

Minutes of the meeting of Health and Wellbeing Board held in Conference Room 1 - Herefordshire Council, Plough Lane Offices, Hereford, HR4 0LE on Monday 16 September 2024 at 2.00 pm

Board members present in person, voting:

Anna Davidson	Assistant Chief Officer: Director of Prevention, Hereford & Worcester Fire and Rescue Service
Rob Davies	Consultant in Public Health, Herefordshire Council
Councillor Carole Gandy (Chairperson)	Cabinet Member Adults, Health and Wellbeing, Herefordshire Council
Hilary Hall	Corporate Director Community Wellbeing, Herefordshire Council
Jane Ives (Vice-Chairperson)	Managing Director, Wye Valley NHS Trust
Councillor Jonathan Lester	Leader of the Council, Herefordshire Council
Councillor Ivan Powell	Cabinet Member Children and Young People, Herefordshire Council
Simon Trickett	Chief Executive, NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board
Dr Andy Watts	Chair, Healthwatch Herefordshire

Board members in attendance remotely, non-voting:

Kevin Crompton	Independent Chair, Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board
Susan Harris	Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Herefordshire and Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust
Superintendent Helen Wain	West Mercia Police

Note: Board members in attendance remotely, e.g. through video conference facilities, may not vote on any decisions taken.

Others present in person:

Ben Baugh	Democratic Services Officer	Herefordshire Council
Councillor Pauline Crockett	Chairperson Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	Herefordshire Council
Natalie Johnson-Stanley	Public Health Lead - Substance Misuse / Tobacco	Herefordshire Council
Alfred Rees-Glinos	Governance Support Assistant	Herefordshire Council
Julia Stephens	Public Health Lead - CYP and Sexual Health	Herefordshire Council

Others in attendance remotely:

Isobel Adams	Public Health Officer (Tobacco Control)	Herefordshire Council
Luke Bennett	Public Health Lead - Healthy Behaviour	Herefordshire Council
Hayley Doyle	Service Director - All Age Commissioning	Herefordshire Council
Philippa Ellis	Talk Community Health and Wellbeing Manager	Herefordshire Council
Lindsay MacHardy	Public Health Principal	Herefordshire Council

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from the following board members: Stephen Brewster, Jon Butlin, Cate Carmichael, David Mehaffey, Christine Price, and Tina Russell.

14. NAMED SUBSTITUTES

The following substitute board members were present: Anna Davidson for Jon Butlin, Rob Davies for Cate Carmichael, Dr Andy Watts for Christine Price, and Simon Trickett for David Mehaffey.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

16. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were received.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 June 2024 be confirmed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairperson.

17. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

No questions had been received from members of the public.

18. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

No questions had been received from councillors.

19. HEREFORDSHIRE'S BETTER CARE FUND (BCF) INTEGRATION PLAN 2024-25

The Service Director All Age Commissioning provided an update on the Herefordshire's Better Care Fund (BCF) Integration Plan 2024/25, the principal points included:

- i. The BCF Integration Plan 2023-25 had been approved by the board in 2023, [minute 35 of 25 September 2023 refers](#).
- ii. The refreshed plan included updates to elements of the metrics and to the spending plans, but there was no requirement for a separate narrative plan submission.
- iii. Due to the need to meet the national timeline, retrospective approval was sought for the BCF Integration Plan 2024/25.
- iv. The plan had been signed off by One Herefordshire Partnership, Herefordshire Council, and Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board. The West Midlands Assurance Panel had recommended the plan for approval.
- v. The Department of Health and Social Care had flagged the intention for additional metrics around discharge and reablement for 2024/25, but these had not yet been published.
- vi. Funding for the BCF had increased by £2.6m for 2024/25 but funding of £2.3m utilised in 2023/24 was not available in 2024/25. Consequently, the net increase was not sufficient to meet inflationary increases in recurrent commitments, and reductions in expenditure were necessary to deliver a balanced plan. An overview was provided of the work being undertaken collaboratively to address the pressures.
- vii. The board was advised that planned changes to demand and capacity were considered realistic but could be challenging to deliver.

- viii. It was noted that the One Herefordshire Integrated Care Executive would continue to monitor performance.

The Chairperson drew attention to the following:

- The BCF 2024/25 Update Template (agenda page 27) showed each line of income and expenditure as being identical, but the total showed a difference of £1; it was later confirmed that this was a result of rounding within the automated template.
- It was acknowledged that the narrative plan had not been updated but reference to Talk Community 'Super hubs' (agenda page 95) was no longer relevant.

Comments from board members included:

1. Simon Trickett considered that it had been a proactive and successful year due to the health and social care teams leading it. The challenges were noted but there was assurance that there was capacity and capability to manage the financial pressures. It was reported that a Point Prevalence Audit was to be conducted shortly, looking at patients and service users on a given day to understand where they were on their journeys; it was suggested that an update could be provided in due course.
2. Dr Andy Watts questioned whether there were metrics for feedback from service users in terms of the quality of discharge planning and about what happens in the days immediately following discharge. The Corporate Director Community Wellbeing said that feedback was captured later in the process, but consideration could be given to a systematic approach.
3. In response to a question from the Vice-Chairperson about the level of confidence in achieving productivity improvements, the Service Director All Age Commissioning commented on ongoing work to increase capacity, including with Home First and the Ledbury Intermediate Care Unit.
4. In response to a question from the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson said that the challenges with discharge into Powys were not taken into account during Care Quality Commission inspections due to the focus on quality standards. Simon Trickett commented on the work with Powys to ensure that the costs of care were met appropriately and to improve the consistency of discharge pathways; it was noted best practice was being discussed with neighbouring authorities.

Resolved: That

- a) The Herefordshire Better Care Fund 2023-25 planning template (Appendix 1) and the ICB Discharge template (Appendix 2), submitted to NHS England, be approved (retrospectively);**
- b) The ongoing work to support integrated health and care provision that is funded via the BCF be noted; and**
- c) That consideration be given to a metric for feedback from service users.**

Action 2024/25:02: That an update on the Point Prevalence Audit be provided to board members in due course.

20. UPDATE TO THE BOARD ON THE BEST START IN LIFE ACTION PLAN

The Public Health Lead - CYP and Sexual Health provided an update on progress of the action plan for the board's strategic priority of 'best start in life', the principal points included:

- i. Attention was drawn to the Implementation Plan 2023-25 (Appendix 1) which identified the Red, Amber, Green status for each action.
- ii. Following the recommissioning of the Public Health Nursing Service, the 0-19 service was represented at each Primary Care Network (PCN) partnership board, reflecting ongoing work to establish an integrated approach.
- iii. To support oral health, two new NHS dental practices had been secured (one had opened in Commercial Street, Hereford and the other was in development at Saxon Hall, Hereford), a tooth-brushing programme continued to roll out to 43 education settings, and 4-6 month oral health and weaning workshops were being delivered in localities.
- iv. It was reported that there were challenges to be explored through the Children and Young People Partnership Board in relation to the development of a cross-sector dashboard and with ensuring that the voices of families and children were incorporated across actions and plans.
- v. It was also reported that the action to 'broaden the early help / start for life offer within the community' was Red rated pending the outcome of a Talk Community review.

Comments from board members included:

1. The Chairperson welcomed the new dental practices but emphasised the need to improve access in the rural areas, potentially through mobile dental services.

Later in the discussion, the Cabinet Member Children and Young People questioned whether the new dental practices provided all the capacity that was needed.

Simon Trickett confirmed that it was the Integrated Care Board's role to commission dental services, acknowledged that the two new dental practices were a start from a low base, and said that creative solutions were needed, especially given the needs of rural populations.
2. In response to point made by the Leader of the Council about the importance of a healthy diet for oral and general health, it was confirmed that the tooth-brushing programme promoted healthy eating, and an overview was provided of the healthy schools and healthy tots programmes.
3. Further to point v., the Chairperson questioned the reasoning for any delays associated with the Talk Community review given the continuation of existing hubs. The Corporate Director Community Wellbeing said that the matter related to early help services and this point would be raised with the Corporate Director Children and Young People.
4. Further to point iv, the Cabinet Member Children and Young People noted the opportunity for detailed focus and discussion on the challenges through the Children and Young People Partnership Board, and partners were encouraged to explore the issues within their respective organisations.
5. The Vice-Chairperson commented on the positive feedback about the health visiting service, the potential to be more ambitious with the board's strategic

priorities by involving all sectors in the county, and the linkages between the 'best start in life' and 'good mental wellbeing throughout life' priorities.

The Public Health Lead - CYP and Sexual Health said that a children and young people survey had taken place during the summer which would provide intelligence on a broad range of issues.

Sue Harris commented on continued investment into children and young people's mental health and the need for engagement through the Children and Young People Partnership Board on mental health.

Resolved: That

- a) The report and updated action plan and progress to date be noted; and**
- b) All partnership organisations be encouraged to be sighted on the implementation plan and to reference it across their own strategies and plans.**

21. TOBACCO CONTROL

The Public Health Lead - Substance Misuse / Tobacco reported on the Smoke Free Generation Plan announcements and related actions in Herefordshire, the principal points included:

- i. An item on Tobacco Control had been considered by the board in 2022 following the publication of 'Kahn Review: Making Smoking Obsolete', [minute 58 of 26 September 2022 refers](#).
- ii. The government had announced 'Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation' in October 2023, with the Tobacco and Vapes Bill introduced in the House of Commons in March 2024.
- iii. Related developments in Herefordshire were outlined, including the 'swap to stop' scheme, additional staffing capacity in the healthy lifestyles service, the roll-out of a 'train the trainer' package to widen the swap to stop offer, an initiative to raise awareness of the risks of vaping to young people through the Healthy Schools programme, and enforcement activities through the Trading Standards Team.

The key points arising from the debate included:

1. The Leader of the Council questioned whether the focus should be on tackling nicotine addiction given the harmful effects associated with smoking, vaping and other forms of ingestion. The Public Health Lead - Substance Misuse / Tobacco explained that the swap to stop scheme provided vape kit vouchers to support more adult smokers to make a quit attempt and this was intended as a short-term intervention, with nicotine levels reduced incrementally.
2. The Consultant in Public Health drew attention to the fact that smoking prevalence in adults working in routine and manual occupations (28.6%) remained much higher than the general population (12.2%).
3. Sue Harris, noting paragraph 8 of the report which identified that adults with severe mental illness (40%) and long-term mental health conditions (28.2%) were more likely to smoke than the general population, outlined tobacco cessation initiatives at the Stonebow Unit in Hereford and the offer of annual health checks through GPs.

4. The Talk Community Health and Wellbeing Manager emphasised that the swap to stop scheme followed the government's advice and guidelines.
5. Dr Andy Watts expressed support for actions towards achieving a smoke free generation.
6. Anna Davidson noted the potential benefits of smoking cessation from a fire prevention perspective.

The Cabinet Member Children and Young People commented on the need to promote home fire safety checks throughout the county.

Resolved: That

- a) **the board welcomes and supports the Smoke Free Generation plan announcements;**
- b) **the board welcomes the report and supports a renewed emphasis on tobacco control work to reduce smoking prevalence across Herefordshire;**
- c) **member organisations are asked to promote and engage in activity to work towards the Smoke Free Generation in Herefordshire; and**
- d) **board members are asked to support and engage with a new Tobacco Control Alliance and the resulting Tobacco Control Plan, with reports provided annually to the board.**

22. HEREFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

Superintendent Helen Wain introduced an update on the work of the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership (HCSP) and highlighted the following:

- i. In addition to the priorities of 'Domestic Abuse' and 'Violence Against Women and Girls', carried over from the Community Safety Strategy 2021-2024, the agreed priorities for 2024-2027 included 'Misuse of Drugs' and 'Neighbourhood Crime'.
- ii. The HCSP had also agreed cross cutting themes of 'Serious Violence', 'Serious Organised Crime', 'Prevention', and 'Community Engagement'.
- iii. A detailed review of the HCSP had been completed in 2023 and a revised governance structure had been implemented, as shown in the [agenda supplement](#), including sub-groups aligned to the priorities, and changes to the terms of reference, scope and membership of the Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination Group (MATAC).
- iv. Information was provided in relation to funding allocated from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, West Mercia Serious Violence duty grant funding, and the Home Office funded hotspot programme.
- v. Information was also provided in relation to Domestic Homicide Reviews, challenges in establishing a multi-agency data set to support crime profiles for the county, and intra youth serious violence findings.
- vi. It was noted that a new Community Resilience Team was being created within Public Health.

In response to questions from Dr Andy Watts, Superintendent Wain said: the HCSP had not met since the rioting in the UK during the summer; a hate crime sub-group reported

into MATAAC; there had been a reduction in the reporting of hate crime which needed to be understood, with engagement with relevant groups; and references were made to the Prevent and CONTEST strategies.

Resolved: That the update report be noted.

23. HEREFORDSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24

Kevin Crompton, Independent Chair of the Herefordshire Safeguarding Adults Board (HSAB), introduced the annual report of the HSAB and commented on the following:

- i. The HSAB had been working productively and collaboratively to understand the impact of its work and to be a learning partnership.
- ii. Work was ongoing to build on the multi-agency approach to the safeguarding front door and on transitions for those moving from child to adult services.
- iii. It was noted that comparisons with different authority areas were difficult but the fact that 91.3% of service users felt that the services provided made them feel safe and secure was considered a good indicator of positive outcomes.
- iv. A decrease in the number of safeguarding concerns over the reporting period by 34% was attributed to a change in the referral process; all referrals were being triaged prior to being sent to the safeguarding team.
- v. The staffing capacity of partners remained a challenge, particularly given volatility in referral numbers; for example, there had been five referrals for Safeguarding Adults Reviews in 2023/24 and ten to date in 2024/25.
- vi. It was considered that the Community Wellbeing Directorate had good infrastructure to support vulnerable people, with specific references made to Talk Community and to rough sleeper initiatives.

The Vice-Chairperson said that the report demonstrated that good partnership working that was being undertaken and thanked the Independent Chair for their contribution. The Chairperson welcomed the increase in the percentage of service users that felt safe and noted the need to keep the momentum going.

Resolved: That the board has considered the HSAB Annual Report 2023/24 and discussed the effectiveness of the arrangements for safeguarding adults in Herefordshire.

24. WORK PROGRAMME

The Chairperson drew attention to the updated work programme for the board.

Resolved: That the updated work programme be approved.

25. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting in public was confirmed as [Monday 9 December 2024, 2.00 pm](#)

The meeting ended at 3.40 pm

Chairperson