

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

### HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD

At a meeting of the **Health and Wellbeing Board** held in County Hall, Morpeth on Thursday, 14 September 2023 at 10.00 a.m.

#### PRESENT

Councillor P. Ezhilchelvan  
(Chair, in the Chair)

#### BOARD MEMBERS

Binning, G.	O'Neill, G.
Blair, A	Paterson, L (Substitute)
Bradley, N.	Simpson, E.
Conway, A.	Standfield, P.
Jones, V.	Syers, G.
Moulder, B. (Substitute)	

#### IN ATTENDANCE

L.M. Bennett	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Dr. J. Brown	Public Health Consultant
A Foster	CNTW Lead for Strategy and Sustainability
H Lawson	Senior Infection Prevention & Control Nurse
D Turnbull	Senior Public Health Manager

#### 22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from S. McCartney, V. McFarlane-Reid, R. Mitcheson and H. Snowdon.

#### 23. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 10 August 2023, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

#### 24. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Peter Standfield declared an interest as he was an employee of a not for profit provider of residential and supported accommodation for the elderly.

#### 25. NORTHUMBERLAND AND NORTH TYNESIDE COMMUNITY INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL STRATEGY 2023-28

Members received a presentation and report about the new Northumberland and North Tyneside Community Infection Prevention and Control Strategy 2023-28. Approval was sought for the strategy goals and actions to achieve those goals. The report was presented by Dr. Jim Brown, Consultant in Public Health and Heather Lawson, Senior Infection Prevention & Control Nurse.

The following key points were raised:-

- The Strategy had been developed collaboratively with organisations across Northumberland and North Tyneside and aimed to minimise preventable harmful infections in community settings and to be as prepared as possible for any future infections or pandemics.
- A new Covid variant, Pirola, had emerged and there were cases in care homes in the east of England.
- The 2023 National Risk Register indicated the possibility of another pandemic within the next five years.
- The objectives of the Strategy aimed to identify the current position in community settings, identifying goals, how to achieve those goals and how to monitor achievement of the goals.
- The Strategy would cover the adult care sector, education, general practice and children's residential homes.
- The Strategy Group would review guidance and practice, hold focus groups and surveys and look at data from previous surveys, audits and visits.
- Currently, there were 4.8 WTE staff working in the community covering Northumberland and North Tyneside. The team offered training, direct support, collaborative working and audit.
- Key findings included:-
  - There was a lot of guidance available along with opportunities for additional training.
  - Cost and time were barriers in education and general practice.
  - Many staff felt the need to come to work even if they were unwell with an infection.
  - The team was highly respected and good relationships had developed during the pandemic.
- A survey of educational settings and GP staff had identified a number of barriers including cost of training and not all feeling the need for training.
- Vision – 'Our vision is for all health, care and education professionals working in the community to have the capability, opportunity, and motivation to implement infection prevention and control measures in their setting to protect those who use their services or live, work, or study in the settings.'
- Principals – to work as a whole system, work as partners to maximise the impact of the IPC by prioritising the deployment of the team, build resilience and capacity within the community by supporting and training key professionals.
- A series of goals had been identified, along with how they would be achieved and monitored.

The following comments and queries were raised:-

- There was concern raised about the possible shortage of Covid vaccinations in Northumberland and GPs would have to cancel clinics if this was the case. It was noted that it was hoped to complete vaccination of care home residents by the end of October and so supplies may be spread over a number of weeks. There were no issues with flu jab supplies.
- It was suggested that a more general communication programme be considered. This had been discussed within a working group. Communication could be added to the final action plan.
- Board Members should report back to their organisations to raise awareness to ensure that the plans in the strategy happened.
- Consideration of business continuity plans could be a way of targeting general practice.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the new Northumberland and North Tyneside Community Infection Prevention and Control Strategy be accepted.
- (2) the strategy goals and actions to achieve those goals be approved.

## **26. HEALTHY WEIGHT ALLIANCE**

Members received a report updating the Board on progress with the Healthy Weight Alliance (HWA). The report was presented by David Turnbull, Senior Public Health Manager.

David Turnbull reported that the Health Weight Alliance had arisen from a recommendation in the 2021/22 Director of Public Health Annual Report. Work on the Alliance had commenced prior to the Covid pandemic but been paused.

Nearly a third of children and two thirds of adults in Northumberland were overweight or obese. Children were becoming obese earlier and for longer. The Covid pandemic and the link to health inequalities, chronic disease and obesity were risk factors and it was important for Northumberland to build resilience into recovery plans as part of the prevention agenda. The current cost of living crisis was creating additional strain particularly for low-income families leading to the purchase of cheaper foods often with low nutritional value.

In May 2023, work on the Healthy Weight Alliance had recommenced with a Workshop attended by 45 delegates with a range of strategic roles within a range of various organisations. Five strategic themes had been identified:-

- System Leadership
- Commercial Determinants
- Health Promoting Environments

- System and Cultural Change
- Health Weight across the Life course.

Feedback from the workshop included:-

- Development of a food strategy for Northumberland.
- Design and development of where we live to maximise access to healthy foods and be physically active.
- Giving every child the best start in life.

Next Steps

- To host a second workshop to feedback to delegates and agree the priorities.
- The Healthy Weight Alliance would be chaired by Paul Jones, Director of Environment and Transport and membership would be drawn from senior staff from organisations across Northumberland.

Members welcomed the report which coincided with the refresh of the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy and inequalities work. It was hoped that when the Healthy Weight Alliance reported back to the Health & Wellbeing Board, it would be able to present some tangible changes. It was noted that longer term goals would include improvements to the built environment.

**RESOLVED** that

- (1) the establishment of Northumberland HWA be approved to bring agencies and communities together to ensure a co-ordinated approach to healthy weight.
- (2) the Northumberland HWA report to the Health & Wellbeing Board.
- (3) Responsibility be delegated to the HWA to deliver the Healthy Weight Declaration.

## **27. CUMBRIA, NORTHUMBERLAND, TYNE & WEAR NHS FOUNDATION TRUST'S (CNTW) NEW STRATEGY; 'WITH YOU IN MIND'**

Members received a report and presentation on CNTW's new strategy 'With You in Mind'. The report was presented by Anna Foster, Trust Lead for Strategy and Sustainability.

The following key issues were raised in a presentation:-

- CNTW's strategy was to build relationships and to make decisions based on what matters to people.
- CNTW was a large organisation and covered more than just mental health issues including mental wellbeing, learning disability, and autism. Secure services were provided in Morpeth.

- People and their needs were at the heart of the strategy which aimed to influence small, everyday decisions as well as big strategic decisions. The strategy was a guide rather than a blueprint. The organisation acknowledged that it could not do this on its own.
- The Strategy comprised:
  - Our commitments
  - Our vision and values
  - Our five strategic ambitions
    - Quality care, every day
    - Person-led care, where and when it is needed
    - A great place to work
    - Sustainable for the long term, innovating every day
    - Working with and for our communities
- Community Mental Health Transformation across the Region. A strategic objective from the CNTW Annual Plan was 'Improve community mental health services for adults and older people.'
- Working with the government and ICBs. Aim to prevent people from being admitted to hospital and to remain within the community.

The following comments were made:-

- An issue for CNTW was that it covered a very large area across the North East and this could cause challenges in getting to know its communities unless there was staff who concentrated on a particular area.
- CNTW was locality based with four different localities. Local leadership was important, and the Trust's approach was having a devolved leadership approach. Trust leads had the authority to adapt services to meet the needs of the local community.
- There would be a public mental health update at the November meeting of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

**RESOLVED** that the ethos and ambition of the Trust's new strategy be noted, in particular, the commitment to partnership working across the Health & Social Care system.

## 28. HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – FORWARD PLAN

Members noted details of forthcoming agenda items at future meetings.

**29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 12 October 2023, at 10.00 am in County Hall, Morpeth.

**CHAIR** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_