

Minutes

of the Meeting of

The Health and Wellbeing Board

Thursday, 24 August 2023

Kenn Room

Meeting Commenced: 2.00 pm

Meeting Concluded: 2.50 pm

Board Members:

Colin Bradbury (Vice-Chairperson - in the chair)

Jeremy Blatchford

Paula Clarke

Emma Diakou

Mandy Gardner

Catherine Gibbons

Mark Graham

Matt Lenny

Stephen Quinton

Helen Thornton

Hayley Verrico

Apologies: Councillors: Jenna Ho Marris (Chair), Georgie Bigg, Kirstie Corns, Carolyn Fair, John Heather, David Moss, Sarah Pepper, Julie Sharma and Dan Thomas.

Officers in attendance: Gerald Hunt, Leo Taylor, Harriet Isherwood (NSC), Natasha Ward (BNSSG Integrated Care Board).

38 Public Participation (Standing Order 17)

Alan Rice, representing Weston Housing Action (WHA), spoke about link between poor housing and poor health. He said WHA Now get 1-2 related referrals a day and referred to the findings of a 2018 Kings Fund report on the costs of poor housing (£1.4b/year) and value of addressing this with each pound spent reportedly yielding the equivalent of £4 worth of health benefit. He gave a number of local examples where the social housing subscription scheme had apparently failed, noting the role of the medical panel in assessing these applications. He was concerned that findings of the panel could be inconsistent with supporting evidence provided by other specialist clinicians and requested more information about the composition of the panel and the basis on which its assessments were reached.

The Chair thanked Mr Rice for his address and invited him to detail his concerns in writing to the Board for a full response.

39 Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interest (Standing Order 37)

None.

40 Minutes

Resolved: that the Minutes of the last Board meeting held on 5 July 2023 be approved as correct record.

41 Better Care Fund Plan 2023-25

The Director of Adult services introduced the item and outlined the governance requirement for bringing this item to this additional meeting of the Board for formal ratification of the Better Care Fund Plan. She said that all parties were committed to starting this process earlier going forward.

The Principal Head of Commissioning, Partnerships and Housing (NSC) then outlined the Better Care Fund Plan set out in Appendix one of the report; and the supporting documents around BCF finding streams, capacity and demand for intermediate care services and ambitions on making progress against the national metrics – set out in Appendix two.

The following points were raised by Board Members in the ensuing debate:

- With reference to the earlier public address on the linkage between poor health outcomes and housing/income, there was discussion around what was being done by the partnership to support the local population and carers in particular. Council officers referred to the highest priority given to housing within the district's two Locality Partnerships and the work being done within the Council to deliver better housing. With respect to income support, they also referred to a range of support packages including the Discharge Grant and the Council's ongoing support to people struggling with energy bills. With respect to carer wages, they referred to a range of initiatives including the Fair Cost of Care pay awards and the Care Bonus scheme. Pay and conditions in the West of England care sector were some of the best in the UK and this had helped in the current challenging situation.
- Members raised the issue staff capacity for dementia care. Officers reported that a market survey indicated sufficient dementia care and an excess of domiciliary care. They were however guarded against complacency noting that there had been some localised access issues.
- In response to a query about discharge support for people with serious but short-term issues, officers confirmed these would be dealt with by the transfer of care hubs.

In concluding the discussion it was:-

Resolved:

- (1) that the Better Care Fund Plan be approved;

- (2) that the use of mandatory BCF funding streams be agreed;
- (3) that the assessment of capacity and demand for intermediate care services be confirmed; and
- (4) that the ambitions on making progress against the national metrics be confirmed.

Chairman
