

Health & Wellbeing Board

A meeting of Health & Wellbeing Board was held on Wednesday, 30th October, 2019.

Present: Cllr Jim Beall (Chairman), Cllr Jacky Bright, Cllr Luke Frost, Martin Gray, Ann Workman, Fiona Adamson, Nicola Bailey, Barry Coppinger, Katie Needham, Natasha Judge (Substitute for Ann Sykes), Barbara Bright (Substitute for Julie Gillon)

Officers: Michael Henderson (MD), Rachel Batey (CS)

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Cllr Lisa Evans, Cllr Lynn Hall, Steve Rose, Sheila Lister, Dominic Gardner, Cllr Mrs Ann McCoy, Anne Sykes, Julie Gillon, Saleem Hassan

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2019 were confirmed as a correct record.

3 **Domestic Abuse Strategy Review**

Consideration was given to a report that provided the Board with an update on the delivery of the Domestic Abuse Strategy, the work of the Domestic Abuse Steering Group and associated issues.

Members noted some key achievements, including:

- the introduction of Multi Agency Task and Coordination Group (MATAC), focusing on serial perpetrators, had produced a 13% reduction in incidents within those perpetrators the subject of the MATAC.
- Stockton had had been successful in becoming a pilot site for the Whole Housing Domestic Abuse initiative.
- The Domestic Abuse Champions network , within Stockton, continued to expand and helped raise awareness across organisations.

Members noted that the Steering Group had been very effective in encouraging multi agency working and removing barriers to the implementation of the Strategy.

The Board received an update relating to the Domestic Abuse Bill 2019 and noted that it had progressed to Committee stage.

It was explained that the Council's Children and Young People's Select Committee was undertaking a review of Domestic Abuse and its impact on children. The review report was likely to be available early in 2020.

Discussion could be summarized as follows:

- it was noted that the Better Health at Work Scheme included a domestic abuse element.
- resourcing of any new responsibilities coming out of the Domestic Abuse Bill still needed to be clarified, nationally.
- an exercise to map available DA training was on going and this would be the subject of consideration by the Steering Group in due course.
- referrals from Health continued to be low.
- Reference was made to some ICS funding, linked to domestic abuse and it was agreed that this would be explored further.

RESOLVED that the update report and discussion be noted/actioned as appropriate.

4 Annual Public Health Report 2018 - 2019

The Board considered the Director of Public Health's report 2018 - 2019 and noted that this year's Annual Public Health Report was focused on the important public health issue of loneliness and was titled "Lonely? Get Connected". Connectivity and kind communities were identified as important components in addressing loneliness.

The report provided a high level summary of the health and wellbeing of Stockton-on-Tees residents with a particular focus on health inequalities. The report also took a close look at the issue of loneliness in the Borough. It was explained that there were an estimated 7,500 people in the Borough who may be experiencing loneliness, which could have a serious impact on their physical and mental health. An important message was that it was not just the elderly that were affected; it affected people right across the life course.

The report defined loneliness as a complex and unpleasant emotional response which could be chronic and long term. It occurred when there was a mismatch between the quality of social interactions that we wanted and needed, to the ones we actually had.

The report provided case studies of initiatives taking place across Stockton-on-Tees, to address loneliness. The case studies were wide ranging, in order to showcase the different interventions in place and how everyone had a role, ranging from the individual, community, to wider environmental approaches such as "Our Spaces".

The Director made a number of recommendations:

- The Health and Wellbeing Board to support the development of a whole system approach to addressing loneliness and ensure there were a

range of interventions which:

- addressed the needs of particular at risk groups, such as young carers.
- prepares and supports individuals during life changing events and transitions where they might be most vulnerable to loneliness.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board to support the production of a loneliness Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to further inform local understanding of the nature of the problem and who most at risk from loneliness was across Stockton-on-Tees.
- Local services/interventions that aimed to reduce loneliness should evaluate the effectiveness of their approaches and helped build the local evidence base on what worked.
- All key partners to contribute to the ongoing mapping of local community assets (community directory) and ensure these are widely publicised, addressing gaps that are identified.
- Key partners such as the Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure that solutions such as social prescribing services were focused on quality of social interactions.
- All partners to explore the potential to included specific outcomes to address loneliness into place based working as an opportunity to scale up work.
- Partners that are responsible for designing urban infrastructure and spatial planning should consider how their designs can best facilitate social connectivity.
- All partners to explore more ways to promote the Five Ways to Wellbeing.
- Partners to invest in programmes that encourage kinder communities so it becomes part of everyday culture.

Discussion could be summarized as follows:

- Members agreed that loneliness was an important issue in the Borough which needed to be tackled.
- Parental loneliness was highlighted. Parents with young, school age, children may not have opportunities to interact with other adults.
- the VCSE was key in making connections for people and helping to prevent loneliness.

RESOLVED that:

1. the report be noted and endorsed.

2. the recommendations contained in the report and detailed above, be agreed and an update on progress be presented to the Board in 6 months.

5 Members' Updates

Members updates included:

Details of additional security arrangements on some wards at North Tees Hospital, relating to drugs misuse.

Details of discussions at the Tees Valley Health and Wellbeing Chairs' Network relating to water fluoridation in the region. It was suggested that an update on this could be provided to the Board in the future.

6 Forward Plan

Members considered the Board's Forward Plan.

It was noted that a community pathfinder report would be presented to the Board's December meeting.