

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

At a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Morpeth on Thursday, 13 February 2020.

PRESENT

Councillor R.R. Dodd
(Chair, in the Chair)

BOARD MEMBERS

Brown, S.	McEvoy-Carr, C.
Daley, W.	Morgan, E.
Docking, T. (Substitute Member)	Riley, C. (Substitute Member)
Dungworth, S.	Thompson, D.
Frith, R.	Wardlaw, C.
Lothian, J.	Warrington, J. (Substitute Member)
Mead, P.	

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Bennett, Mrs L.M.

Senior Democratic Services Officer

35. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from A. Airey, Councillors C.R. Homer and V. Jones.

36. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on Tuesday, 7 January 2020 as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

37. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

37.2 Health & Wellbeing Board Development - Final Report from Task and Finish Groups

Members received a report outlining the conclusions of the three Health & Wellbeing Board Development Task and Finish Groups, the terms of reference for which were

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agreed at the September 2019 meeting of the Board. (Report attached to the signed minutes as Appendix B)

The outcomes of the three Task and Finish Groups were reported as follows:-

Terms of Reference and Governance

- Improved clarity between the role of the Board and Scrutiny.
- A move to bi-monthly meetings with up to three development sessions throughout the year to enable the Board to explore areas of interest in more depth.
- Membership to be extended to include the Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Foundation Trust and the Executive Director of Commercial, Economy and Regeneration.
- A set of operating principles to manage the forward plan, agenda and workload to ensure that only reports to which the Board could add value or were directly related to the JHWS would be considered.
- The development sessions would not be open to the public.
- Speakers with expertise in the areas under consideration at development sessions would be invited to attend.

Profile, Communications and Engagement

- Focus on Health & Wellbeing Strategy workstreams with Councillor/Officer champions for each of the four areas.
- Themed meetings.
- Moving some meetings out of County Hall to engage with harder to reach communities, possibly linking in with the Local Area Council meetings.
- Producing more user friendly agendas.
- Use of different methods of communicating such as filming or recording meetings.
- Use of twitter and a dedicated website connected to Northumberland County Council's website.

Impact of Health and Wellbeing Board

- Refresh areas of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
- Performance dashboard to track the delivery of the action plans for each theme of the JHWS.
- An overarching Outcomes Framework to be developed to monitor the impact.
- Development of indicators for each theme of the JHWS.
- The work of this Task and Finish Group was ongoing.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the revised terms of reference, reporting arrangements, proposal to reduce the frequency of meetings to bi-monthly and supporting operating principles be approved.
- (2) the recommendations for raising the profile of the Health and Wellbeing Board and for communication and engagement be supported; and a mechanism to implement them be agreed.

- (3) the plans to refresh the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the development of a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Performance Dashboard and Outcomes Framework be supported.

37.1 Oral Health Strategy Update

Members received a presentation on progress being made with the Northumberland Oral Health Strategy and action plan and an overview of activity to date to tackle the oral health inequalities across the County. (Report and presentation attached to the signed minutes as Appendix A).

The presentation covered the following areas:-

- Map showing areas of highest and lowest dental decay in 5 year olds in Northumberland.
- Action Plan 2019-22
 - Partnership working
 - Giving every child the best start in life and opportunities for oral health. Includes targeted toothbrushes/toothpaste, oral health training, community water fluoridation scheme.
 - Improving oral health of older people
 - Service development and commissioning
- Return on investment of oral health improvement programmes for 0 -5 year olds. After 10 years, it was shown that water fluoridation and targeted provision of toothbrushes and toothpaste had the greatest impact.
- In Northumberland approximately 71,000 households and 156,000 people have fluoridated water supplies.
- The optimal concentration of fluoride in water was one mg fluoride per litre and where naturally occurring levels were too low a water fluoridation scheme could be used to raise it.
- This was one of the most studied interventions and no evidence of harm to health had been found.
- Legal framework.
- Confirmation had been received from SoSHSC and Northumbria Water that the proposal was operable and efficient.
- An 'active listening' phase was due to commence to inform a statutory consultation process planned for later in the year.
- Consulting the public. Problems arose from unsubstantiated conclusions being drawn from scientific reports or from using poor quality studies.

Members discussed the issue and raised a number of issues:-

- There was a need for a 'Myth Buster' to inform the public and dispel the many myths surrounding fluoridation.
- There was overwhelming evidence of the impact of fluoridation on oral health, inequalities and poor oral health which could impact throughout a person's life.
- Fluoridation was not a 'magic bullet', but needed to be combined with consumption of less sugar and correcting brushing.

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- People receiving benefits should be made aware that they could receive free dental health care as should the parents/carers of children as children were also entitled to free care.
- The relative risks of fluoridation should be properly explained.
- There should be a focus on those with learning difficulties and who were seldom heard.
- Social media could be used to get the message across to the public, although it was acknowledged that it could also be used by objectors to press their case.
- An equality impact assessment had looked at which groups would be particularly affected and the consultation process would aim to engage with those groups.
- The next stage was 'active listening' during which information would be gathered on views and concerns to inform the consultation documentation.

RESOLVED that

- (1) the progress made on the oral health action plan and next steps for delivery be noted;
- (2) the progress made in varying the existing community water fluoridation arrangements in Northumberland be noted;
- (3) key questions and issues which were likely to be raised by communities and other stakeholders in response to the proposal to inform a future consultation process.

37.3 Update on Novel Coronavirus

Members received a presentation from the Director of Public Health. (Presentation filed with signed minutes).

The presentation covered the following areas:-

- Coronaviruses covered a range of illnesses from mild acute respiratory symptoms to severe pneumonia.
- At the time of writing there had been over 43,000 reported cases and over 1,000 deaths. Those affected were predominantly older people and those with existing long term illnesses. It was thought that in 80% of cases it was a mild illness.
- The number of cases outside China were relatively low.
- The risk in the UK was low, however, the risk level had been raised to moderate for planning purposes and to allow further legal powers to protect the public.
- Plans, based on the pandemic influenza planning guidance, were in place to manage any escalation. However, there were many areas of uncertainty.
- Good respiratory and hand hygiene were being promoted. Contact with eyes, nose and mouth should be avoided as much as possible.
- There were challenges in tracing people who may have been in contact with someone who may have the illness.

RESOLVED that the presentation be noted.

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

38. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD FORWARD PLAN

The Director of Public Health presented the Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan. (Report attached to the signed minutes as Appendix C).

The March meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board would be cancelled and the two themes of the JHWS draft action plans due to be considered that day would be moved to the April meeting when all four themes would be considered.

There would be internal discussions about managing the Forward Plan based on the earlier discussions.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan and comments made be noted.

39. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members were informed that the meeting scheduled for 12 March 2020 was cancelled. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 9 April 2020, at 10.00 a.m. in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Morpeth.

CHAIRMAN

DATE