



Committee and Date

Health and Wellbeing Board

18 April 2024

**MINUTES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD MEETING HELD ON 18
JANUARY 2024
9.30AM – 11.50AM**

Responsible Officer: Michelle Dulson

Email: michelle.dulson@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257719

Present

Cecilia Motley – PFH Adult Social Care, Public Health & Communities (Co-Chair)
Kirstie Hurst-Knight – PFH Children & Education (Remote)
Rachel Robinson - Executive Director of Health, Wellbeing and Prevention
Tanya Miles – Executive Director for People
Laura Fisher – Housing Service Manager (Remote)
Claire Parker - Director of Partnerships, NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin
Carla Bickley – Associate Director of Strategic Planning and Partnerships, SaTH (sub for Nigel Lee)
Anna Morris – MPFT (Substitute for Zafar Iqbal)
Jackie Jeffrey – VCSA
David Crosby – Chief Officer, Partners in Care
Simon Hardiman – Chief Fire Officer, Shropshire Fire and Rescue

47 Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

Simon Whitehouse – ICB Chief Executive Officer, NHS Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin (Co-Chair)
Laura Tyler – Assistant Director for Joint Commissioning
Patricia Davies – CE, SCHAT
Nigel Lee - Interim Director of Strategy & Partnership SaTH/Director of Strategy, ICB
Superintendent Stuart Bill, LPA Commander, Shropshire, West Mercia Police
Lynn Cawley - Chief Officer, Shropshire Healthwatch

Carla Bickley substituted for Nigel Lee
Anna Morris substituted for Zafar Iqbal

48 Disclosable Interests

None received.

49 Minutes of the previous meeting

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 November 2023 be agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

50 Public Question Time

None received.

51 Social Prescribing

The Board received the report of the Healthy Lives Team Manager – copy attached to the signed Minutes – which provided an update on the social prescribing offer and its development in Shropshire. It described the programme and recent progress on the Adult Social Prescribing programme. It also provided an update on demand management work focussing on reducing risk of falls, cardiovascular disease and supporting adult social care, new Simple Activation Question to demonstrate the increase in people being able to take action to improve their own wellbeing and in turn reducing healthcare utilisation, and the Winter Support Service which was mobilised across Shropshire to support winter pressures across the system.

The Healthy Lives Team Manager introduced and amplified her report and gave a presentation – copy of slides attached to the signed Minutes. She gave an overview of the team and the service they delivered and to whom. She then drew attention to the difference in referral numbers etc for adults and children in 2023 and touched on the outcomes. She highlighted in particular the Pain Support Group which had been well received and they were looking to see how it could be developed across the county. In conclusion, the Healthy Lives Team Manager discussed the priorities that they were working on with each PCN.

A brief discussion ensued, and Board Members offered their support. It was suggested that this be a regular update at ShIPP meetings to monitor its impact and give assurance to the Board about how it was being managed. Members were reminded that it was a truly integrated service with primary care and a whole range of other partners working very closely together including the voluntary sector which was one of the reasons why this programme worked so well.

Councillor Hurst-Knight agreed to speak to the Healthy Lives Team manager outside of the meeting in relation to Social Prescribing for Children and Young People and it was confirmed that this would be looked at in a future meeting.

The Executive Director of People was interested in the impact of Social Prescribing, for example were they seeing less contacts into health and social care six months on following a social prescribing intervention? In response, the Healthy Lives Team Manager referred to an independent review by Westminster University which showed a 40% reduction in GP contact and other health service usage. She hoped in future to be able to report on the increase in activation (how well people were able to manage their own health and wellbeing). The VSCA representative informed the meeting that Citizen's Advice Shropshire took referrals from social prescribers and had their own tool that measured the difference that their intervention had made which could link into the work being done by the Healthy Lives team.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that the referrals came from the social care team within the local authority and not local care providers. The Chief Officer explained that Partners in Care represented 260 care providers across the system

and would disseminate information about social prescribing to them and would discuss how they could link in with it outside of the meeting.

The Executive Director of Health, Wellbeing and Prevention expressed her thanks to all involved and she applauded the integration work. Looking at next steps, she wondered how to ensure social prescribing was embedded not just in primary care but across the services and how it could be rolled out. She also referred to targeting specific groups that needed support such as the rural communities and farmers.

It was agreed to take this forward through ShIPP on a regular basis.

RESOLVED:

To note the recommendations contained in the report.

52 JSNA Place Plan Update

The Board received the report of the Executive Director of Health, Wellbeing and Prevention – copy attached to the signed Minutes, which presented an update on Shropshire’s JSNA, progress to date, future direction of the JSNA and timescales.

The Project Development Officer for Public Health introduced and amplified her report. She gave a presentation and reminded the Board that there were 18 place plan areas in Shropshire which highlighted the specific health inequality needs of those residents living in those areas. Some of the work currently underway in Highley, Ludlow and Whitchurch were then highlighted.

The Board expressed their thanks to the Head of Joint Partnerships, without whom none of this work would have been possible within such a short space of time and just showed what could be achieved when partners pull together.

A brief discussion ensued and a query was raised as to how they could tie in those countywide approaches to the cost-of-living crisis. It was suggested that the learning from Southwest Shropshire, through Shaping Places, and delivering that local cost of living approach around food insecurity and the fuel poverty work done by Marches Energy, be brought into other areas. It was agreed that more work could be done around this.

A query was raised as to whether social prescribing was being considered when developing services in these communities. In response, the Head of Joint Partnerships explained that this would be delivered as part of the community and family hubs that were being developed as part of the Action Plans and she gave an example.

The Executive Director of Health, Wellbeing and Prevention explained that the Prevention Framework would be signed off by the Board and that was where ‘One Shropshire’ fitted in. It was felt that the Board needed to think about how to move this work forward and expand it across all areas including how to ensure the services were sustainable and how to get more people involved and to lead some of the work. It was felt that ShIPP would be a good place to look at these issues.

The Project Development Officer informed the Board that the next Place Plan areas to be launched would be Craven Arms, Church Stretton, Bridgnorth and Cleobury Mortimer. She confirmed that they were reaching out to the Town and Parish Councils within all of those areas and giving residents the opportunity to tell them what they needed for their health and wellbeing.

53 **Transport - including community transport**

A verbal update and presentation was provided by the School and Public Transport Team Manager and the Public Transport Development Officer – copy of slides attached to the signed Minutes. The School and Public Transport Team Manager gave an overview of what transport was like at the current time and explained that there were two sets of bus services, commercial bus services and subsidised bus services. The Board were informed that the regulatory body responsible for public transport in Shropshire was the West Midlands Traffic Commissioner although the Council did have certain powers. He confirmed that no bus services in Shropshire had been cut recently but that at least 60 days' notice of any planned cuts to bus services would have to be given to the Traffic Commissioner.

Turning to commercial bus operators, the School and Public Transport Team Manager explained that many years ago there used to be about 80% of bus services that were subsidised by the Council and 20% were commercial, whereas now about 97% were subsidised and 3% commercial. The Council usually step in when there was a gap in the commercial market and would tender the route and award it to the successful operator. The Council could not however compete with a commercial service but they could step in where there was no commercial benefit to the operator. He informed the meeting of the different types of contracts depending on where the fare risk sat. He reported that currently the Council spend approximately £3.5m on the subsidised bus services. They had received some grant funding from covid from the Government which has been allocated to bus services.

The School and Public Transport Team Manager then discussed Community transport groups of which there were about 9 in Shropshire and who were awarded grants if up to £500,000. He explained that Shropshire Council had a dedicated passenger transport officer who oversaw the community groups and liaised with them on a regular basis.

The Public Transport Development Officer explained that his role was looking at how to develop public transport going forward. He gave some background around the difficulties in Shropshire including the lack of investment from operators, rising cost of fuel, declining patronage, large concessionary market etc. He explained that after the pandemic councils were encouraged to create enhanced partnerships with operators in order to release funding from the DfT. This had been done in Shropshire and regular meetings were held to discuss the challenges/changes, development and investment of which will be led by Shropshire Council.

The Public Transport Development Officer drew attention to the Government's Bus Back Better Campaign which required Local authorities to create a bus service improvement plan which was submitted in October 2021. It allowed the Council to write a 'shopping list' of how it was going to improve public transport in Shropshire.

The first bid of £98m was unsuccessful and so the bid for round two took forward two elements of the original bid being Connect on demand, which was a demand responsive service and a rebrand of Shrewsbury Park and Ride (Shrewsbury Connect) which would link with key strategic sites across the town such as the railway station and hospital.

This bid was also unsuccessful and so, following meetings with the DfT last summer, another meeting has been arranged shortly in person in Shropshire. They have agreed to invest but wish to ensure that some of the projects had begun and that Shropshire Council had invested in them. This has led to the launch of the first demand responsive transport provision which was run by the council's fleet department at Longden Road. He explained more about the service being offered, the areas it covered and how it could be booked. This service would be reviewed with a view to extend it into further areas moving forward.

The Board thanked the School and Public Transport Team Manager and the Public Transport Development Officer for their presentation which helped them to understand the complexity of the issues. The Head of Joint Partnerships informed the Board that transport was coming out repeatedly within the joint strategic needs assessment work and queried how they could work more closely with the transport team to develop responses around transport, particularly in rural areas.

The Public Transport Development Officer explained the fare cap which was set up by the Government at £2.00 and which had been extended until November 2024. concern was expressed about what would happen after November as the price inconsistencies across the County was one of the factors pulling people away from using public transport. In response to concerns, he explained that the team were very passionate about rural transport and getting it into certain rural areas and was something they had tried to work on with local operators however there was not a great deal of interest. The idea behind Connect on demand was to treat every area as unique however it would take time to put that in place and would require DfT investment. The Public Transport Development Officer informed the Board that the Council had been allocated £1.8m from the closure of the North line of HS2 which would be used for investment and to improve certain corridors that were in need of investment.

A brief discussion ensued. A query was raised as to possible links with taxi services and train services. It was confirmed that the nighttime economy had been mentioned in the bus service improvement plan and was being actively worked upon with conversations being had with Transport for Wales who owned the majority of the lines in Shropshire. It was slightly more difficult with taxis as they did not form part of the same public transport network, but they would work with Licensing to resolve this. Concern was raised that lack of access to taxis was a contributory factor in the number of deaths and road traffic accidents amongst younger people.

54 **Health Protection update**

The Board received the report of the Consultant in Public Health – copy attached to the signed Minutes – which provided an overview of the health protection status of

the population of Shropshire. It also provided an overview of the status of communicable, waterborne and foodborne disease.

The Healthy Child Programme Coordinator introduced and amplified the report. She highlighted the information around measles and what was happening both locally, regionally and nationally about concerns around the rising number of measles cases nationally which began in London. An increase was also now being seen within the West Midlands leading to an increased risk of potential cases within Shropshire. She informed the Board of the mitigations being put in place to ensure there was a pathway in place to prevent any measles outbreaks including encouraging take up of two doses of the MMR vaccine. She also informed the Board of the actions that would be taken should an outbreak be seen in Shropshire.

The Portfolio Holder for Children & Education confirmed that information had been issued to all school settings the previous week and would be repeated on a regular basis.

55 Update on the Shropshire Substance Misuse Strategy and Action Plan

The Board received the report of the Public Health Consultant (Inclusion & Vulnerable People) – copy attached to the signed Minutes – which provided an update on the substance misuse strategic programme for Shropshire.

The Public Health Consultant introduced and amplified his report, and he drew attention to the draft Tackling Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Strategic Action Plan and requested that any feedback be sent directly to himself. A query was raised as to whether there had been any engagement with the Specialist Care Group at MPFT on the Strategy. In response, the Public Health Consultant confirmed that part of the ambition in the plan was an integrated approach with mental health services along with another programme of work that they were progressing alongside the Strategic Action Plan for which MPFT was a core partner.

The Executive Director for People explained that it had been discussed previously at the Board the concern around the impact of drugs and alcohol on individuals, both children and adults and she would be interested to see the learning that came out of the drug and alcohol death review panel and where the governance for that would sit. In response, the Public Health Consultant explained that there had been one meeting so far which had been to test the process where a conversation was had and it was decided that it would sit within the safeguarding adult oversight group. It was requested that updates be brought to the Board going forward.

RESOLVED:

To note the recommendations contained in the report.

56 Director of Public Health's Annual Report

The Board received the report of the Director of Public Health – copy attached to the signed Minutes – which provided a summary of her annual report on the health of the population of Shropshire.

The Director of Public Health introduced and amplified her report. She drew attention to the recommendations which were around rural proofing, the importance of localities around place-based working and neighbourhood working in rural areas, being intelligence led. The information was available to inform conversations that were being held both locally and nationally. She confirmed that the recommendations would be followed up to ensure they were being taken forward. The final part of the annual report was a reflection back on what was said in her first report back in 2020.

RESOLVED:

To note the contents of the annual report and to support the recommendations contained therein.

57 Prevention Framework update

The Board received the report of the Executive Director of Health, Wellbeing and Prevention – copy attached to the signed Minutes – which provided an update on the Prevention Framework, for information.

58 Chairman's Updates

The Chair updated the Board in relation to the following items:

- Winter response and the ‘Think Which Service’ – NHS led campaign
- Health response to flood recovery

59 ShIPP Update

The Board received the report of the Head of Joint Partnerships, Shropshire Council/STW ICB – copy attached to the signed Minutes – which provided an overview of the ShIPP Board meeting held in December 2023 and included actions, for assurance purposes, for information.

Signed (Chair)

Date: