

**BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 2ND SEPTEMBER 2021**

PRESENT:

Councillors	Mohammed Khan
	Julie Gunn
	Damian Talbot
ELHT	Tony McDonald
Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)	Roger Parr
Health Watch	Sarah Johns
Voluntary Sector	Vicky Shepherd
	Dilwara Ali
Council	Jayne Ivory
	Dominic Harrison
	Sayyed Osman
	Laura Wharton

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received on behalf of Graham Burgess, Martin Hodgson, Angela Allen, Howerd Booth, Joanne Siddle, Councillor John Slater and Councillor Mustafa Desai.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2021

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 12th July 2021 were submitted.

RESOLVED – That the minutes submitted be agreed as a correct record.

4. Public Questions

The Chair informed the Board that no public questions had been received.

5. Age Well Annual Update & Living Longer Better Strategy

Living Longer Better Strategy

Sayyed Osman provided an update on the development of the Living Longer Better approach to support active ageing in Blackburn with Darwen. The Board heard that Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria had commissioned Sir Muir Grey to develop the Ageing Well programme across the footprint. This would provide a framework which encouraged a whole system culture change around active ageing and it was felt it was a perfect fit for the local collective strategic priorities. The Ageing Well Partnership felt that the development of this programme would enhance and support our ambition for Blackburn with Darwen to be a place where it was good to grow old.

Sayyed briefly outlined the key priorities and principles and informed the Board that as part of the Age Well partnership arrangement, funding amounting to £10,000 was available from Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System to Age UK BwD to develop the approach. The Board heard that Officers from both Adults and Health departments were assisting with the initial approach which would then be managed by a wider group facilitated through the Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria funding.

Sayyed asked the Board to note the remaining contents of the report, and expressed his thanks to Vicky Shepherd and Beth Wolfenden for their involvement in this.

Age Well Update

Sayyed informed the Board that during the last 18 months of covid, fantastic progress had been made with the overarching priorities. Covid had placed significant delays and created substantial challenges. Several meetings had taken place to re-assess the vision and new set of priorities, which were outlined in the presentation as follows:-

Overarching Priorities

- Develop Blackburn with Darwen as a Dementia Friendly community
- Increase support to reduce Social Isolation and Loneliness
- Develop the local Integrated Neighbourhood Service offer to promote independence
- Promote Digital Inclusion to ensure older people are able to access and benefit from an inclusive approach

Supporting Priorities

- Age Friendly society
- Supporting Older Persons Forum
- Active Ageing Framework
- Falls Prevention
- Review of Sheltered Housing

Sayyed informed the Board of the action plan going forward which consisted of:-

- Long Covid - Ensure Covid recovery needs of older people are part of a system wide approach
- Dementia - Develop BwD to be more dementia friendly and increase support to enable both carers and people living with dementia to live and age well
- Social isolation - Build on the Covid 19 learning and opportunities to both influence local strategies and action plans and support the need for digital inclusion programmes to prevent digital exclusion. Work with the Digital Inclusion Network to support a co-ordinated approach
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- Poverty and Housing - Maintain a focus on the risks of poverty and effects of poor housing on older people, particularly in relation to deterioration of the condition of properties due to Covid repair delays
- Work towards improving healthy life expectancy - Promote opportunities for older people to both live and age well and be active and ensure that health inequalities are recognised, mitigated and reduced
- End of Life / Last 1000 days - Work across system to ensure that families and loved ones are able to have choice, dignity and quality in how they are supported; Support awareness and build capacity within communities and Personalise and work with our residents/their families on their wishes as far as possible

RESOLVED – That the Board;

- 1) Note the presentation; and
- 2) Endorse and support the living Longer Better approach in Blackburn with Darwen

6. Health Inequalities Commission

The Chair informed the Board that unfortunately the Reporting Officer had to submit their apologies for the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances, and that this item would be deferred and brought before the Board at a future meeting.

RESOLVED – In the absence of the Reporting Officer, it was agreed that this item be deferred to a future meeting.

7. Start Well Highlight Report

Jayne Ivory commenced the presentation by informing the Board that 36.5% of children in Blackburn with Darwen were living in poverty (relative low income families) which was a - 0.6 percentage point change on the previous year. The Board heard that evidence suggested the pandemic has had a disproportionate adverse impact on health and wellbeing outcomes for children, young people and families from low income households.

Jayne informed the Board of a Child Poverty workshop that was delivered on 24th May, which had been facilitated by Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), the Director of Children’s Services and the Director of Public Health. Key themes that had been identified for action included social security / welfare benefits, housing, childcare, education and employment. Following on from this, a session was then delivered to the Council’s Corporate Management Board on 28th July 2021.

The Board heard that the next steps would include:

- Child Poverty Board and strategic plan to be established
- Public Health to explore anti-poverty themes with the Live and Age Well Board
- Link into the Lancashire & South Cumbria Health Inequalities Commission
- Sir Michael Marmot to undertake a review and provide recommendations
- Refresh Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy

The Board then received an update on the Neglect LGA Peer Challenge and feedback report. Jayne informed the Board that the peer review was conducted from 21st – 25th June 2021, and the challenge focussed on the ‘Effective understanding, recognition and response to neglect’ including:-

- Leadership, management and culture including vision and strategy

- Capacity and managing resources – were leaders creating the right environment for good social work practice?
- Effective practice, service delivery and the voice of the child – including impact on outcomes for children and families

The Group heard that the Peer Challenge involved 6 Reviewers, 5 days of remote challenge, 20 cases audited, 80 people spoke with reviewers (council staff & Elected Members, external partners and stakeholders), 25 meetings took place to gather information and views, including focus groups and observations, and additional research and reading, and 255 hours collectively spent by reviewers to determine their findings.

Feedback received from the Lead Inspector, on Partnership Working on Neglect, was that *“The education community, voluntary and faith organisations and the third sector have worked with the Council to support families through these unprecedented and challenging times”*

The Group heard that the multi-agency approach was to reduce the prevalence and the impact of child poverty in the Borough and aimed to embed a multi-agency approach to neglect throughout the Borough. The Group heard about the challenges faced, as highlighted below:-

- 82% of open *Child in Need* cases had a primary need of Neglect or Abuse (June 2021)
- 41% of *Child Protection Plans* had a category of Neglect (June 2021)
- 12,639 (37%) of children aged 0-16 lived in ‘relative low income’ households in BwD
- Covid 19 - since the start of the pandemic there has been an increase in the number of individuals and families needing support in the Borough as a result of growing poverty and isolation

The Group then heard of the partnership strengths which were highlighted as follows:-

- Neglect Champions were embedded across the partnership to ensure that relevant information was cascaded to partner agencies
- Rolling programme of Neglect Training and Graded Care Profile training available for partner agencies and staff
- Strong and well-embedded relationships across partner agencies who were engaged in driving strategic ambition for children

Going forward there was more work to do and the Group were informed of the ongoing work that was needed:-

- How could partners further support the Neglect Strategy including Primary Care, Public Health and across the education community?
- Focus partnership energy and effort into the implementation of the Start Well strategy to ensure effective prevention, early identification, and intervention for children vulnerable to neglect
- Further work needed with partner agencies to ensure the strategy is fully embedded across the wider partnership

Jayne informed the Board that Blackburn with Darwen had received very encouraging feedback and “despite a prolonged and extreme impact of the pandemic, the Council and partners had demonstrated a determined approach of ‘business as usual’ as far as possible in these extraordinary times”. Jayne continued to highlight other areas of work that had

received positive feedback, these included Leadership, Partnership and Integration, Governance, and Caseload Management – The Children’s Advice & duty Service Effect.

Key recommendations from the review were summarised to the Board as follows:-

- Performance Management - Prioritise the development of performance management reporting and analysis
- Impact and outcomes - Better understand and evidence impact of services on outcomes for children and families
- Culture and Identity - Make the significance and impact of culture and identity a more prominent feature in assessments and care plans
- Public Law Outline (PLO) - Strengthen systems to promote the timely progress of cases in PLO
- Further enquiry to better understand impact - Repeat & short-term child protection plans where neglect was a feature require further enquiry
- Child’s Lived Experience - Further develop a holistic approach to the child’s lived experience of neglect including evaluating evidence and capacity for sustained change beyond consideration of physical conditions

Jayne informed the Board that case reviewers audited 20 cases and concluded that:-

- The needs of children were well understood with consistent evidence of the voice of the child being apparent
- An impressive and broad ranging Family Support offer, including a range of highly regarded support services provided by the voluntary sector
- The Graded Care Profile 2 (GCP2) was becoming embedded in practice and underpinning a better understanding of the child’s lived experience and informed the focus of care plans
- The quality and timeliness of assessments with an increased focus on the child’s lived experience was improving
- The roll out of the Risk Sensible Model was supporting improved analysis and assessment in care planning

In bringing the presentation to an end the Board was informed of the areas that had been identified for improvement, which were outlined as follows:-

- Ensure that the Neglect Strategy was fully understood across Primary Care
- Increase engagement of General Practitioners in strategy discussions and child protection conferences
- Better recording in children’s assessments and plans to demonstrate
 - the impact of poverty and the pandemic on the child and family
 - the significance and impact of the child’s culture, identity, and family traditions
- Pre-birth assessments would benefit from “a bespoke assessment tool that would promote a holistic multi agency assessment of the child’s needs and parenting capacity”
- Improve the timeliness of child protection conference minutes – to drive care plan

Finally, the Board looked at the next steps, and heard that:-

- Partnership recommendations from the Peer Review would be driven through the Children’s Partnership Board and the Neglect Champions sub group

- Children’s Services recommendations would be actioned and monitored via the strategic Service Development Board & Practice Improvement Operational Group - “Outstanding Practice” priority
- Ofsted ILACS Inspection of Children’s Services - preparation was underway to implement the recommendations in advance of the inspection.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted and that the presentation be circulated.

8. Covid Situational Awareness

Dominic Harrison provided an update to the Board on the daily and weekly confirmed case numbers and rates up to 26th August 2021. The Board heard that there had been 26,869 cases recorded cumulatively since the start of the pandemic. There had been a rise in cases recently, although it was noted that the increases were only small. The latest rate being 261.3 per 100k.

The Board viewed the Case Rate Data as of 1st September 2021 for all 14 Lancashire Local Authorities. Previously Blackburn with Darwen’s rates had been higher than others, however Blackburn with Darwen now had the lowest rate of all the Lancashire districts, and one of the lowest rates in England.

The Board looked at the geography of recently confirmed cases per Ward and it was noted that there had been 392 cases in the week to 26th August 2021 and 47 cases on the latest confirmed day which was 26th August 2021.

Dominic informed the Board of the case number trends for Age Groups and highlighted that the smallest case numbers was for the 65+ age group however an increase in this age bracket had also been observed. The majority of cases were within the working age category of 16-64 years and children’s case numbers were variable. It was anticipated that numbers would increase in children with the return to school this week.

The Board then looked at Covid Inpatients and Deaths summary and as of 24th August 2021 there had been 28 ELHT Covid Inpatients. It was noted that patient numbers appeared to be decreasing gradually. Importantly, it was highlighted that local hospital data for 1 week had not been received so it was not known how many of these ELHT patients were from Blackburn with Darwen.

As of 1st September 2021, 438 Blackburn with Darwen residents had died within 28 days of a positive covid diagnosis. The Board noted that during July 2021 there had been 9 deaths within 28 days of a covid diagnosis and to the 30th August 2021, there had been 1 further death. There had been no further deaths since this.

The Board heard that the latest vaccination data for Blackburn with Darwen, from Public Health England was as follows:

- First dose total – 96, 423
- Second dose total – 85, 099

It was noted that the total percentage of people in Blackburn with Darwen, as of 1st September, aged 18+ who had received a COVID-19 vaccination was as follows:

- 76.8% of those aged 18+ have had 1 dose
- 67.8% of those aged 18+ have had dose 2

Discussions also took place around Long Covid and the importance to re-focus efforts and really understand how people had been affected by long covid. It was agreed that a full discussion on this be brought to the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted and the presentation be circulated to the Board and that an item on Long Covid be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

9. Blackburn with Darwen Walking and Cycling Plan

The Board received an information only report which provided members with an update on Blackburn with Darwen’s first walking and cycling plan.

The purpose of the report, along with background information was highlighted in the report, which was contained within the agenda pack.

RESOLVED – That the Board

- Note the contents of the Walking and Cycling Plan
- Welcome and fully support the Walking and Cycling Plan

10. Better Care Fund – Quarter 1 Update

The Board received an information only report which provided members with an update on the Better Care Fund and Better Care Fund (BCF and iBCF) pooled budget financial position for Quarter 1 2021/2022.

Background information was highlighted in the report, which was contained within the agenda pack.

A full update would be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

RESOLVED – That the Board;

- Note the Better Care Fund Quarter 1 2021/2022 delivery and financial position; and
- Note the future planning and review of Blackburn with Darwen Better Care Fund Plans for 2021/2022.

11. Any Other Business

RESOLVED – That the proposed items for the next meeting be noted and that an item on Long Covid be brought to the next meeting.

Signed.....

Chair of the meeting at which the Minutes were signed

Date.....