

# Health & Wellbeing Board

A meeting of Health & Wellbeing Board was held on Wednesday, 23rd February, 2022.

**Present:** Cllr Jim Beall(Chair), Cllr Lisa Evans, Cllr Dan Fagan, Cllr Ann McCoy, Martin Gray, Ann Workman, Karen Grundy (Sub for Jon Carling), David Gallagher, Hilton Heslop (sub for Julie Gillon), Peter Smith

**Officers:** Michael Henderson, Joanne Mills, Eve Connor McGill, Ruby Poppleton

**Also in attendance:** Alex Sinclair

**Apologies:** Cllr Jacky Bright, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Fiona Adamson, Sarah Bowman - Abouna, Jon Carling, Dominic Gardner, Julie Gillon, Jonathan Slade

## 1 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 2 Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2022

Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

## 3 Outbreak Management Update

The Board was provided with a presentation, by the Chair and Ann Workman, relating to Covid Outbreak Management.

Key Points:

- Stockton-on-Tees currently had the third highest 7-day infection rate in the North East.
- All North East LAs (including Stockton-on-Tees) had seen an increase in rate compared to 4 weeks ago.
- All North East LAs (including Stockton-on-Tees) had seen a decrease in rate compared to 7 days ago.
- Vaccination uptake in Stockton-on-Tees was higher than the national average.
- There had been 10 COVID-related deaths registered in Stockton-on-Tees in the most recent 7 days.
- CAVEAT: infections data from testing no longer represented a true picture of infections in the community (changes in testing behaviour / reporting etc.)

Members received updates relating to:

- Vaccinations
- National Policy – Isolation, Contact Tracing, Outbreak Management and Inequalities.
- Testing in Schools
- Communications and Engagement

The Board was provided with brief details of emerging plans/issues.

Discussion:-

- Members were concerned about the withdrawal of free testing and the anticipated reduction in people taking the test. It was considered that this would result in false confidence about prevalence.
- Changes to statutory sick payments may encourage some people to go to work, whilst infected. Taking personal responsibility was more difficult when you were on low wages.
- The withdrawal of free tests would create more inequality.
- The Board was hopeful that free tests would still be available to care home settings and it was noted that this was being lobbied for, at regional level.

**RESOLVED** that the update and discussion be noted.

#### **4 Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Strategy (SEND) - Progress and next steps for 2022/2023**

Consideration was given to a report, produced by Martin Gray and Joanne Mills, that provided an update on the SEND Strategy.

Members were reminded that a new SEND strategy had been developed by Health, Education and Social Care partners in 2021 which had been reported to the Board in May 2021. The Strategy included six priorities:

Priority 1 - Working in partnership with families

Priority 2 - Understanding the needs and strengths of children, young people and their families

Priority 3 - Developing a system which meets children, young people and family's needs and is accountable for improving outcomes

Priority 4 - Ensuring that most children and young peoples' needs can be met in local, inclusive mainstream schools

Priority 5 - Developing and maintaining a range of local, high quality specialist provision for those who need it.

Priority 6 - Ensuring children and young people achieve their potential and ambitions, and live as independently as possible

The report gave an overview of an outline action plan 2022/23, the progress made against the priorities and details of next steps.

#### Discussion

- Members highlighted the significant value of the co-produced strategy and priorities.
- The co-produced strategy had assisted in the commissioning of suitable services.
- It was important that the strategy helped prepare young people for adulthood, and that transition was seamless.

#### RESOLVED that

1. progress against the six strategic priorities be noted and the outline action plan for 2022/23 be endorsed.
2. Updates on the Action Plan be provided every 6 months.

## **5 Healthy Schools Programme**

Members received a report and presentation, from Martin Gray and Eve Connor McGill, relating to the Council's Healthy Schools' Programme.

The Board received an outline of the progress made in implementing the Programme, details of the actions taken to date and an outline of proposals for wider rollout.

Members noted :

- The Healthy Schools' Offer.
- The self-assessment and accreditation process
- The Healthy Schools' Toolkit.
- The Whole School Approach
- School sign up, to date
- Governance and Engagement

The Board noted the planned next steps

- Extend and develop partnerships
- Continue to share effective practice through Personal Development Networks
- Drive self-assessment through to accreditation
- Scope a consistent and robust multi-agency accreditation process
- Celebrate success for those who achieve
- Targeted approach to other educational establishments.

## Discussion

- Work was underway to link the Healthy Schools' Programme with school holiday programmes, such as the Holiday Activity Fund and Holiday Enrichment Programme.
- The Programme was targeting health inequalities.
- It was agreed that the accreditations needed to be celebrated to recognise good practice and success and incentivise others to be involved.
- Tees Active was a valuable partner in the Programme.
- It was agreed that the Programme needed to include work on positive relationships. Harbour, the Council's Specialist Domestic Abuse Services provider, would be happy to be involved.
- Once the Healthy Schools' Programme was established, in a school, efforts to encourage its staff to be involved in the Better Health at Work Programme would be beneficial.
- The Healthy Schools' Programme could have long term benefits for children, when they became adults.

RESOLVED that the update on progress and discussion be noted/actioned, as appropriate, and next steps be endorsed.

## **6 Tobacco Alliance Update**

Consideration was given to a presentation, provided by Ruby Poppleton, on Tobacco control.

The presentation included:

- Details of the local picture
- The impact of smoking on health, inequalities and work absence.
- Smoking Prevalence
- Priority cohorts e.g. pregnant women, people with diagnosed mental health conditions.
- The stop smoking service
- Smoke free campaigns
- National Guidance and System working
- The relaunch of the Stockton Tobacco Alliance on National No Smoking Day - 9 March 2022

Discussion:

- Smoking was a significant factor in early death and illness.
- Reducing smoking during pregnancy would be a major priority for action

by the Group. Members were reminded of the regional work associated with this issue

- Reference was made to advisory signs that had previously been placed in school playgrounds. These would be reviewed to see if they were still in place.
- The Alliance would be looking at various aspects of vaping and whether it continued to be helpful in terms of assisting people to stop smoking. It was noted that the Council's Trading Standards service had seized a significant quantity of illegal vaping materials in recent months.
- North Tees would be involved in a study, relating to tobacco dependency in hospital, which would likely focus on the midwifery delivery setting.
- It was suggested that the Tobacco Alliance should look to link with the Healthy Schools' Programme in terms of smoking prevention.
- ASH - Action on Smoking and Health had published some figures on the economic effects of ending smoking in the UK e.g. it would provide an increase in jobs of around 500k and a net gain to the public purse of £600 million.
- The benefits of tackling smoking were immense, for all partners.
- It was suggested that, as part of a planned Healthy Schools' Health Behaviour Questionnaire, for pupils, a question to gauge prevalence in under 18s should be included.

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

## **7 Integrated Care System Update**

The Board received an update presentation, provided by David Gallagher, on Integrated Care Systems (ICS).

The presentation included:

- Details of current CCG statutory duties and powers.
- The existing CCG governance structures within the local North East and North Cumbria ICS.
- Details of the current CCG spend in the local ICS area
- Timeline for the introduction of ICS Governance
- Potential distribution of functions at system and place level.

Discussion:

- It was anticipated that structures would operate in shadow form, for a period.
- The ICS/ICB would be looking to build on what was already in place in each area.

- Partners would have a significantly increased influence, on funding, at place level.
- Representation on local governing bodies, strategic groups and partnerships etc were likely to continue, when functions moved to the ICS.
- The Health and Wellbeing Board had been at the forefront of developing and embedding collaborative working, in the Borough, for a decade. It was agreed that, as a local authority Committee, it would continue to offer some important elected representation in any future health system and provide the link to, and perspective of, the community.

**RESOLVED** that the update be noted.

## **8 Members' Updates**

There were no updates provided.

## **9 Forward Plan**

Members noted the Board's Forward Plan.