

Health & Wellbeing Board

A meeting of Health & Wellbeing Board was held on Wednesday 24 September 2025.

Present: Cllr Lisa Evans (Chair), Cllr Clare Besford, Cllr Pauline Beall, Cllr Diane Clarke, Dr Deepak Dwarakanath, Cllr Sufi Mubeen, Cllr Lynn Hall (Sub for Cllr Sufi Mubeen) Cllr John Coulson (Sub for Cllr Stephen Richardson), Cllr Marcus Vickers, Cllr Sylvia Walmsley, Majella McCarthy, Sarah Bowman Abouna, Fiona Adamson, Karen Hawkins, Tracey Bushnall (Sub for Lucy Owens), Peter Smith, Jamie Todd

Officers: Michael Henderson, John Devine, Jo Linton, Yvonne Cheung, Stacie Thursby, Sid Wong

Also in attendance:

Apologies: Nigel Cooke, Peter Smith, Cllr Dan Fagan, Carolyn Nice, Jonathan Slade, Matt Storey, Lucy Owens, Cllr Stephen Richardson,

1 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

2 **Minutes**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 **Better Care Fund – Quarter 1 Update**

The Board received a report providing an update on the Quarter 1 Better Care Fund (BCF) return for 2025/26, which had been submitted to NHS England on 15 August 2025.

The Board was informed that all national Better Care Fund conditions had been met, including financial reporting, performance metrics and assurance requirements. Progress was highlighted in relation to hospital discharge, admissions avoidance, reablement and the continued strengthening of integrated working arrangements between the Council, NHS and wider partners.

Members noted the ongoing pressures across the health and care system, including capacity and workforce challenges. The Board was informed that joint governance and performance monitoring arrangements were in place to maintain oversight of risks and delivery throughout the year.

RESOLVED: That the Quarter 1 Better Care Fund update be noted.

4 SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy and Action Plan 2025–2029

The Board considered the updated SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy and associated Action Plan for the period 2025–2029.

The Board was informed that the Strategy responded to increasing levels of need, rising numbers of Education, Health and Care Plans, pressures on specialist provision and workforce challenges across the system. It was confirmed that the Strategy had been developed in partnership and set out a clear framework for early identification, timely intervention and improved joint working across education, health and social care.

Governance and monitoring arrangements to support delivery of the Strategy were outlined.

RESOLVED: That the SEND and Alternative Provision Strategy and Action Plan 2025–2029 be approved.

6 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025

The Board was advised that the statutory review of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) had been completed in accordance with legislative requirements.

The Board was informed that consultation responses had been reviewed and incorporated where appropriate, and that the final document was robust, compliant and ready for publication by 1 October 2025.

Members noted the role of the PNA in informing future commissioning decisions and assessing pharmaceutical service provision across the borough.

RESOLVED:

1. that completion of the statutory review be noted.
2. that the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025 be approved for publication.

7 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Update

An update was provided on ongoing Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) work, including emerging population health trends, health inequalities and locality-based analysis.

The Board was informed that JSNA development work was ongoing and that outputs would continue to inform strategy, commissioning and partnership priorities across the health and wellbeing system.

RESOLVED that the JSNA update be noted.

8 Health and Wellbeing Board – Forward Plan/Deep Dive Sessions

The Board considered the proposed forward plan for future deep-dive sessions aligned to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Members were informed that the programme would support shared understanding of priority areas.

RESOLVED that the plan be noted