

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Minutes of a meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board held on Thursday, 3 December 2020 at 2.00 pm in Remote Meeting

Present:

Cllr A J Burford - Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care, TWC
J Britton – Executive Director: Children’s Safeguarding & Family Support
S Dillion –Director: Adult Social Care, TWC
D Evans –Accountable Officer, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin CCGs
Cllr I T W Fletcher - Conservative Group TWC
Cllr K Middleton – Labour Group, TWC (Chair)
L Noakes – Director of Public Health, TWC
A Olver – Voluntary Sector Representative
B Parnaby – Acting Chair, Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin.
Dr J Povey – Joint Chair of Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin CCGs
Cllr S Reynolds - Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Lifelong Learning, TWC
J Robinson - Finance Director – STW STP
J Rowe – Executive Director: Adults Social Care, Health Integration & Wellbeing, TWC
Cllr K T Tomlinson – Liberal Democrat / Independent Group, TWC
Cllr P Watling, Cabinet Member for Cooperative Communities, Engagement and Partnerships

In Attendance:

G Ashford, Strategic Planning Team Leader. TWC
F Bottrill, Partnership Manager, TWC
S Downes, Integrated Place Partnership Manager, TWC
J Galkowski, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer, TWC
A Grewal, Principal Social Worker, TWC
A Morris - Public Health Specialty Registrar, TWC
S Worthington, Senior Democratic Services & Scrutiny Officer
P Shirley, General Manager and Engagement Manager, Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin

Apologies: Councillors J Baker

HWB27 Declarations of Interest

None.

HWB28 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held 10 September 2020 be approved subject to the following changes:

- 1. Councillor S Reynolds attendance at the meeting was confirmed.**
- 2. That there was an error in Dr. J Povey’s title within the Declarations of Interest and should read “Dr. J Povey”.**

HWB29 Public Speaking

None.

HWB30 COVID-19 Update

The Board received a presentation on COVID-19 in Telford and Wrekin by the Director for Public Health. The presentation covered the latest infection, testing and hospital admission rates, the opening of new testing facilities, communication and engagement and the Health Protection Hub. The Board heard that for the week ending the 29 November 2020, there were 308 cases of COVID-19 detected, giving the population an infection rate of 171 per 100,000. This was a 30% reduction compared to the previous week and that the rate of infection had halved since the peak of the second wave on 11 November 2020.

The Board were informed that testing rates were currently higher than the West Midlands average, which had been made possible through the new walk-through testing centres that had opened in October and November, targeted communication to areas with low testing and the introduction of PCR and rapid testing to Domiciliary Care workers and teachers. The next section focused on communications and engagement such as “Get Tested” for main and precautionary symptoms and the “For the Love of Christmas” campaign along with the promotion of Tier 2 restrictions. Finally, the Board heard an update on the Health Protection Hub, and their work in supporting a range of settings which included schools, workplaces and care providers to manage outbreaks.

Members asked if hospitals in the borough were accepting patients with COVID-19 and whether this also applied to overflow patients from outside the area. The Director of Public Health confirmed that Hospitals in Telford and Wrekin were accepting COVID-19 patients. The Accountable Officer for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups explained that at the start of the second wave, there were out-of-area patients in the intensive treatment centres at Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust (SaTH) sites as there was capacity, which formed part of a mutual aid agreement with neighbouring systems. However, this had concluded some weeks ago and at present, there were no out-of-area COVID-19 patients in SaTH.

Members were concerned that the most vulnerable individuals in care homes would not be able to access the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine given the low temperatures needed to store it. The Accountable Officer for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups said it appeared there were a number of other vaccines that would be licensed for use along with the Pfizer-BioNtech vaccine, which would be logistically easier to distribute to vulnerable individuals.

Members asked the Director for Public Health if there were concerns surrounding the temporary lifting of restrictions over Christmas and whether these were fluid and likely to change. The Director for Public Health responded by saying she thought the guidance wouldn't change and that everyone should be careful and sensible in their approach to the Christmas period (such as those exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms not partaking in household mixing) and that everyone should still follow national guidance on "Hands, Space and Face" and keeping rooms as ventilated as possible.

Members asked what percentage of testing was being utilised for pre-cautionary testing and if there was enough testing capacity in the borough as a whole. The Director for Public Health did not have the exact percentage and confirmed there was enough capacity within the testing centres to safely do this. The Director for Public Health also informed the Board that in the first few days of the launch, just over one third of positive cases had come from pre-cautionary testing.

Members referenced hospital discharge policy on how patients need to self-isolate for 14 days regardless of if they have tested positive for COVID-19 and asked whether this would be reviewed. The Accountable Officer for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups responded by saying hospital discharge policy was nationally determined, and not as a result of local decision making. The guidance was introduced to protect the population against COVID-19, as there was no guarantee a patient discharged from hospital did not have COVID-19.

Members asked if any consideration had been given to individuals living in homeless supported living schemes and other homeless provisions across the borough in terms of testing. The Director for Public Health responded by saying nationally the first round of provision for individuals in supported living and extra care accommodation had been rolled out but recognised the question referred to a wider group. The Director for Public Health offered to meet with members outside of the meeting to work on this provision.

Care Act Easements

Along with the COVID-19 update, the Board also received a presentation an update on the four Care Act easements, which were created under the Coronavirus Act 2020 and how they were applied in Telford and Wrekin by The Principle Social Worker. The Board heard how Council was assessed at stage two in regards to the use of the easements, meaning that there had not

been a significant change to the care and support provided by the council, but there were some variations in the way it is was delivered.

The first easement meant that detailed assessments of individual care and support could be suspended, and instead Local Authorities only needed to respond in a timely manner to identify what the care and support needs were. The Board heard how Council have not had to do this, instead have undertaken detailed assessments using the telephone or remote conferencing software. Likewise, essential visits were suspended during restrictions, but as these were lifted, essential visits returned with staff being provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment and undertook pre-visit questionnaires.

The second easement permitted for the suspension of financial assessments which were in compliance with the pre-amendment Care Act and for care and support provided to be charged retrospectively, subject to reasonable information provided in advance and followed by a financial assessment at a later date. The Board were informed that financial assessments continued as business as usual and the decision was made to suspend client contribution for three months for care and support delivered in this time.

The third easement allowed Local Authorities to not prepare or review care and support plans in line with the pre-amendment Care Act provisions. However, Telford & Wrekin Council continued to deliver the scheduled reviews and these were completed remotely where possible.

The final easement for Local Authorities related to the duty to meet eligible care and support needs, which was replaced with the power to meet needs, or prioritise the most pressing needs. However Telford & Wrekin Council did not need to implement this easement as they had not experienced significant impact on frontline staff or a surge in the demand in the care market.

Members asked for clarification on which services provided by Telford & Wrekin Council had been cancelled. The Principal Social Worker responded by saying the services mostly impacted were the day centres due to the social distancing measures. Those impacted by these closures were identified and alternative support was established, such as the launch of MyOptions online weekly activity for individuals with learning difficulties, and smaller social bubbles for individuals with staff to access the community.

Members asked for clarification on what DFG applications were and how they were used. The Principal Social Worker advised these were Disability Funded Grants, which were a means-tested grant to provide monetary value towards changes required in an individual's house, which related to their disability. This grant was administered by the housing team in conjunction with assessments made by the occupational health team within the Council.

HWB31 Winter Planning Update

Members received a report on Winter Planning from The Director of Planning, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups. The Director of Planning summarised that:

- The Winter Plan continued to be developed.
- A process of refinement had been undertaken to identify high impact winter schemes which managed winter capacity, some of these schemes had been implemented in November and December 2020.
- Four schemes had not progressed as much as wanted, due to recruitment issues. However most other schemes were at a point of implementation.
- Winter Planning more complicated this year due including COVID-19, however there were some pleasing signs that hospital admission had reduced for COVID-19 patients.
- The manifestation of the second wave of COVID-19 was different, not so many patients in critical care but greater number of patients were on oxygen and for longer.
- Social distancing arrangements, infection prevention control arrangements as well as slightly higher staff sickness levels had created a challenging situation.

In conjunction with this report, the Board also received a presentation on the Adult Social Care contribution to the system winter planning by The Director: Adult Social Care, Telford & Wrekin Council which outlined some of the schemes referenced in the report from the Director of Planning, Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups. The presentation focused on four areas:

- Adult social care winter plan requirements from the Department for Health and Social Care, which include:
 - Distribute Infection Control Fund funding being made available
 - Treat and investigate cases of COVID-19
 - Ensure care providers carry out COVID-19 testing
 - Work to re-open day services and respite
 - Continued work to prevent avoidable admission and support safe and timely discharge.
- Telford & Wrekin Council Winter Planning and actions that had been taken such as:
 - Regular demand and capacity modelling and monitoring of flow through enablement.
 - Regular contact with West Midlands Ambulance Service (WMAS) around 111 and 999 to ensure maximisation of admission avoidance pathways.
 - Continued integrated working across rapid response and TICAT (7 day services).
 - Additional bed and domiciliary care purchased.
- Telford & Wrekin Council Winter Planning Schemes for 2020 and 2021 such as:

- Live in carers – 24h care at home to avoid admission to hospital
 - Two carers in a care
 - Strengthen Voluntary Sector Support to enhance Pathway 0 discharges
 - Health and Social Care Rapid Response winter scheme such as communication campaigns, ambulance diversions, additional Advanced Care Practitioners and additional physio support.
- Telford & Wrekin Council Winter Planning and actions to support the market such as:
 - Weekly welfare calls to care providers
 - Quality monitoring visits done remotely or in person
 - Dedicated joint communications to care providers.
 - Regular testing continuing for all care homes and domiciliary care.

Members requested that the Severe Weather Emergency Programme for the homeless is included in future updates relating to winter planning.

HWB32 Healthwatch Telford Annual Report

Members received the Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin Annual report for 2019-2020 from The Acting Chair of the Board, Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin and was presented by The General Manager & Engagement Manager, Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin. The report included topics such as the highlights of the year, the difference Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin had made, the Long Term Plan, helping residents find answers, volunteers, finances and plans for the next year. The Board heard about how 2118 people had engaged with Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin regarding improvements they would like to see in Health and Social Care Services in 2019-2020, which had consequently informed their six priorities:

1. How specialised and acute services will be provided.
2. How mental health services will offer support to people.
3. How adult social care is providing support to people and their carers.
4. How primary care will support people through different ways of working.
5. Learning disability and Autism, long-term conditions.
6. Explore prevention and Placed Based approaches and how it will work for people.

Members thanked the Acting Chair of the Healthwatch Telford & Wrekin, the General Manager and Engagement Manager, and the wider team for the report and for the service they had provided. Members noted that there were some concerning issues that had arisen in Telford and Wrekin such as homeless individuals not feeling welcomed by their Doctors which led them to not wanting to attend. However Members were pleased to see key topics highlighted such as cancer services, acute services and mental health services as items that would be continued to be explored by Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin. The Acting Chair of Healthwatch Telford and Wrekin confirmed that children mental health services would be an area of work they explored and would be liaising with all the relevant agencies moving forward.

HWB33 Local Plan: Issues and Options

The Board received a presentation on the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan – Review on the Issues & Options stage by Gavin Ashford, Strategic Planning Team Leader, Telford & Wrekin Council. Members were provided with some context in regards to the origins of the Local Plan, what the Issues & Options stage covered and the objectives that underpinned the review. Following on from this, members heard the health and wellbeing influence on the local plan, which highlighted:

1. Climate change, air pollution and encouraging physical activity.
2. Green spaces to create a bio-diversity net gain, protect Local Nature Reserves and protecting interconnected green spaces.
3. Better homes for working from home, spaces standards and amenity spaces as well as supported and specialist accommodation.
4. Creating healthy food environments and controlling uses in town centres while encouraging footfall in those areas.
5. Employment and new land for inward investment and job creation.
6. Infrastructure – working with Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Clinical Commissioning Groups, education and transport for planning.

Members welcomed the presentation from the Strategic Planning Team Leader and asked if there was anything being done to address issues that arose from houses with multiple occupancies as they did not foster good health and wellbeing. The Strategic Planning Team Leader acknowledged this as an issue, however believed it would be difficult to respond to through the Local Plan due to the national policy on Permitted Development rights.

Members concluded by emphasising the importance on the way land was used to influence physical and mental wellbeing, which was based on the physical and social “place”. Likewise, Members also noted that it was important for the Local Plan to link in at an early stage with the planning of healthcare with the soon to be established Integrated Care Systems, not just for primary care but also with secondary care.

The meeting ended at 15:33pm.

Chairman:

Date: Thursday, 25 March 2021