

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE
WOKINGHAM BOROUGH HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2023 FROM 5.00 PM TO 6.40 PM**

Present

Debbie Milligan	NHS
David Hare	Wokingham Borough Council
Prue Bray	Wokingham Borough Council
Philip Bell	Voluntary Sector
Stephen Conway	Wokingham Borough Council
Nick Fellows	Voluntary Sector
Susan Parsonage	Chief Executive
Matt Pope	Executive Director for Children, Adults and Health
Sarah Webster	BOB ICB
Ingrid Slade	Director Public Health
Andrew Statham	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
Alice Kunjappy-Clifton	Healthwatch Wokingham Borough
Narinder Brar (substituting Giorgio Framalicco)	Head of Enforcement & Safety
Ming Zhang (substituting Helen Watson)	Assistant Director Education and SEND

Also Present:

Madeleine Shopland	Democratic and Electoral Services Specialist
Robert Curtis	Transport Planning Team Manager
Hilary Lovie	Co-production and Engagement Officer
Callum Bell	Social care service user
Jay Dudakia	Social care service user
Stephen Bailey	Senior Transport Planner

75. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted from Karen Buckley, George Framalicco, Charles Margetts, and Helen Watson.

76. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 12 October 2023 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

77. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received.

78. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

79. MEMBER QUESTION TIME

There were no Member questions.

80. SOCIAL CARE FUTURES

The Board received a presentation about the future of social care in Wokingham Borough and were advised that a presentation would be made to Council in January.

During the discussion of this item, the following points were made:

- Social Care Futures was a vision of how the provision of social care could be different in the future. A charter describing how this could be achieved had been produced.
- The Board viewed a video which provided an introduction to the Social Care Futures vision.
- Social Care Futures was a national movement and was led by people with lived experience of social care, to help do things differently.
- Officers had been working with a small group of residents who drew on social care support, to develop a Social Care Future Vision.
- Callum Bell, service user, provided an update on his experience. He stated that the current Front Door System could be quite complicated, especially if you were moving between geographical areas. He also highlighted the difficulties he had faced when leaving college and suggested that there should be something in place like an Education, Health, and Care Plan to assist those leaving education. Callum indicated that his mum had, had to help him with the process, which had involved a number of different partners. At the time he had felt as if he had fallen through the cracks. Hilary Lovie, Co-production and Engagement Officer indicated that people often found times of transition to be a period of great anxiety.
- Callum outlined some of the existing challenges around transport. He stated that the current concessionary disabled persons bus pass system was unhelpful to those who were working or looking for jobs, as you could only travel outside peak periods. Many of the bus routes were not frequent enough. For instance, Callum indicated that he lived in Arborfield. Whilst service was good to Reading it was a poor service to Wokingham.
- Callum praised the support provided by Optalis in getting into the workplace. However, interviews could be made easier for those with learning disabilities. Employers needed to be encouraged to change their interview practices and to possibly offer trial shifts.
- Callum welcomed being involved in Social Care Futures.
- The Social Care Futures Group met monthly. Regular feedback was provided, and ideas were shared on how to make improvements locally.
- The Big Gathering had been held in July which had been attended by over 100 residents. This had been held to grow the Social Care Futures movement and had been very successful.
- Jay Dudakia, service user, indicated that he worked for Optalis one morning a week. He lived with his family and received support to undertake his job and the things that mattered to him. He also used the short break service to give him and his family a break. Jay commented that he had been involved with Social Care Futures from the start and attended the Group meetings. He felt that participants were treated with respect, that his views mattered, and that he was listened to. More people should become involved as it was a great way to work together to make things better. Jay indicated that Social Care Futures was about equal opportunities and an inclusive and accessible community.
- Matt Pope outlined new projects where the Social Care Futures lens was being applied, including how adults first accessed social care.

- Social care and its service users were often described using less positive language in the media. A move away from this was hoped for.
- Matt Pope indicated that a website would be launched alongside the Charter and that yearly progress updates would be provided to Full Council.
- Councillor Conway thanked Callum and Jay for their presentations. It had been very helpful to hear about their experiences. Susan Parsonage also thanked Jay and Callum for highlighting the issues that they had experienced. She and Councillor Conway indicated that they would be interested in attending the Social Care Futures Group.
- Alice Kunjappy-Clifton asked how the Social Care Futures message would be publicised so that it could be celebrated. Matt Pope indicated that after the Charter had been presented in January, there would be a communications launch where people could sign up to the Charter. Promotion of the Charter would be a focus of the next year.
- Andrew Statham questioned whether information about what action would be taken following listening to peoples' concerns, would be included in the Charter. Matt Pope indicated that a lot of action had already been taken, such as the new carers contract. However, having the Charter, going public with it, getting more people involved, and then updating Council on an annual basis, would help progress matters further.
- Councillor Bray indicated that she had attended the Big Gathering and the message that had come out clearly was that peoples' vision for Wokingham was a place where everybody belonged. This aligned with the wider Council Vision work. She emphasised that the connection between the two should not be lost.
- Dr Milligan praised the work being undertaken and the involvement of service users. Callum invited her to join the Social Care Futures Group.
- Philip Bell praised the ambition. He felt that the Board should champion the vision to ensure that the intended culture change was enacted.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the commitment to the SCF vision be noted;
- 2) how the Health and Wellbeing Board may best support the delivery of the SCF vision and work with people who use adult social care and family carers to achieve positive outcomes for our community, be considered;
- 3) members of the HWB board to attend briefings (dates TBC);
- 4) the principles included within Wokingham Borough Council's SCF Charter be noted.

81. LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN - CONSULTATION

Robert Curtis, Transport Planning Team Manager, and Stephen Bailey, Senior Transport Planner, presented the Local Transport Plan – Consultation.

During the discussion of this item, the following points were made:

- The Department for Transport had removed the requirement to produce a Local Transport Plan every three years. However, the Local Transport Plan 3 had been adopted in 2011 so was quite out of date. Some time had been taken in drafting Local Transport Plan 4.

- Whilst there were significant changes from Local Transport Plan 3, many of the themes such as congestion and environmental issues, remained the same. Nevertheless, there had been a national shift in wanting to see greater use of cycling and walking, greater electric car use and increased public transport usage.
- Officers were wanting to hear peoples' views and any issues that they had. Robert Curtis highlighted Callum's reference in the previous presentation to buses running at the wrong times and the disabled bus pass being operational at inconvenient times.
- The Local Transport Plan had three key themes – to create healthy and safe places, grow the economy, and reduce the environmental impacts.
- The public consultation would run from 18 December 2023 for 9 weeks. One to one engagement would also take place with groups. Officers sought the Board's support in gathering the views of those who were hard to reach. In past consultations there had been little response from young people, those from different ethnic backgrounds, those with educational needs, or carers.
- Councillor Conway thanked officers for their work. He indicated that the Executive had approved the Plan going out to consultation. He went on to comment that the development of a representative citizens panel was possibly a long-term aspiration. Different parts of the Council may be able to assist in reaching different groups within the community.
- Councillor Bray commented that reducing the impact of roadworks, particularly when they were not instigated by the Council, and working with the utility companies, could be better addressed in the Plan. Robert Curtis indicated that there was ongoing work around roadworks.
- With regards to engaging with young people, Councillor Bray suggested that officers engage with the Youth Council, the SEND Youth Council and the Children in Care Council. She also suggested that parents could be better reached by sending a letter via the schools (including independent schools), nurseries and early years settings. The Board was informed that for the Reading Road consultation Engage had lowered the engagement age to 13 years old. The My Journey team also engaged with many schools.
- Philip Bell emphasised the importance of the consultation to the voluntary sector, who supported people to access care and support services. He committed to help get the message out that the consultation was starting on 18th December.
- Alice Kunjappy-Clifton asked about materials in different languages. She suggested a plug into the website to enable this.
- Sarah Webster commented that transport was an important building block for wellbeing. She asked about specific interventions regarding poor air quality. She was informed that the current guidance from the Council was less about a list of schemes and more about setting a policy framework from which more detailed studies and strategies would be produced at a later date. Robert Curtis indicated that there were Air Quality Action Plans for each of the Air Quality Management Areas, which were currently being refreshed.
- Sarah Webster asked how much accessibility to health services from particular areas such as retirement care homes, had been considered. Steve Bailey indicated that the Local Transport Plan was supported by data and reports from various areas. This evidence did not fully highlight peoples lived in experiences, which officers wanted to hear more of. Sarah Webster suggested that some analysis work also be undertaken to cover the eventuality of insufficient feedback being received around some areas.

- Sarah Webster offered use of the NHS communications routes to help reach wider audiences.
- Dr Milligan suggested that social prescribers within the Council and the surgeries were a good means of reaching different parts of the community. She also suggested engagement with the transport providers.

RESOLVED: That the content of the draft Local Transport Plan be noted, feedback provided, and any particular concerns regarding the current draft version that could be incorporated into the final draft, be highlighted.

82. ROYAL BERKSHIRE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST PERFORMANCE UPDATE AND BUILDING BERKSHIRE TOGETHER UPDATE

The Board considered the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Performance update and the Building Berkshire Together Update, presented by Andrew Statham, Director of Strategy, Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust.

During the discussion of this item, the following points were made:

- Andrew Statham indicated that he was the Director lead for the work on the new hospital. He provided the Board with an update on the Building Berkshire Together project. Work had quietened which was reflective of the national programme focus which was focused on ordering schemes in light of being asked to take on those hospitals with RAAC concrete, and a focus on repeatable design.
- Securing alignment and support for a whole new hospital was important, and then understanding whether this could be constructed on the current site or what other possible sites were available.
- Work would be undertaken internally and also with the community to understand the potential impact to healthcare service users, to staff and partners, if the hospital did not remain on the existing site.
- Issues had been identified in reaching all the communities that used the services, to hear their views.
- There would be dates in January and February for site visits for Members to view the current estate.
- Councillor Hare questioned whether it was the case that the current site had a lot of underground works, and if so if it was a limiting factor. Andrew Statham commented that work was being carried out to understand what the site looked like and potential challenges. The presence of the hospital's repeatable design and how it could be done on a brownfield site with live working had to be carefully considered.
- Dr Milligan questioned how sufficient space could be made on the current site to enable construction to be undertaken whilst services continued to be provided. Andrew Statham agreed that there were complexities of building on a live site.
- Councillor Bray agreed that redeveloping a hospital on a live site would be very difficult. She questioned whether the rebuild would happen at all, such had been the delays in decision making at national level. She would support the move to a new site. Councillor Bray questioned when there would likely be more certainty, if at all. Andrew Statham commented that the New Hospital Programme was clear on creating a long term capability and plan to rebuild hospitals, regardless of the political environment. Local support would be required to highlight the importance of capital investment.

- Work would be undertaken to understand the impact if the hospital was not located in its current location. It was currently located next to the most deprived part of the community it served.
- Councillor Bray asked whether leaving some facilities, for example an Urgent Care Centre, on the existing site and locating other facilities elsewhere, was a consideration. Andrew Statham indicated that it would be but that what facilities were located where would need to be considered.
- Ingrid Slade commented that Basingstoke and North Hampshire were also undergoing a consultation about moving their hospital to the other side of Basingstoke, which would have an impact on population boundaries. It was noted that Frimley Park Hospital was also part of the New Hospital Programme.
- Dr Milligan referred to learning from other areas that had been through the same experience. Andrew Statham indicated that the New Hospital Programme had produced 96 lessons for hospital trusts on what Trusts should do and what could potentially go wrong.
- Andrew Statham went on to update the Board on the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust performance up to October.
- Strong sustained progress had been seen in reducing staff turnover and improvements had been made with regards to vacancies. A focused campaign had taken place over a year.
- Some improvements were being seen in some of the diagnostic waits with new capacity being invested in, and additional work in Radiology.
- There were still areas of challenge such as the Emergency Department and performance relating to the volume of people seeking care and the challenges of discharging patients and creating capacity to admit them.
- There was a growing concern about the Trust's ability to meet the increased ambition around waiting targets next year – a combination of staff availability, demand and financial constraints that were expected. The Board was focusing on the settlement that the Trust would come to with ICS colleagues to support those challenges, and also the prevention agenda, which helped to mitigate demand.
- Dr Milligan stated that the Urgent Care Board had been looking at different ways of clinicians accessing urgent care, rather than everything going through the Front Door system, using Same Day Emergency Care, and also Same Day Surgical Care. Patients were being admitted straight to an acute ward rather than A&E. This was better for the patient and helped to reduce the number of patients visiting A&E. This had been well received. Work was also being undertaken with Out of Hours and Ambulance colleagues around Call before you Convey.'
- Councillor Bray commented that it appeared that sending patients to other centres such as Thatcham and Henley were viewed as negative, and questioned if it was in fact positive should the patients be seen quicker. Andrew Statham commented that the objective was around delivering care closer to home, and making use of other sites where appropriate. Whilst a lot of progress had been made during 2017-19, it had tailed off, so was a current area of focus. Dr Milligan commented that some patients did not want to travel to other sites and wanted to be seen more locally. Communication from GPs was important to help encourage patients to make greater use of the tertiary sites where appropriate.
- With regards to prevention, Andrew Statham commented that it was a key part of the system's joint forward plan work. He suggested that the Board may wish to keep updated on the work around primary care. Sarah Webster added that the Primary Care Strategy was currently being produced and feedback was being sought from the public on General practice, dentistry, optometry, and community pharmacy services. This was linked to the way that the Place Partnership was

looking to progress with the Community Wellness outreach work. The Board would be updated as this project rolled out further.

- Dr Milligan emphasised that people needed to be targeted at an earlier stage, for example educators talking about healthy lives, to ensure a successful prevention agenda.
- The Board was assured that health and Public Health worked closely together. Sarah Webster commented that Public Health involvement in the Strategy could be strengthened.

RESOLVED: That the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust Performance update and the Building Berkshire Together Update, be noted.

83. BERKSHIRE WEST HEALTH PROTECTION & RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP BOARD (WEST BERKSHIRE, WOKINGHAM, READING)

The Board considered a report regarding the Berkshire West Health Protection and Resilience Partnership Board (“HPRPB”).

During the discussion of this item, the following points were made:

- The Local Authority had statutory responsibilities around health protection and emergency preparedness, including all activities seeking to prevent and reduce harm caused by infectious diseases, and minimise impact from environmental hazards such as chemicals and radiation. The Director of Public Health worked on behalf of the local authority to discharge many elements of these responsibilities, working in collaboration with partners across the system.
- Temporary working arrangements had been established in Berkshire West during the pandemic, which provided a mechanism for delivering against national guidance on health protection (with a focus on COVID-19). There was now a need to establish a permanent governance structure to protect the health of residents across Berkshire West. The Berkshire West Health Protection and Resilience Partnership Board had been established. The Board would report into the Health and Wellbeing Boards and the United Executive of the ICS.
- Councillor Bray asked about the mechanism of keeping the Board updated with the work of the United Executive. Sarah Webster suggested an update from the Place Partnership at the Wellbeing Board’s March meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- 1) the establishment of the HPRPB, chaired by a Director of Public Health, to provide assurance that robust arrangements are in place to protect the health of residents across Berkshire West (including West Berkshire, Wokingham, Reading) be noted;
- 2) the terms of reference for the HPRPB be noted;
- 3) it be noted that the HPRPB will meet quarterly and produce an annual report to both the Unified Executive and the HWB to provide a clear analysis of risk, mitigation, and incidents.

84. FORWARD PROGRAMME

The Committee discussed the forward programme for the remainder of the municipal year.

- An update from the Place Partnership would be brought to the Wellbeing Board's March meeting.

RESOLVED: That the forward programme be noted.