timelines.**

708 Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report

Health and Wellbeing Board Members noted the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report, which was also being considered at Cabinet on 25 May, where the Chair of the Board, Professor Brown would be able to reassure Worcestershire County Council that safeguarding of adults was in a good position with regard to partnership work.

A Board Member commended the report and noted that homelessness and rough sleeping were key strands in the report. It was clarified that the Chair of the Safeguarding Adults Board was independent and was offering reassurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board about the work of the Board.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- a. **Received assurance that the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board was meeting the requirements of the Care Act; and**
- b. **Considered any cross-cutting themes and to refer issues either directly to the WSAB or through the next joint Cross Cutting Issues meeting to be held between the Chairs of the four Boards.**

709 Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report

The Board noted the Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report and were informed that any questions could be put in writing to the Director of Children's Services Tina Russell.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board considered the report and highlighted any opportunities for collaboration and support between the Board and the Partnership on shared priorities and future work.

710 Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting would be a private development meeting which would take place on 20 June.

The next public meetings of the Board would take place on 26 September 2023 and then 14 November.

The meeting ended at Time 3.50pm

Chairman