

Minutes of Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board

**4 December 2024 at 5.32pm
In the Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House.**

Present:

Councillor Jackie Taylor	Chair and Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing
Dr Sommiya Aslam	Vice- Chair and Local Commissioning Clinical Lead – Black Country Integrated Care Board
Councillor Jalal Uddin	Cabinet Member for Children and Families.
Councillor Vicki Smith	Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development
Councillor Sukhbir Gill	Cabinet Member for Business and Skills
Councillor Elaine Giles	Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board
Councillor Nicky Hinchliff	Chair of Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board
Adele Hickman	Head of Primary Care and Place Commissioning – Black Country Integrated Care Board
Elizabeth Learoyd	Chair of Healthwatch Sandwell
Alexia Farmer	Healthwatch Sandwell Manager
Imam Nasir Akhtar	Chair of Sandwell Multi- Faith Network
Ayyat Adigun	Chair of SHAPE Youth Forum
Briony Jones	Vice- Chair of SHAPE Youth Forum

A quorum was not obtained at the commencement of the meeting, due to non- attendance. In accordance with 2(2.3) of the Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board Constitution, the meeting continued for the purpose of examining the business before it, at the discretion of the Chair.

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In attendance

Steve Thomson	Chief Executive – Age UK Sandwell
Reverend Laurel Woodstock	Senior Pastor – New Testament Church of God, Oldbury
Sian Thomas	Chief Integration Officer – Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust
Tapiwa Mtemachani	Director of Transformation and Partnerships – Black Country Integrated Care Board
Debra Howls	Head of Partnerships – Black Country Integrated Care Board
Queshia- Te’Ann Mapp	Children and Young People’s Mental Health Nurse – Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
Lina Martino	Consultant in Public Health and Director of Sandwell Health Determinants Research Collaboration
Sue Clark	Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Lead Officer for Improvement and Learning and Development
Ellen Blakey	Specialty Registrar in Public Health,
Alex Goddard	Scrutiny Lead Officer
John Swann	Democratic Services Officer

32/24 Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Michelle Carolan (Sandwell Managing Director – Black Country Integrated Care Board), Chief Superintendent Kim Maddil (West Midlands Police), Marsha Foster (Chief Executive – Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust), Mark Davies (Chief Executive - Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations), Sally Giles (Director of Children and Education Services) and Liann Brookes-Smith (Interim Director of Public Health).

33/24 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest were received.

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34/24 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 11 September 2024 are approved as a correct record.

35/24 Additional Items of Business

There were no urgent additional items of business.

36/24 Presentations from Local Organisations

Age UK Sandwell

The Chief Executive of Age UK Sandwell provided the Board with an overview of the activity it carried out within the Borough.

Information, advice and guidance was provided for older people, which had led to over £400,000 worth of additional benefits claimed for older people in 2023 alone. Another key programme was the facilitation of activity clubs which aimed to prevent social isolation and promote wellbeing.

Age UK Sandwell worked with all age groups, and had seen an increase in those accessing the service below the age of 65. In addition, there had been an increase in those diagnosed with dementia, particularly those who received a diagnosis at a younger age.

It was acknowledged that some older people struggle to access services online, and efforts were underway to reduce digital exclusion.

The service worked with faith groups, used translation services and provided targeted support in poorer areas to ensure the needs of those with increased vulnerabilities were met.

New Testament Church of God, Oldbury

The Church was established over 65 years ago and in addition to the 800- capacity worship centre, provided a range of services in Oldbury.

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A range of services for children, including educational support, after-school clubs, the kids club and the youth fellowship were provided from the Oldbury site. As well services for adults, including weekly meetings for adults to tackle family issues and loneliness.

The Church operated a foodbank, which was partnered with the Black Country franchise to aid distribution to those who required support. It was reported that demand for the foodbank had increased during the cost of living crisis, and efforts were underway to enable those from further afield, as well as those in the locality, to access support.

Leaflets had been created, and it was hoped that this would increase public awareness of the services provided.

37/24 Integrated Care Strategy Update

The Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) was made up of local authorities within the Black Country and the Black Country Integrated Care Board, and was due to refresh the Integrated Care Strategy following the publication of updated guidance from central government in February 2024.

The Strategy was a key document and plan that set the long-term goals and deliverables around health service provision across the Black Country.

In developing the updated strategy, the ICP had consulted both local health and Wellbeing Boards and the wider public via surveys to ensure the strategy addressed the key priorities of the population. The key themes identified as part of this exercise were:

- Poverty reduction and prosperity;
 - 51% of our population lived in acute deprivation in comparison to the national average of 20%.
 - Employment, employability and income were key factors in relation to reducing poverty rates.
 - Rates of education, skills and training amongst our population was below the national average.
- Prevention as a tool to get and stay well;

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- Live expectancies in the Black Country were below the national average.
- Discussions had been underway about moving resources from cure to prevention to reduce the rates of illness.
- Population health and poor health outcomes.
 - Efforts to support those with increased vulnerabilities including refugee, migrant and homeless communities.

The ICP was due to meet in January 2025 to consider the draft strategy. It was proposed that the strategy would be finalised and published in the second half of 2025, following work to agree how progress against the strategy would be monitored.

From the comments and questions by members of the Board, the following responses were made, and issues highlighted:

- The established health infrastructure across the region was good, and had been further enhanced after the opening of the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital.
- A population outcomes framework had been developed, which incorporated health and wellbeing indicators to enable the tracking of outcomes and affordability.
- Available data in relation to primary care indicated that the performance of GP surgeries was positive, with more appointments offered compared to pre- Covid levels, however patients may benefit from alternative access routes into the primary care service.
- Acknowledged primary care challenges included the '8am rush', supporting patients who were less technologically competent and local challenges such as malnutrition.
- The Black Country ICB had recently launched a new primary care strategy to ensure GP surgeries were modern in nature and contained a range of healthcare professionals, so patients could be treated by those most appropriate to their needs upon presentation.
- Efforts were underway to promote active lifestyles to residents to reduce obesity levels. The Council offered weight management services for children, families and adults, prevention work in schools via health visitors and the school nursing offer and an active travel offer.
- The Borough had low car ownership and access to transport was limited in some areas of the six towns.

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- Eating disorders were prevalent amongst young people, it was acknowledged that the psychological impact of being weighed in a school setting could impact the perception of body image.

(Councillor Smith left the meeting during consideration of this item).

38/24 **National Institute for Health Research: Health Determinants Research Collaboration**

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) was the biggest private funder of health research in the UK.

Sandwell Council, in collaboration with the University of Birmingham had been successful during the second round of funding awarded to local authorities to establish Health Determinants Research Collaborations (HDRCs) in the local area.

The Council's HDRC programme had commenced on 1 January 2024 with funds of £5m across a five year period. The Council had partnered with a range of stakeholders including the UK Health Security Agency, Health Education England West Midlands and Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO).

Progress across the year had been positive and had included:

- Recruitment of the core staff team had taken place.
- The Terms of Reference had been agreed.
- The draft Partnership Agreement had been compiled and was currently under review by the Council's legal department.
- The first financial monitoring report was submitted to the NIHR in September 2024, following which assurance was provided that the grant was being spent as planned.

There were four workstreams which were progressing:

- **Capacity and Infrastructure**
 - Exercises to map existing research governance, ethics pathways and datasets in departments across the Council had taken place.

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- A research needs analysis survey was undergoing development.
- It was proposed that a package of training would be developed for Council officers and members.
- **Culture and Translating evidence to practice**
 - Interview with the Council's senior leadership team to assess the culture had been completed.
 - An audit of the extent of Cabinet's Equality Impact Assessments was in progress.
 - 'Research Champions' across the Council were due to be created, to incorporate research into service planning and design.
- **System and Partnerships**
 - A draft research strategy was undergoing development.
 - Case studies had been produced of where research has taken place within the Council which had translated into practice.
 - Work was due to continue to embed governance frameworks into best practice.
- **Community Participation**
 - A formal launch event for stakeholders had been held on 27 November 2024, during which the HDRC website had gone live.
 - A communications plan was being developed to increase awareness of the HDRC and inform partners of activities and projects within the programme.
 - A programme of events was envisaged for 2025, to include a community roadshow, networking events and a conference.

It was confirmed that the SHAPE Youth Forum would be consulted as part of the programme of work.

39/24

Sandwell Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025

The Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) was a document which assessed the pharmaceutical needs of the local population and the location and provision of pharmacy services.

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The Health and Wellbeing Board had a statutory duty to produce a PNA for Sandwell, which was updated every three years. The previous PNA was published in October 2022.

Three different levels of pharmaceutical services are provided by pharmacies:

- Essential Services – provided by all pharmacies and commissioned by NHS England.
- Advanced Services – which can be provided by pharmacies once accreditation requirements have been met (also commissioner via NHS England).
- Enhanced Services – services which are commissioned by Local Authorities, the Integrated Care Board and NHS England in response to the needs of the local population.

A steering group for the PNA had been established and was made up of representatives from the Council, the Black Country ICB, Healthwatch Sandwell and Community Pharmacies Sandwell.

The PNA steering group had developed a definition of 'necessary services' for Sandwell, as there was no definition within the regulations and this could be decided at Borough level.

The definition incorporated all essential services and the following advanced services - flu vaccinations, hypertension case- finding, new medicine, pharmacy contraception and the Pharmacy First Service.

Advanced services excluded by the definition were appliance use review stoma application customisation, lateral flow devices and a smoking cessation service.

In developing the definition, the PNA steering group had consulted both the public and pharmacies, and in doing so had conducted targeted engagement with underrepresented groups.

The updated final PNA was due to be published in October 2025.

Members in attendance endorsed the proposed definition of necessary services.

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(Councillor Uddin and Ayyat Adigun left the meeting during consideration of this item).

40/24 Healthwatch Sandwell Update

Engaging Communities Solutions CIC (ECS) had been successful in resecuring the Healthwatch Sandwell Contract, which had been awarded by the Council in October 2024 for a five- year period.

ECS had been the provider since 2018 and were one of the largest providers of local Healthwatch services within the country.

Priorities for Healthwatch Sandwell included proactive engagement (via outreach officers within community settings), ensuring that the work programme was aligned to the wider Sandwell health priorities and the launch of a listening tour across Sandwell to consider the view of residents.

Healthwatch Sandwell had a legal Enter and View power to visit local healthcare services and see them in action. This function allowed Healthwatch Sandwell to identify what was working well within services and how these could be improved.

(Briony Jones left the meeting during consideration of this item).

41/24 Work Programme 2024/ 25

The Board noted its Work Programme for 2024/ 25.

Meeting ended at 7.46pm
(meeting was adjourned between 6.24- 6.32pm).

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