

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
FROM:	Cath Taylor, Consultant in Public Health
DATE:	19 th June 2024

SUBJECT: Live Well update: Wider Determinants of Health

1. PURPOSE

To provide an update on delivery of the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 'Live Well' priorities and actions, specifically those relating to the Wider Determinants of Health including Priority 2: Healthy homes, places and communities and Priority 4: Good quality work and maximising income.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

The Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- a. Note the contents of this report which is for information and update on progress.

3. BACKGROUND

In December 2023, the Health and Wellbeing Board approved the introduction of a new annual schedule of life-course updates. The aim of these updates is to provide assurance to the Board that the strategy priority areas and objectives are being delivered.

Whilst the board already receives annual Start Well and Age Well updates, there was no formal schedule for providing updates on the three priorities covering 'Live Well' within the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (figure 1):

- Priority 2: Healthy homes, places and communities
- Priority 3: Mental and physical health and wellbeing
- Priority 4: Good quality work and maximising income

There is a wide span of groups across the Council and broader partners which are delivering activity aligned to these priorities. A mapping exercise was undertaken to identify key strategic groups and other supporting groups or services involved with the delivery of each of the actions.

In recognition of the breath of the Live Well agenda, the board agreed that two Live Well updates be provided per year as follows:

1. Mental and Physical Health (Priority 3)
2. Wider Determinants of Health (Priority 2 and 4)

In addition, it was agreed that key strategic groups identified through the mapping were asked to provide a short highlight report to the Board in order to demonstrate their activity in support of the strategy.

An annual Dying Well update will also be received by the Board.

Figure 1: Joint Local Health and Wellbeing (JLHWB) Strategy on a page

Section 3: Our Health and Wellbeing Strategy on a Page					
Blackburn with Darwen Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023 - 2028					
Our Vision <i>Working together to create a healthier, safer and fairer Blackburn with Darwen where everyone benefits from sustained improvements in health and wellbeing</i>					
Our Principles					
Action on the wider determinants of health	Ensuring health equity	Communities driving change	Intelligence and evidence based decision making	Coordination at place and service integration	
Our Priorities					
Best start in life	Healthy, homes, places and communities	Mental and physical health and wellbeing	Good quality work and maximising income	Positive ageing and independence in later life	Dying well
How we will deliver our priorities					
Start Well Start Well annual action plan	Live Well Live Well annual action plan	Age Well Age Well annual action plan	Dying well Dying Well annual action plan		
Pennine Heathy Equity Alliance					
Blackburn with Darwen Place Based Partnership					
Primary Care Neighbourhoods					
Monitoring					

A summary of activity by key groups identified in relation to mental and physical health and wellbeing is shown in Figure 2 and 3.

Figure 2: Key strategic groups delivering against Priority 2 Healthy homes, places and communities of the JLHWB Strategy

	Objective(s) aligned to group activity	Healthy Homes Partnership	Affordable Warmth Forum	Climate Emergency Working Group	Eat Well Move More Strategic Group	BwD Road Safety Group	Strategic Planning & Transport Team	Walking Cycling and Wheeling Group	EDI Network
1.	Establish a local Healthy Homes Partnership to drive improvements in improving health through home.								
2.	Work to ensure that new housing developments within the borough create healthy, sustainable and inclusive communities.								
3.	Deliver a quality safe and warm homes programme for the borough, including supporting people in fuel poverty and fuel debt through the Affordable Warmth Forum partnership.								
4.	Reduce fuel poverty and improve home safety by increasing awareness of the home and health relationship across partners.								
5.	Ensure all services who visit homes embed safe and warm home service pathway into their delivery.								
6.	Increase the rates of active travel across the borough through delivery of the BwD Walking and Cycling Plan.								
7.	Reduce accidents by delivering the Safer Roads Strategy action plan.								
8.	Provide a healthier and more sustainable food environment, including access to healthier and more affordable foods.								
9.	Support the Council's delivery of the Climate Emergency Action Plan and Climate Adaptation Plan.								
10.	Ensure our spatial planning policies increase connectivity whilst improving health and wellbeing, air quality and reducing accidents.								
11.	Ensure open spaces and green infrastructure encourage physical activity and support positive emotional wellbeing.								
12.	Build on the assets and strengths of specific communities to enable residents to identify the services and support they need to develop strong and resilient communities.	<i>No specific group identified to deliver against objective</i>							
13.	Tackle loneliness and isolation and foster positive social connections among children, young people, working age adults and older adults.	<i>No specific group identified to deliver against objective</i>							
14.	Tackle discrimination, racism and their outcomes								

Figure 3: Key strategic groups delivering against Priority 4 Good quality work and maximising income of the JLHWB Strategy

	Objective(s) aligned to group activity	Employment and Skills Board	L2050 Economic inactivity group	Adult Learning and Employment Support Services	Debt, Welfare and Housing Advice Service
1.	Support young people to feel increased ambition and aspiration, develop life skills, build resilience and encouraging them into professions with career opportunities and/or recruitment challenges.				
2.	Take action across health and care organisations to increase the number of apprenticeships and other vocational training available.				
3.	Support our working-age population into a stable and healthy work environment, allowing individuals to gain the skills and confidence that enable them to compete for jobs as equals including; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteering opportunities as a route to employment - Good quality retraining and skills programmes - Support to improve digital skills in the workplace - A broad range of employability programmes targeting those from disadvantaged communities or facing inequalities - More local employers supporting older adults to stay in or return to work - Support for residents with long term conditions into employment. 				
4.	Ensure people stay well in work, by developing healthy and supportive work environments that promote health and wellbeing and offer support to individuals where needed.				
5.	Work with large scale organisations and anchor institutions to take a role in contributing to the wellbeing of the population and improving social value.				
6.	Improve access to benefit and debt advice by working closely with our commissioned service and other partners to ensure all residents who need support are able to access at the right time, in the right place and in the right way for them.				

4. RATIONALE

In order to provide assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board that the vision and priorities within the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy are being delivered, there is a need for clear reporting arrangements between the Board and any key strategic groups.

5. KEY ISSUES

The highlight reports from each group are provided in Appendix A and B and summarised below.

Priority 2: Healthy homes, Places and Communities

Healthy Homes Partnership: This group oversees the delivery of the new Healthy Homes contract (also known as Safe and Warm Homes) which is commissioned by Public Health and delivered by Care Network. Currently the contract is meeting all its KPI's including the numbers of healthy homes assessments undertaken, customers supported and onward referrals made.

Additional money from Public Health has meant that Care Network now offer a Child Safety Awareness pack, which includes the fitting of two, free child safety gates into the homes of vulnerable families. This enables the team to gain access the properties to conduct a healthy homes assessment and checking if the family is eligible for any additional support. The partnership are currently working to increase referrals from and raise awareness of the project and the services available, with the South Asian Community via Lancashire Council of Mosques.

Affordable Warmth Forum: This group aims to increase awareness of fuel poverty/debt in the borough by engaging with partner organisations and sharing best practice and policy updates. Current work includes raising awareness of the fuel poverty toolkit, working with the Home Energy officer to bid for additional funding from the Energy Redress Fund to build sustainability after the Household Support Funds ends.

Climate Emergency Working Group: This group aims to develop and implement the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan. During 2023/24 they have planted 933 trees, introduced 11 Electric Vehicles to the fleet, established a Climate Community and achieved grade 'A' on climate action. Priorities for 2024/25 include undertaking techno-economic feasibility of heat networks in BwD town centres, implementation of natural flood management interventions, completion of the Adaptation Strategy and bite size training for staff and members.

Eat Well, Move More (EWMM) Strategic Group: This group oversees the implementation of the EWMM strategy, adopted in 2022, and provides oversight of the operational groups which lead on the key strategy themes. The group is attended by a broad range of stakeholders and has a cross-cutting agenda across all of the Live Well priorities.

Over the last 12 months a strategy [implementation plan](#) has been developed, including activity delivered over seven themes. Three of these are particularly relevant to Priority 2:

1. Active Travel - This theme is led by from the Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Operational Group which is currently reviewing the Walking and Cycling Plan.
2. Food Environment – This theme is led by the led by the BwD Food Alliance who achieved a Sustainable Food Places Bronze award in November 2023. They are currently developing a Food Equity network and a 'Food Club', which includes strength-based food support which is a step down from food crisis support via heavily subsidized food parcels.
3. Green and blue space – This theme aims to ensure open spaces and green infrastructure support physical activity and positive emotional wellbeing through the Local Plan process and interventions via the Council's Wellbeing Service and Re:refresh.

Walking, Cycling and Wheeling Group: This group provides a strategic approach to the planning, development and delivery of safe walking, cycling and wheeling routes, and the promotion of active travel in BwD. In 2023/24 the group adopted a new Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, secured funding for a number of schemes on Leeds and Liverpool Canal and completed redevelopment of the Active Outdoors Hub in Witton Park. In 2024/25 the group aim to progress delivery of the above canal schemes, undertake a number of audits of routes to schools and input into the Local Transport Plan 4.

Strategic Planning & Transport Team: This team are responsible for preparing and reviewing a wide range of strategic planning documents, including the Blackburn with Darwen Local Plan 2021-2037, which was adopted in January 2024. This contains a number of policies which meet the aims of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy related to health and wellbeing, climate change, inclusive design, green and blue infrastructure and accessibility. Priorities for 2024/25 include preparation of a Planning for Health Supplementary Planning Document

BwD Road Safety Group: This group comprises of individuals across council departments, Lancashire Constabulary, NWSAS and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, and has oversight for delivery of the Safer Roads action plan. The group has undertaken data analysis of all BwD wards, with five identified as initial targets for interventions due to their higher collision and accident numbers (Blackburn Central, Audley, Blackburn South East, Little Harwood & Whitebirk and West Pennine). Each will have a targeted action plan developed in the next quarter. All wards will receive an action plan, and these will be reviewed by the group. The group also reviews engineering projects that have been completed and is planning upcoming events in relation to Child Safety week (to cover car seats) in June and Road Safety Week in November.

EDI Network: The EDI Network has two focuses, Workforce and Service Users, and aims to improve equality, diversity and inclusion for all residents and the Council's workforce. The EDI Workforce Forum is currently completing the EDI Workforce Action Plan, November 2023-March 2025. The group has already completed a number of activities to tackle discrimination, including making EDI training mandatory for all employees and launching a range of Employee Inclusion Networks. The following actions have been taken to improve EDI for residents and service users including training a new cohort of Equality Impact Assessment Champions to ensure all Council decisions have considered the equality impact of their implementation. An annual [Service User Data report](#) has also been published, to provide an overview of those who use our Services, and how the Council uses this data to improve accessibility.

Priority 4: Good Quality Work and Maximising Income

Employment and Skills Board: The Board, chaired by the Council's Chief Executive, and comprising a range of public, private and voluntary sector leaders, is currently developing a new Strategy to be published in in Summer 2024. The Strategy will focus on key skills demands and unlocking productivity opportunities within new and established business growth sectors, including manufacturing, digital / cyber, health & social care, low carbon, professional services, and creative & cultural sectors. The Strategy will link with wider local economic frameworks which are looking to deliver a £1 billion growth programme and support over 100,000 jobs by 2037.

The Board will also seek to ensure the Strategy focuses partner action to reduce high levels of economic inactivity and improve employment rates of key target groups of residents, including care leavers, SEND leavers and learning-disabled residents, as part of wider local partnership action to help ensure no one is left behind, a key inclusive growth mission of the Council's Corporate Plan.

The Board will also play a key role in developing and influencing regional strategic skills and employability initiatives relevant to BWD, including new skills opportunities to better deploy the

devolved Adult Education Budget from 2026, in conjunction with the new Lancashire Combined County Authority, and in helping to shape major employability and health measures such as the recently secured Lancashire Well Being Pilot and emerging Universal Service opportunity with partners across Lancashire.

L2050 Economic inactivity group: The Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub together with Directors of Public Health commissioned research on economic inactivity across Lancashire upper tier authorities. This highlighted key recommendations around ensuring a healthier current and future workforce, encouraging more people into work and reducing those moving out of work and onto health-related benefits.

This research has informed a Work Well vanguard submission by the Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB which will aim to support 5,000 people across 7 place-based projects (of which Blackburn with Darwen is one). The announcement on successful submissions is expected in May 2024 after the local elections.

Adult Learning and Employment Support Services: The Adult Learning Service works with around 2,600 people a year to improve the work prospects of residents by providing general and sector specific courses and programmes of learning which support people to develop confidence, skills, and qualifications. The National Careers Service provides information, advice and guidance to approximately 3,000 people each year to help them make decisions on learning, training and work. The Employment Support Team works with those who are the furthest away from the job market, to help remove barriers to employment by providing regular, ongoing support, often to people who have never worked and are looking for a way to start. These three teams will shortly come together under the banner of the Employment, Skills and Support Hub which will bring together organisations across the borough which provide employability and employment support services to provide a central point of contact. The team also deliver the national Multiply programme to support the development of numeracy skills across the Borough using a variety of innovative approaches.

Debt, Welfare and Housing Advice Service: This service is provided by Shelter and delivers Debt, Welfare and Housing Advice to the residents of the borough via Blackburn Central Library. This includes a full spectrum of activity from prevention to intervention. The advice ranges from accessible public information which can empower and enable people to make choices to enhance their wellbeing & capability, and prevent or avoid problems through to casework with trained advisers to resolve problems, and where necessary, through to more intensive interventions. Since the beginning of 2024 Shelter have had 1689 approaches to the service in person, 312 referrals into the service and opened 271 actions. They have achieved financial gains of £113,812.03 for their clients.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

[Health and wellbeing boards – guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/health-and-wellbeing-boards)

Levelling Up White Paper - [Levelling Up the United Kingdom - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/white-papers/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom)

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities are delivered within existing financial commitments.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Health and Wellbeing Board is a formal statutory committee of the Local Authority with responsibility to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce health inequalities. The Health and Wellbeing Board is also responsible for the development of joint strategic needs assessments and joint local health and wellbeing strategies.

Regular reporting and updates enable the Health and Wellbeing Board to monitor and improve planning and service delivery of the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy, to better fulfil their responsibilities and objectives.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

A planning and governance officer post in Public Health will support the reporting and monitoring of the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-28.

10. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

No EIA required. Checklist completed.

11. CONSULTATIONS

Identification of the key groups that have provided highlight reports for this report were identified through a mapping exercise, undertaken by the Public Health Team and BwD Place-Based ICB colleagues.

The work has also been informed through consultation with a range of teams across BwD Council, including the Adults & Health and Growth & Development departments.

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DATE:	16 th May 2024
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix A – Highlight reports from key groups on Priority 2 Appendix B - Highlight reports from key groups on Priority 4
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