

Notice of Meeting



Scan here to access the public documents for this meeting

Health and Wellbeing Board

Thursday, 7 December 2023 at 9.30am
in Council Chamber Council Offices
Market Street Newbury

This meeting can be viewed online at: www.westberks.gov.uk/hwbblive

Please note that a test of the fire and lockdown alarms will take place at 10am. If the alarm does not stop please follow instructions from officers.

Date of despatch of Agenda: Wednesday, 29 November 2023

For further information about this Agenda, or to inspect any background documents referred to in Part I reports, please contact Gordon Oliver on (01635) 519486
e-mail: gordon.oliver1@westberks.gov.uk

Further information and Minutes are also available on the Council's website at www.westberks.gov.uk.



Agenda - Health and Wellbeing Board to be held on Thursday, 7 December 2023
(continued)

To: Councillor Alan Macro (Executive Portfolio Holder: Adult Social Care and Health Integration), Sarah Webster (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board), Councillor Heather Codling (Executive Portfolio Holder: Children, Education and Young People's Services), Councillor Lee Dillon (Leader of Council; Executive Portfolio Holder Strategy, Communications and Public Safety), Councillor Janine Lewis (Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside), Councillor Joanne Stewart (Shadow Portfolio: Adult Social Care; Integrated Health; Public Health), Councillor David Marsh (Minority Group Spokesperson on Health and Wellbeing), Prof John Ashton (Director of Public Health for Reading and West Berkshire), Paul Coe (Executive Director - Adult Social Care), AnnMarie Dodds (Executive Director - Children and Family Services), Matthew Hensby (Sovereign Housing), Jessica Jhundoo Evans (Arts and Leisure Representative), Supt Helen Kenny (Thames Valley Police), Stephen Leonard (Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service), Janet Lippett (Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust), Sean Murphy (Public Protection Manager), April Peberdy (Acting Service Director - Communities and Wellbeing), Garry Poulson (Voluntary Sector Representative), Dr Heike Veldtman (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board), Helen Williamson (Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust) and Fiona Worby (Healthwatch West Berkshire)

Agenda

Part I

Page No.

Standard Agenda Items 1

- | | | |
|---|---|---------|
| 1 | Apologies for Absence
To receive apologies for inability to attend the meeting (if any). | 7 - 8 |
| 2 | Minutes
To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 3 October 2023. | 9 - 18 |
| 3 | Actions arising from previous meeting(s)
To consider outstanding actions from previous meeting(s). | 19 - 20 |
| 4 | Declarations of Interest
To remind Members of the need to record the existence and nature of any personal, disclosable pecuniary or other registrable interests in items on the agenda, in accordance | 21 - 22 |

Agenda - Health and Wellbeing Board to be held on Thursday, 7 December 2023
(continued)

with the Members' [Code of Conduct](#).

The following are considered to be standing declarations applicable to all Health and Wellbeing Board meetings:

- Councillor Alan Macro – Governor of Royal Berkshire Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and West Berkshire Council representative on the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Partnership; and
- Councillor Janine Lewis – Governor of Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

5	Public Questions Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with the Meeting Rules contained in the Council's Constitution.	23 - 24
6	Petitions Councillors or Members of the public may present any petition which they have received.	25 - 26
7	Membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board To agree any changes to Health and Wellbeing Board membership.	27 - 28

Items for discussion

Strategic Matters

8	Place Based Partnership Update Purpose: To provide an update on the Berkshire West Placed Based Partnership.	29 - 30
---	--	---------

Operational Matters

9	Local Response to the Cost of Living Crisis Purpose: To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the collective response to the impact on residents in West Berkshire of the rise in the cost of living and consider how we build upon the response so far.	31 - 36
10	Changes to Pharmaceutical Services	37 - 62

Agenda - Health and Wellbeing Board to be held on Thursday, 7 December 2023
(continued)

Purpose: To provide details of recent and planned changes to pharmaceutical services in West Berkshire and advise the Health and Wellbeing Board on the implications for the West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| 11 | Progress Report - Priority 3: Help Family and Children in Early Years | 63 - 74 |
| | Purpose: To update on progress in implementing the actions set out in West Berkshire's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan, focusing on the third priority - to help families and children in early years. | |
| 12 | Better Care Fund Monitoring Report - Q2 2023/24 | 75 - 94 |
| | To approve the Better Care Fund quarterly monitoring report for Q2 2023/24. | |
| 13 | Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Conference 2024 | 95 - 100 |
| | Purpose: To agree the details for the Health and Wellbeing Board annual conference for 2024. | |

Other Information not for discussion

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 14 | Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership - Annual Report for 2022/23 | 101 - 128 |
| | To present the annual report from the Safeguarding Children Partnership. | |
| 15 | Health and Wellbeing Board Sub-Group Updates | 129 - 142 |
| | Purpose: To provide a summary of recent activities and future actions for each of the Health and Wellbeing Board Sub-Groups. | |
| 16 | Members' Question(s) | 143 - 144 |
| | Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to answer questions submitted by Councillors in accordance with the Meeting Rules contained in the Council's Constitution. | |

Standard Agenda Items 2

- | | | |
|----|---|-----------|
| 17 | Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan | 145 - 146 |
| | An opportunity for Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to suggest items to go on to the Forward Plan. | |

Agenda - Health and Wellbeing Board to be held on Thursday, 7 December 2023
(continued)

- 18 **Future meeting dates**
22 February 2024
2 May 2024
(All meetings to start at 9.30am)

Sarah Clarke
Service Director: Strategy and Governance

If you require this information in a different format or translation, please contact
Stephen Chard on telephone (01635) 519462.

This page is intentionally left blank

Health & Wellbeing Board – 7 December 2023

Item 1 – Apologies

Verbal Item

This page is intentionally left blank

DRAFT

Note: These Minutes will remain DRAFT until approved at the next meeting of the Committee

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 3 OCTOBER 2023

Present: Councillor Alan Macro (Executive Portfolio Holder: Adult Social Care and Health Integration), Councillor Heather Codling (Executive Portfolio Holder: Children, Education and Young People's Services), Councillor Lee Dillon (Leader of Council; Executive Portfolio Holder Strategy, Communications and Public Safety), Helen Clark (Deputy Place Director Berkshire West - BOB Integrated Care Board); Paul Coe (Interim Executive Director - People (DASS & DCS)), Jessica Jhundoo Evans (Arts and Leisure Representative), Helen Kenny (Thames Valley Police), Sean Murphy (Public Protection Manager), April Peberdy (Acting Service Director - Communities and Wellbeing) and Garry Poulson (Voluntary Sector Representative)

Members Attending Remotely: Councillor David Marsh (Minority Group Spokesperson on Health and Wellbeing), Councillor Jo Stewart (Shadow Portfolio: Adult Social Care; Integrated Health; Public Health), Prof John Ashton (Director of Public Health), Matthew Hensby (Sovereign Housing), Dr Janet Lippett (Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust), and Helen Williamson (Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust)

Also Present: Adrian Barker (Mental Health Action Group), Iain Wolloff (Skills and Enterprise Partnership) and Gordon Oliver (Principal Policy Officer)

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting: Sarah Webster, Bernadine Blease and Dr Heike Veldtman

Absent: Councillor Janine Lewis and Fiona Worby

PART I

21 Minutes

The Minutes of the meetings held on 28 June 2023 and 13 July 2023 were approved as true and correct records and signed by the Chairman.

22 Actions arising from previous meeting(s)

Progress on actions from the previous meetings was noted.

23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received other than the standing declarations as stated in the agenda.

24 Public Questions

There were no public questions submitted to this meeting.

25 Petitions

There were no petitions presented to the Board.

26 Membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board

It was noted that membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board was on an organisational basis and a standing item was retained on the agenda to note any changes in personnel.

It was noted that Bernadine Blease had changed roles and would no longer be the Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust's representative on the Board. Also, AnnMarie Dodds had been appointed as Executive Director - Children and Family Services and Paul Coe had been appointed as Executive Director – Adult Social Care, with both starting their new roles on 16 October 2023.

27 Better Care Fund Plan 2023-25

Paul Coe (Interim Executive Director – People) presented the item on the Better Care Fund Plan 2023-25 (Agenda Item 8).

It was noted that this had been subject to extensive consultation with individual Board Members prior to submission and had been subsequently endorsed by the South-East Region and approved by NHS England.

RESOLVED to approve the Better Care Fund Plan for 2023-2025.

28 Right Care, Right Person

Superintendent Helen Kenny (Thames Valley Police) gave a presentation on Right Care, Right Person (Agenda Item 9).

Members asked what would happen if a resident requested a welfare check. A recent example was given of a camper van parked in the middle of a pub car park. The curtains were drawn and it was not clear if anyone was inside. In this case, the Police had refused to do a welfare check.

It was explained that the Police would attend if there had been an accident and there was concern about the occupants, but if the vehicle was parked and there was no sign of distress, then there was no fear for any person's welfare. It would be up to the landowner to have the vehicle removed. If the public called the Police, then they may be referred to a more suitable agency.

There was a question about what would happen if ambulances were busy, resulting in a long delay before they could get to a reported individual in distress.

It was confirmed that if there was a need for an immediate response and an ambulance was unable to attend, then the Police would attend. This had happened with a recent incident involving someone in mental health crisis who was self-harming.

Members asked what percentage of incidents resulted in harm to the individual following a welfare check and whether this would be monitored to track the impacts of the change in approach.

Action: Supt Helen Kenny to confirm if data was available on the percentage of incidents where there was harm to the individual after a welfare check had been carried out.

Governance for the change included an implementation group co-chaired by the Police and the NHS, which would undertake regular reviews of incidents and outcomes, including any cases where neither the Police nor the ambulance service had attended.

The importance of soft intelligence being fed back quickly was highlighted.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - 3 OCTOBER 2023 - MINUTES

A question was asked about potential time delays as a result of the change in approach and the potential impacts on whoever calls in to report a person in distress.

It was confirmed that if there was an immediate need for a response, then the Police would still attend. However, if there was not an immediate need to attend, then the case may be referred to the ambulance service or a mental health specialist, and there may be a delay in the response.

It was noted that the degree of panic / urgency to attend was difficult to measure. Call handlers would be issued with a toolkit to enable them to make an informed assessment. In the long-term, there would be an assessment of the impact of the change on partner agencies.

The Board acknowledged that the Police were concerned about being used as a de facto ambulance service. However, concerns were expressed about approaching a complex problem with a relatively simple solution. It was noted that there was considerable overlap between the Police and other agencies, and it was suggested that clients may fall between stools. It was suggested that there was a need for officers and call handlers to have robust health literacy training. Concerns were also expressed about the lack of information on how the impacts of the new approach would be measured.

It was explained that the reason for introducing the change was to get the right care to the patient at the right time. The Police was not the best agency to deal with someone who was mentally unwell. It was confirmed that Police officers did receive mental health training so they could exercise powers under the Mental Health Act, but often a Police officer in uniform would not be the best person to support a person in mental health distress. While reducing demand on the Police was not a reason for introducing the change, one of the benefits would be to free up the Police to deal with crime. Superintendent Helen Kenny had not been briefed on measurement, but she offered to provide an update in three months.

Action: Supt Helen Kenny to provide and update on implementation of the Right Care, Right Person model in three months.

It was highlighted that South Central Ambulance Service was under extreme pressure and the Board expressed concern about people falling through the gaps between services.

Members asked if mental health responders would attend calls like they do in other parts of the UK. It was confirmed that Thames Valley Police did not have such arrangements in place currently, but it would be considered in future.

A question was asked about the involvement of the voluntary sector. It was confirmed that they had been consulted on the change.

Members asked if care alarm providers had been briefed. It was confirmed that they had.

Members asked about Police attendance where there were concerns about a resident's welfare that was not related to mental health (i.e., patient slumped in a chair at home and not responsive). It was confirmed that either the Police or fire service could attend such incidents and force entry to the property.

Members also asked about a scenario involving a dementia patient missing from a care home. It was confirmed that they would be classed as a high risk missing person and the Police would attend, but this was not related to the Right Care, Right Person initiative.

It was noted that the Berkshire West Mental Health Programme Board was being stood back up. Thames Valley Police would be represented and feedback on Right Care, Right Person would be sought through that meeting.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - 3 OCTOBER 2023 - MINUTES

RESOLVED to note the report and for the Board to receive an update in three months.

29 **Local Response to the Cost of Living Crisis**

Sean Murphy (Public Protection Manager) presented the update on the Local Response to the Cost of Living Crisis (Agenda Item 10).

Feedback was provided on the recent meeting between statutory service providers and the voluntary sector. All agencies / organisations had reported an increase in demand at a time when they were also facing increases to their operating costs. This was leading to financial difficulties for some organisations. Organisations were seeing more complex cases, often involving mental health aspects. There had been an increase in immediate indebtedness, where individuals were unable to pay their bills / living expenses. The general view was that there was a housing crisis coming, with more evictions, more investigations around the condition of properties in the private rental sector, and challenges facing landlords due to higher mortgage costs, which was putting pressure on affordable rents. There had been some discussion around how the Household Support Fund was coordinated, with a desire to speed up decision making and allocation of funds. Grants were still available from Greenham Trust. The key message from the event was that the challenges from rising costs of living had not gone away – although inflation was reducing, people were still struggling, with resulting impacts on health.

Members agreed that there was no point in the Council having funds if it could not get these allocated quickly to those in need. A proposal was being developed for the allocation of funds through third parties. It was suggested that working with the voluntary sector could deliver better value for money. It was agreed that the Volunteer Centre would be included in discussions as a matter of course, since they had a good view of the situation across the whole district. It was suggested that there should be more regular meetings between statutory providers and the voluntary sector.

Action: Sean Murphy to circulate minutes from the meeting between statutory agencies and the voluntary sector partners to all HWB Members.

It was confirmed that Sovereign Housing would like to be represented at future meetings to ensure that residents could benefit not only from the Housing Support Fund, but also the support funds that Sovereign offered to its residents and customers.

Action: Sean Murphy to meet with Matthew Hensby to discuss the support that is available and to coordinate activity.

The commitment to speed up allocation of funds was welcomed as delays incurred by filling out paperwork could make matters worse.

It was suggested that better comms were needed, since 40% of applications had been rejected, and this was often because not enough information had been provided. It was suggested that the voluntary sector may be aware of individuals most in need and may be able to support them with their applications.

It was confirmed that a comms campaign was planned for the autumn, which would promote the fund and explain the applications process.

It was acknowledged that the voluntary sector would be able to respond more quickly than the Council could. For example, the Community Furniture Project was able to support applicants with white goods within a few hours. Once a model of working had been agreed between the Council and the voluntary sector, this would be part of future comms.

It was noted that other local authorities such as Northamptonshire had made use of the voluntary sector, parish councils and community development workers to identify people

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - 3 OCTOBER 2023 - MINUTES

in need. They had also invested in the voluntary sector infrastructure, so they had the resources to be able to deal with the extra workload generated through the Household Support Fund.

RESOLVED that the Service Lead for Public Protection report on progress to the Board at its meeting in December 2023.

30 Financial Problems and Mental Health

Adrian Barker (Mental Health Action Group Chairman) presented the report on Financial Problems and Mental Health (Agenda Item 11).

It was highlighted that there had been a discussion at the Joint Public Protection Partnership around fraud. The service delivered 12 areas of prevention work. One concern highlighted at the meeting was around young people being exploited by money lenders through social media, which could be a gateway to county lines. Also, there was evidence of artificial intelligence being used to persuade people to part with their money by mimicking influencers. The Public Protection Service had been asked to engage proactively on social media to flag posts that had been confirmed as not genuine. It was suggested that this could be included within the report's proposals.

It was noted that the voluntary sector was working across a number of programmes with the Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust and the Mental Health Action Group. There was concern that different organisations were trying to reach out to the same people, and it was suggested that there should be better coordination. It was suggested that the Berkshire West Programme Board may help to address this.

Action: Helen Clark to give further consideration to the potential for improved coordination and discuss this with relevant parties.

It was suggested that the Scrutiny Commission may wish to consider issues around debt recovery and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The report suggested a half day workshop to look at issues around debt recovery and to share experience.

The Board welcomed the report's proposal, particularly around young people and schools, where prevention activities were key. The impact of fraud on victims was highlighted. Testimony through victim impact statements demonstrated that the effects of fraud could be life-changing - some people never recovered from the impacts on their physical and mental health.

The connection between finance and housing was highlighted, and the availability and affordability of housing. The Public Protection Service was seeing examples of overcrowding and the negative impacts on health.

Action: Sean Murphy to review how the Public Protection Service could be involved in delivery of targets identified in the report.

A question was asked about whether the Public Protection Services was signposting people to sources of mental health support, and about opportunities for closer working with the Public Health Team. It was confirmed that a small victim support service had been retained, and the Service also made safeguarding referrals. It was suggested that additional training could be provided around mental health services.

Action: Sean Murphy and April Peberdy to discuss additional training for Public Protection staff around mental health services.

RESOLVED:

- (a) To note progress made against achievement of the original proposals.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - 3 OCTOBER 2023 - MINUTES

- (b) In relation to Proposal 4:
- To commit to supporting the Community Mental Health Transformation Programme to help make it a success, including leading by example in supporting the programme, encouraging its partner members to engage productively with it and receiving progress reports on the implementation as appropriate.
 - To support the ICB's objectives in the Joint Forward Plan and its service delivery plan to continue developing the community mental health framework, build GP led integrated neighbourhood teams and develop the estates strategies, including 'participation in work public estate initiatives', to achieve the objectives.
- (c) In relation to Proposal 5.4:
- To request that the Berkshire Healthcare representation provides a response to the original proposal.
- (d) In relation to Proposal 10:
- To support the work on fraud prevention and that partner organisations spread appropriate messages and links to resources where possible.
- (e) To ask the Scrutiny Commission to review issues around debt recovery and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

31 Changes to Pharmaceutical Services

April Peberdy (Interim Service Director – Communities and Wellbeing) presented the item on Changes to Pharmaceutical Services (Agenda Item 12).

It was highlighted that a number of pharmacies had closed in Newbury and concern was expressed about the potential for further closures.

It was noted that some of the remaining pharmacies did not have parking nearby, so could be difficult for some people to access. The situation was compared to the widespread closure of banks.

The Board welcomed the proposal for a survey of waiting times at local pharmacies.

It was noted that pharmacies had also closed in Thatcham, which could add to pressures on remaining pharmacies in Newbury.

Members wondered if a solution similar to Amazon lockers might be used to improve access to medication within particular communities. It was noted that the Downlands Surgery in Chieveley was looking at this model.

Members indicated that residents had reported queuing for up to an hour to get prescriptions at pharmacies across the district.

It was highlighted that online services would not meet the needs of some pharmacy users who needed to have in-depth discussions with pharmacists.

The Board also noted that the NHS was looking to encourage people to make better use of pharmacies, but this relied on pharmacies being available within communities.

The Board felt that the closures were as a result of market failure and the market was not meeting the needs of customers, particularly older people who were less mobile and / or living in rural areas. It was suggested that the NHS needed to intervene.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - 3 OCTOBER 2023 - MINUTES

It was also suggested that patients needed to have options if the role of pharmacies in delivering primary care was to be realised. It was noted that Boots had announced that it would be closing 300 of its stores.

It was suggested that a more effective form of needs assessment was required and that this should take place at a system level.

It was noted that fewer community pharmacies would increase pressure on GP surgeries when delivering vaccinations.

It was confirmed that the ICB was happy with the proposal to prepare a report on the resilience of pharmacies across West Berkshire. Timescales would depend on the scope of the report. It was suggested that the report should also consider matters such as the current ask of pharmacies in terms of primary care access.

Action: Helen Clark to confirm the timescale for producing the report.

RESOLVED:

- (a) To note the changes to pharmaceutical services in West Berkshire;
- (b) To note that the changes have been assessed as not having a significant impact on provision of pharmaceutical services and agree that there is no requirement to update the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment or publish a supplementary statement.
- (c) To agree that the Integrated Care Board (ICB) be requested to prepare a report on the resilience of pharmacies across West Berkshire; and
- (d) To agree that Healthwatch be approached to see if they would perform a survey of waiting times at pharmacies across West Berkshire.

32 Delivery Plan Progress Report - Priority 2

April Peberdy (Interim Service Director – Communities and Wellbeing) presented the Progress Report on Priority 2: Support Individuals at High Risk of Bad Health Outcomes to Live Healthy Lives.

Members expressed concern about the extent to which young carers were being relied upon, and also in relation to the fact that West Berkshire was not meeting targets for dementia diagnosis. Early diagnosis was recognised as being of great importance.

Iain Wolloff provided an update on the Developing Life Skills project, which was delivered by the Education Business Partnership. This supported young people by helping to address issues such as mental health, emotional health and lack of confidence, and helping the young people to make the transition into work. Around 250 young people in 12 schools had been supported in the latest programme. The programme had been positively evaluated by participants and teachers. There was a desire to continue the programme, but there was no more funding available through the HWB Priority Fund, so the Board was asked if alternative funding could be allocated to the project.

It was noted that the report only showed the numbers of pupils trained using funding from the Health and Wellbeing Board, but this was part of a larger programme.

It was confirmed that schools did not contribute financially.

Members asked about the rationale for how the schools were selected.

Action: Iain Wolloff to provide a full list of all schools that took part in the programme.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - 3 OCTOBER 2023 - MINUTES

The Board asked about how the programme's outcomes were measured. It was confirmed that students were asked to self-report in terms of how they felt before and after participating in the programme – over 90% gave a positive rating. Teachers were also asked for feedback about the programme's effectiveness. 100% of teachers indicated that they would like to take part in future programmes.

The cost of the programme for 2023/24 had not been finalised, but to deliver a similar volume to the previous year would cost £11,947. This would deliver training to 12 cohorts of up to 225 pupils.

It was suggested that Greenham Trust could be approached for funding. However, it was confirmed that they already supported various initiatives delivered by EBP, including the Destinations Expo, which brought young people together with employers and universities.

Action: Iain Wolloff to approach Greenham Trust for funding and come back to the Board if funding was not secured.

RESOLVED to:

- (a) Note the report and the progress made to date;
- (b) Agree that the actions are still appropriate;
- (c) Agree the actions to be referred upwards to the 'Place' or 'System' levels; and
- (d) Commit the Board's respective organisations to delivering the agreed actions.

33 **CVD Outreach Project**

The report on the CVD Outreach Project (Agenda Item 14) was provided for information only.

RESOLVED to note the report.

34 **Health and Wellbeing Board Sub-Group Updates**

The Health and Wellbeing Board Sub-Group Updates (Agenda Item 15) were provided for information only.

RESOLVED to note the report.

35 **Members' Question(s)**

There were no questions submitted to the meeting.

36 **Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan**

Members reviewed the Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan.

It was noted that a further update on the Local Response to the Cost of Living crisis would be brought to the December meeting.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

37 **Future meeting dates**

The dates of the future meetings were noted.

(The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and closed at 3.40 pm)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD - 3 OCTOBER 2023 - MINUTES

CHAIRMAN

Date of Signature

This page is intentionally left blank

Actions arising from Previous Meetings of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Ref	Meeting	Agenda item	Action	Action Lead	Agency	Status	Comment
153	24/09/2020	Health and Wellbeing Board Meetings	Seek another peer review of Health and Wellbeing Board.	April Peberdy	WBC	In progress	It has been agreed that this will be deferred until the Place Based Partnership is operational - a start date of spring 2024 is proposed.
197	19/05/2022	Berkshire West PBP Transformation Programme	Have a discussion with the Unified Executive about how they could be more agile and report back	Belinda Seston / Sarah Webster	ICB	Complete	Discussions are ongoing in relation to development of the Place Based Partnership. An update was given to the HWB meeting on 17 July 2023. A further update to the HWB is scheduled for the December meeting.
218	23/02/2023	Healthwatch Report - Asylum Seekers	Officers to look at the report's recommendations in the context of their statutory functions to see what improvements could be made.	Sean Murphy / Nick Caprara	WBC	In progress	A WBC asylum meeting took place on 30 March which Housing, Education, Health, Public Protection, Transport reps all attended. The Head of Hotel Mobilisation from Clearsprings attended this meeting to discuss the key findings of the Healthwatch report.
220	23/02/2023	Financial Problems and Mental Health	Incorporate fraud prevention within the report's recommendations.	Adrian Barker	MHAG	Complete	The updated report was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on 3 October 2023
221	23/02/2023	Financial Problems and Mental Health	Consider how the Better Care Fund could be used to support initiatives to tackle financial problems and mental health.	Maria Shepherd / Adrian Barker	WBC / MCAG	Complete	Unfortunately, it is not possible to use the BCF to support this piece of work.
239	13/07/2023	Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan Review	Officers to look at resuming the 'hot focus' sessions.	Gordon Oliver	WBC	Complete	A series of 'hot focus' session will be organised to allow HWB members to engage with the work of individual sub-groups. The first session took place on 24 November and looked at the work of the Children's Early Help and Prevention Partnership. The next session will be in Health Inequalities and will probably take place in March 2024.
241	03/10/2023	Right Care, Right Person	Confirm if data was available on the percentage of incidents where there was harm to the individual after a welfare check had been carried out.	Supt Helen Kenny	TVP		
242	03/10/2023	Right Care, Right Person	Provide an update on implementation of the Right Care, Right Person model after three months	Supt Helen Kenny	TVP	In Progress	Report scheduled for the HWB meeting on 22 February 2024,
243	03/10/2023	Local Response to Cost of Living Crisis	Circulate minutes from the meeting between statutory agencies and the voluntary sector partners to all HWB Members	Sean Murphy	WBC	Complete	Circulated on 19 October.
244	03/10/2023	Local Response to Cost of Living Crisis	Meet with Matthew Hensby to discuss the support that is available and to coordinate activity.	Sean Murphy	WBC		
245	03/10/2023	Financial Problems and Mental Health	Give further consideration to the potential for improved coordination and discuss this with relevant parties.	Helen Clark	ICB	In progress	Scheduled for discussion at the next meeting of the Berkshire West Mental Health Programme Board.
246	03/10/2023	Financial Problems and Mental Health	Review how the Public Protection Service could be involved in delivery of targets identified in the report.	Sean Murphy	WBC		
247	03/10/2023	Financial Problems and Mental Health	Discuss additional training for Public Protection staff around mental health services.	Sean Murphy & April Peberdy	WBC	Complete	Rachel Johnson shared relevant information about mental health support on 22 November.
248	03/10/2023	Changes to Pharmaceutical Services	Confirm the timetable for the ICB to produce the report on resilience of pharmacies in West Berkshire	Helen Clark	ICB	In progress	To be brought to Health and Wellbeing Board on 22 February 2024.
249	03/10/2023	Delivery Plan - Progress Report - Priority 2	Provide a full list of all schools that took part in the Developing Life Skills programme.	Iain Wolloff	SEP	Complete	List was circulated to HWB Members on 19 October 2023.
250	03/10/2023	Delivery Plan - Progress Report - Priority 2	Approach Greenham Trust for funding for Developing Life Skills programme and come back to the Board if funding was not secured	Iain Wolloff	SEP	Complete	Greenham Trust already support some DLS workshops (6 streams), this is something they have supported by funding over the last couple of years. The EBP plan to reapply for this again for the academic year 2023/24. Historically they have received funding from both channels with HWB being the larger of the two. Therefore, they are really keen to maintain a level of funding from the HWB, in addition to GT, as otherwise the overall reach of the DLS programme this year will be much smaller and a lot of students will therefore miss out.

Updated: 29/11/2023

This page is intentionally left blank

Health & Wellbeing Board – 7 December 2023

Item 4 – Declarations of Interest

Verbal Item

This page is intentionally left blank

Public Questions to be answered at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 7 December 2023.

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to answer questions submitted by members of the public in accordance with Part 3.2 of the Council's Constitution.

(a) Question submitted to the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust representative by Mark Knight:

“Could the Health and Wellbeing Board demand that the hospital trust takes no action to determine the site of a replacement Royal Berkshire Hospital Building without first determining how their services should be fairly and properly delivered particularly in Newbury - taking account of patients and their practical support needs?”

(b) Question submitted to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health Integration by Paula Saunderson:

“How are we doing on the Health & Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan Action 2.1 please, especially in relation to specific help for Unpaid Dementia Carers in West Berks?”

(c) Question submitted to the ICB Executive Director for Berkshire West Place by Paula Saunderson:

“Under Action 2.2 – how much progress is being made with these Actions in relation to the Dementia Pathway in later stages of regression, especially with introduction of dedicated Admiral Nurses into each PCN?”

This page is intentionally left blank

Health & Wellbeing Board – 7 December 2023

Item 6 – Petitions

Verbal Item

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 7

MEMBERSHIP OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Name	Role/Organisation	Substitute
Cllr Lee Dillon	WBC Leader of the Council	Cllr Vicky Poole
Cllr Alan Macro (Chairman)	WBC Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health Integration	
Cllr Janine Lewis	WBC Portfolio Holder for Public Health, Culture, Leisure, Sport and Countryside	
Cllr Heather Codling	WBC Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Young People's Services	
Cllr Jo Stewart	WBC Conservative Group Spokesperson for Health and Wellbeing	Cllr Dominic Boeck
Cllr David Marsh	WBC Green Group Spokesperson for Health and Wellbeing	Cllr Carlyne Culver
Paul Coe	WBC Executive Director - Adult Social Care	Maria Shepherd
AnnMarie Dodds	WBC Executive Director – Children and Family Services	Dave Wraight
April Peberdy	Interim WBC Service Director – Communities and Wellbeing	Zoe Campbell
Sean Murphy	WBC Public Protection Manager, Public Protection Partnership	
Prof John Ashton	Director of Public Health for West Berkshire and Reading	
Jessica Jhundoo-Evans	Arts & Leisure Representative	Katy Griffiths
Helen Williamson	Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust	
Sarah Webster (Vice Chairman)	Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (1)	Belinda Seston Helen Clark
Dr Heike Veldtman	Buckinghamshire Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care Board (2)	
Fiona Worby	Healthwatch West Berkshire	Mike Fereday
Stephen Leonard	Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service	Gail Muirhead Paul Thomas
Dr Janet Lippett	Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	William Orr Andrew Statham
Matthew Hensby	Sovereign Housing	Kate Rees
Supt. Helen Kenny	Thames Valley Police	Emily Evans
Garry Poulson	Voluntary Sector Representative	Rachel Peters

This page is intentionally left blank

Health & Wellbeing Board – 7 December 2023

Item 8 – Place Based Partnership Update

To Follow

This page is intentionally left blank

Local Response to Cost of Living Increases Update Report

Report being considered by: Health and Wellbeing Board

On: 7 December 2023

Report Author: Sean Murphy

Report Sponsor: Sean Murphy



Item for: Decision

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the collective response to the impact on residents in West Berkshire of the rise in the cost of living.

2. Recommendation(s)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- (a) **NOTES** the report and the response of partners to date.
- (b) **RESOLVES** that the Service Lead for Public Protection report on additional progress to the Board at its meeting on 22nd February 2024.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 On 13th July 2023 and 3rd October 2023 the Board received an update on the response by the Council and voluntary sector partners to support residents facing challenges as a result of increase in the cost of living.
- 3.2 Since the 3rd October meeting we have seen further decreases in the headline rate of inflation. The Office for National Statistics has reported that the headline Consumer Price Index (CPI) rate in the year to October 2023 stood at 4.6% with CPIH (including owner occupiers' housing) at 4.7%. The inflation rate for food and non-alcoholic beverages stands at 10.1% (down from 12.2% in September 2023) although the rise in prices in October had fallen to 0.1% from 2% in September. Whilst the inflation rates are falling they still present an increase in prices and a significant challenge and are one of the major causes of financial pressure for households.
- 3.3 Although gas prices fell by 31% and electricity prices fell by 15.6% in October 2023 gas prices are still 60% higher than two years previously and electricity prices are 40% higher than two years ago (in October 2021 the energy price cap stood at £1,277 per annum). On 23rd November 2023 Ofgen announced changes to the price cap which will go up from £1,834 to £1,928 (increase of circa 5%) per year as of 1st January 2024 for dual fuel users paying by Direct Debit. Those paying on receipt of a bill will also see prices rising by around 5% to £2,058 for a typical home.

- 3.4 The cost per unit for a typical user paying by Direct Debit will increase to 28.62p/kWh (currently 27.35p/kWh) for electricity and 7.42p/kWh for gas (currently 6.89p/kWh). The average daily standing charge will remain at 53.4p/day for electricity and 29.6p/day for gas. These standing costs mean that on average households paying by direct debit are charged £303 before they use any gas or electricity.
- 3.5 Motor fuel prices rose between September and October with the average price of petrol up 1.5 pence per litre and diesel prices up 4.8 pence per litre. Around 4 in 10 adults who pay energy bills in the UK have said that it is very or somewhat difficult to afford them. The increase in petrol and diesel prices would appear to be sustained with prices around 155p per litre for petrol and 160p for diesel at the time of writing.
- 3.6 On 22nd November 2023 the Chancellor announced that there would be a 2% cut in National Insurance effective from January 2024. However, personal allowances are to remain frozen until 2028. The National Living Wage is to rise to £11.44 with effect from April 2024 along with a 6.7% increase in work based benefits and 8.5% increase in state pensions.
- 3.7 At the meeting on the 3rd October 2023, we reported that a meeting had taken place between the Council, Greenham Trust and a wide range of voluntary sector organisations. A further meeting is taking place on 1st December 2023 and a verbal update will be given at the Board meeting.

4. Update Report

Household Support Fund

- 4.1 At the meeting of the Board on 3rd October 2023 the allocations for the HSF were set out for the Board. As of 20th November 2023, the number of applications for 2023/24 against the main fund stood at 1,662 of which 1,038 have been approved and 516 rejected. The total spend currently against the main allocation is £232k. Of the 516 rejected, the main reason for rejection was as follows:
- Not eligible based on application;
 - Insufficient evidence of eligibility submitted when requested;
 - Already received support in the current tranche
- 4.2 At the meeting with the voluntary sector on 29th September 2023, there was discussion about flexibility and funding with respect to achieving the aims of the Household Support Fund. On 7th November 2024, the Council resolved to increase the allocation to match funded support (with Greenham Trust) for the voluntary sector to £70K giving a total grant allocation of £140K for the coming period to 31st March 2024.
- 4.3 A further review of the fund has also taken place. A number of adjustments to the current spend are proposed. At the time of writing these have not been finalised however it is planned that they are considered as an [Individual Member Decision on 14th December 2023](#). The proposals are likely to include the following areas of focus:

Scheme	Proposal under Consideration
Assistance for Food and Energy	<p>Many of the requests received by the HSF are for support in the range of £30-£50 or under for short term assistance with food and energy top ups.</p> <p>It is proposed to work with the voluntary sector to administer these payments within the terms of the scheme guidance.</p> <p>The advantage is it will be available a lot quicker than a payment arranged by WBC. It will also be available out of hours.</p> <p>There will also be targeted support for those who are in emergency accommodation.</p> <p>To compliment this approach we are rolling out training for relevant staff across the Council on the referral process.</p>
Essential Household Goods Scheme	<p>Additional funding to support the provision of white goods, cookers, beds, furniture, utensils and more.</p> <p>The contribution will be added to the £30K additional support already provided by the joint Cost of Living fund.</p>
Discretionary Assistance Fund	<p>WBC work with a range of providers to allow residents to apply for assistance with respect to provision of carpets and curtains where those eligible move in and none are provided. This will also assist with reducing energy consumption.</p>
Targeted support for Pensioners	<p>Extend successful existing scheme administered through Fair Close working with Age UK and Church Groups. We are also looking at options around working with Adult Social care.</p>
Support for Young Carers	<p>200 children are identified as carers by the Council (with more unidentified).</p> <p>No national funding is available for young carers.</p> <p>A grant to deliver support in partnership with voluntary sector.</p>

4.4 In addition, we are looking at options around support for those leaving care.

4.5 At the last meeting, the Board received an update on the promotion of the fund including fund criteria and routes to access support. In addition to those steps set out in the last report other routes have been developed:

- Promotion through libraries;
- Encouraging referrals by partner organisations;
- Attendance at the event organised by Laura Farris MP;
- A number of street level engagement events are planned by attending markets and other venues (such as supermarkets) across the district including Lambourn, Hungerford, Newbury, Thatcham, Theale and Calcot.

Other Initiatives

- 4.6 On 17th November 2023 Laura Farris MP organised a ‘cost of living’ event at the Old Blue Coat School in Thatcham. The event was supported by a range of local organisations including housing, banking, utilities companies, the Fair Close Centre and West Berkshire Foodbank as well as West Berkshire Council’s Building Communities and Housing Team. The latter promoting the Household Support Fund.
- 4.7 Additionally, a number of meetings have taken place with organisers of Community Welcome Spaces (formally warm hubs). It is the intention of many organisers to develop these initiatives further. On 23rd November 2023 the government has also issued an evaluation and toolkit for organisers which can be found here: [Warm spaces in England: an evidence review and toolkit for local organisations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/121227/warm_spaces_in_england_evidence_review_and_toolkit_for_local_organisations.pdf). The Building Communities Team continue to map the spaces and the current list is here: [Community Welcome Spaces in West Berkshire - West Berkshire Council](https://www.westberks.gov.uk/building-communities-team/community-welcome-spaces-in-west-berkshire).
- 4.8 On 23rd November 2023, Greenham Trust hosted a funders forum attended by a range of organisations including WBC, Sovereign Network Group, local charitable trusts and others. West Berkshire Foodbank, Community Resource Centre and Newbury Soup Kitchen all gave an update on demand and challenges going into the winter. A range of issues were discussed, including: pressures in staff and volunteers, unpredictable additional costs, the need for longer term funding commitments, and increasing demand. Also discussed was the need for an updated needs analysis and a scoping exercise on funding and provision to ensure targeted and flexible interventions are in place. This will be discussed at the meeting on 1st December 2023 and again the Board will be updated.

5. Conclusions and Next Steps

- 5.1 The cost-of-living challenges faced by many have not gone away. We are now heading into the winter period and whilst headline inflation has fallen, food inflation, fuel and energy costs remain higher than the winter of 2021/22.
- 5.2 The focus in this period has been on expanding the support provided through voluntary sector partners to provide a responsive and focussed approach to supporting those in priority groups. Through this we continue to evaluate as we build a model for the future.
- 5.3 The next time the Board meets, we will be able to update further in context of the winter period that we are now entering.

6. Appendices

None

Background Papers:

None

Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by helping to mitigate the impacts of the cost of living increases.

This page is intentionally left blank

Changes to Pharmaceutical Services

Report being considered by:	Health and Wellbeing Board
On:	7 December 2023
Report Author:	Gayan Perera and Gordon Oliver
Report Sponsor:	John Ashton
Item for:	Decision



1. Purpose of the Report

This report provides details of recent and planned changes to pharmaceutical services in West Berkshire and advises the Health and Wellbeing Board on the implications for the West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

2. Recommendation(s)

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (a) note the changes to pharmaceutical services in West Berkshire;
- (b) note that the changes have been assessed as not creating a significant gap in the provision of pharmaceutical services in West Berkshire; and
- (c) agree that there is no requirement to update the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment or publish a supplementary statement.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board has a duty to keep its Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) under review in the light of any notifications of changes in provision of pharmaceutical services within the district.
- 3.2 A notification was received on 5 October 2023 advising retrospectively of changes to pharmaceutical services across the South-East Region. These included reductions to the opening hours for pharmacies at 72 Victoria Road, Mortimer, RG7 3SQ and at Tesco Extra, Pinchington Lane, Newbury, RG14 7HB.
- 3.3 A notification was received on 22 October 2023 advising of a change of ownership for the community pharmacy at Unit 2 Burdwood Centre, Thatcham, RG19 4YA.
- 3.4 A notification was received on 24 October 2023 advising of the permanent closure of the Boots Pharmacy at Thatcham Health Centre, Bath Road, Thatcham, RG18 3HD. This is the fifth closure of a pharmacy listed within the West Berkshire PNA.
- 3.5 A notification was received on 21 November 2023 advising of an application offering unforeseen benefits for a new pharmacy in Newbury town centre by CA-Health Ltd.
- 3.6 The implications of the above changes have been assessed in accordance with national guidance and legislative requirements.

4. Supporting Information

Background

- 4.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established health and wellbeing boards and made them responsible for developing and updating PNAs from 1 April 2013. The NHS Act 2006, amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012, sets out the requirement for health and wellbeing boards to develop and update PNAs. The NHS (Pharmaceutical Services and Local Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2013, as amended, set out the minimum information that must be contained within a PNA and outline the process that must be followed in its development.
- 4.2 PNAs are used and referred to by those wishing to open a new pharmacy or dispensing appliance contractor premises. They are used by NHS England and NHS Improvement to determine applications, and NHS Resolution refers to them when applications go to appeal.
- 4.3 Following publication of a PNA, health and wellbeing boards must assess the impacts of any changes in provision of pharmaceutical services in their area and determine whether the changes warrant refreshing the PNA or publishing a supplementary statement to the existing PNA in accordance with national guidance and legislation, or if no action is required because the changes do not create a gap in provision.

Changes to Opening Hours

- 4.4 On 5 October 2023, the South East Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry Commissioning Hub sent notification of changes to pharmaceutical services that had occurred across the region in Quarter 2 of 2023/24. These included reductions to the opening hours for pharmacies at **72 Victoria Road, Mortimer, RG7 3SQ (FLP66)** and at **Tesco Extra, Pinchington Lane, Newbury, RG14 7HB (FK567)**. Both pharmacies previously operated 100 hour contracts, but from 3 July 2023, the Mortimer Pharmacy operates for 80 hours per week, and from 29 August 2023, the Tesco Pharmacy in Newbury operates for 78 hours per week. The revised opening hours are summarised below:

Mortimer Pharmacy	Core opening hours	Total opening hours
Monday	10:00 – 21:00	10:00 – 21:00
Tuesday	10:00 – 21:00	10:00 – 21:00
Wednesday	10:00 – 21:00	10:00 – 21:00
Thursday	10:00 – 21:00	10:00 – 21:00
Friday	10:00 – 21:00	10:00 – 21:00
Saturday	10:00 – 21:00	10:00 – 21:00
Sunday	08:00 – 22:00	08:00 – 22:00
Tesco Pharmacy, Newbury	Core opening hours	Total opening hours
Monday	09:00 – 21:00	09:00 – 21:00
Tuesday	09:00 – 21:00	09:00 – 21:00
Wednesday	09:00 – 21:00	09:00 – 21:00
Thursday	09:00 – 21:00	09:00 – 21:00
Friday	09:00 – 21:00	09:00 – 21:00
Saturday	09:00 – 21:00	09:00 – 21:00
Sunday	10:00 – 16:00	10:00 – 16:00

Changes to Pharmaceutical Services

- 4.5 For the purposes of the PNA, 8am to 6pm is considered to be normal working hours. Any pharmacy open before 8am is deemed to have early morning opening and those open after 6pm are deemed to have late evening opening.
- 4.6 When the PNA was undertaken, there were no pharmacies in the district or within 1 mile of its boundary with early morning opening, and there were 10 pharmacies within the district that had late evening opening. The closures of the pharmacies at the Sainsbury's superstores at Calcot and Newbury reduced this figure to eight.
- 4.7 Although both the Mortimer and Tesco Extra pharmacies have reduced their opening hours, both are still judged to have late evening opening. Both pharmacies are still providing the same services, so no gap in provision is judged to have occurred as a result of the reduced opening hours.

Change of Ownership

- 4.8 A notification was received from Primary Care Support England on 22 October 2023 advising that the pharmacy previously operated by **Lloyds Pharmacy at Unit 2 Burdwood Centre, Thatcham, RG19 4YA (FP715)** would be operated by **LP SD One Hundred Seven Limited** with effect from 21 October 2023.
- 4.9 There has been no change to the services provided or the opening hours. As such, no gap in provision is judged to have occurred as a result of the change. Opening hours are as follows:

	Core opening hours	Total opening hours
Monday	08:45-13:00 15:00-18:15	08:45-18:15
Tuesday	08:45-13:00 15:00-18:15	08:45-18:15
Wednesday	08:45-13:00 15:00-18:15	08:45-18:15
Thursday	08:45-13:00 15:00-18:15	08:45-18:15
Friday	08:45-13:00 15:00-18:15	08:45-18:15
Saturday	09:00-10:30 12:00-13:00	09:00-13:00
Sunday	Closed	Closed

Pharmacy Closure

- 4.10 A notification was received on 24 October 2023 from the South East Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry Commissioning Hub advising of the permanent closure of the **Boots Pharmacy at Bath Road, Thatcham, RG18 3HD (FE788)** from 17 February 2024.
- 4.11 The impacts of the closure have been assessed in terms of services offered, access and opening hours. The impact of the closure on other pharmacies has also been assessed. A summary of the supporting analysis is provided in Appendix A.

Essential Pharmaceutical Services

- 4.12 Essential services are offered by all pharmacy contractors as part of the NHS Community Pharmacy Contractual Framework. These are:
- Dispensing Medicines
 - Dispensing Appliances

- Repeat Dispensing
- Clinical governance
- Discharge Medicines Service
- Promotion of Healthy Lifestyles
- Signposting
- Support for self-care
- Disposal of Unwanted Medicines

4.13 The closure of Boots will result in a reduction in the overall availability of essential pharmaceutical services provision in the district, reducing the number of pharmacies from 17 to 16. However, there will still be good coverage in the District following the closure.

Advanced Pharmaceutical Services

4.14 Advanced services are NHS England commissioned services that community pharmacy and contractors and dispensing appliance contractors can provide subject to accreditation as necessary. These include:

- New medicines service
- Seasonal influenza vaccination
- Pharmacy consultation service
- Hypertension case-finding service
- Pharmacy contraception service
- Smoking cessation (for patients who started their stop-smoking journey in hospital)

4.15 In addition, there are two appliance advanced services that pharmacies and dispensing appliance contractors may choose to provide:

- Appliance use reviews; and
- Stoma appliance customisation.

4.16 A Hepatitis C service was previously part of the advanced services options at the time the PNA was prepared, but this was decommissioned from April 2023.

4.17 The current PNA findings indicated that there was strong coverage of these services within West Berkshire and in pharmacies just beyond the local authority boundary. Boots Pharmacy (FE788) currently offers the following services:

- New medicines service (1 of 16 in West Berkshire)

Changes to Pharmaceutical Services

- Seasonal influenza vaccination (1 of 16 in West Berkshire)
- Pharmacy consultation service (1 of 17 in West Berkshire)
- Hypertension case-finding service (this was a relatively new service and no pharmacies were offering this service when the PNA was written)
- Smoking cessation (for patients who started their stop-smoking journey in hospital) (no data in the PNA)

4.18 There will still be a good level of provision within West Berkshire and within Thatcham following the closure.

Other Pharmaceutical Services

4.19 These are services commissioned by the West Berkshire Council and Frimley Health and Care to fulfil a local population health and wellbeing need. They are listed below:

- Substance misuse service:
 - needle exchange
 - supervised consumption
- Emergency hormonal contraception service
- Access to palliative care medicine
- Provision of antiviral medication

4.20 The current PNA showed that there was good coverage of these services within West Berkshire. Boots (FE788) offers the following services:

- Needle exchange (1 of 15 in West Berkshire)
- Supervised consumption (1 of 15 in West Berkshire)
- Emergency hormonal contraception service (1 of 16 in West Berkshire)
- Access to palliative care medicine

4.21 There will still be a good level of provision of the above services within West Berkshire and within Thatcham following the closure.

Access

4.22 Within the current PNA, accessibility of services was determined by whether residents lived within a 1-mile radius of a pharmacy for urban areas, or within 20 minutes' drive to a pharmacy for rural areas.

4.23 Boots (FE788) is located immediately to the west of Thatcham town centre. Halo Pharmacy is located approximately 100m away in Crown Mead on the other side of the A4. The only other pharmacy in Thatcham is at the Burdwood Centre, less than

one mile to the southeast. The analysis indicates that no additional residents will be excluded from being within a one mile radius or 20 minutes travel time of a pharmacy.

- 4.24 There were 21 pharmacies in West Berkshire and 10 within 1 mile of the boundary when the PNA was prepared in 2022, but four pharmacies have closed within the district and one within 1 mile of the district boundary since the PNA was published, including the Lloyds pharmacy in the Kingsland Centre. Following the closure of Boots (FE788), there will be just 16 pharmacies in the district. This equates to just under 1 pharmacy per 10,000 residents in West Berkshire (based on ONS mid-year population estimates¹). The PNA indicated that the national average for England was around 1.9 per 10,000 residents in 2022.
- 4.25 Pharmacy opening hours for Boots (FE788) are 8.30am to 6pm Monday to Friday, and 8.30am to 12pm on Saturdays, totalling 51 hours per week. There are two other pharmacies within 1 mile / 20 minutes' walk of the site – both are open on Saturdays, but neither are open on Sundays or late evening. The closest pharmacies that are open on Sundays or late evening are in Newbury, less than 20 minutes' drive away.

Capacity

- 4.26 The latest dispensing contractor data² shows that Boots (FE788) processed around 6,700 prescriptions and dispensed around 13,700 items per month over the most recent 12 months period, and is considered to be a busy pharmacy.
- 4.27 The PNA found that existing contractors had spare capacity, but a number of pharmacies have closed since the assessment was undertaken, so Community Pharmacy Thames Valley (the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC)) has been contacted to seek their views. They have analysed the data for pharmacies in Thatcham (see Appendix B) and have spoken at length to the new owners of the two former Lloyds pharmacies in Thatcham at Crown Mead and the Burdwood Centre. The LPC is very pleased with their progress and their plans for both pharmacies to be able to cope with the increase in prescriptions that will be arriving in the next few months. The LPC has also highlighted that three years ago, the volume of items being dispensed by these two pharmacies was considerably greater than it is currently. They have also highlighted that patients have the choice of having their prescription dealt with by an online pharmacy, although it is recognised that some patients would be unable / unwilling to make use of this option. The LPC has recommended that no supplementary statement is added to the current PNA, as they consider that there is enough capacity for patients in Thatcham.

Unforeseen Benefits Application for a New Pharmacy

- 4.28 A notification was received on 21 November 2023 from the Primary Care Support England advising of an unforeseen benefits application for a new pharmacy in Newbury town centre by C-A-Health Ltd. The area being considered for the new pharmacy includes: 1-154 Bartholomew Street (Including Kennet Shopping Centre), 5-19 Market Street, 1-29 Market Place, and 1-41 Cheap Street. A copy of the notification and the associated application is provided in Appendix C.

¹ [Estimates of the population for the UK, England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](https://ons.gov.uk)

² [Dispensing contractors' data \(NHSBSA\)](#)

4.29 Proposed opening hours are set out below:

	Core opening hours	Total opening hours
Monday	09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00	09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00
Tuesday	09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00	09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00
Wednesday	09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00	09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00
Thursday	09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00	09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00
Friday	09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00	09:00-13:00 & 14:00-18:00
Saturday		09:00-13:00
Sunday		
Total	40 hours	44 hours

4.30 In addition to the Essential Services, the application indicates that the new pharmacy intends to provide the following Advanced and Enhanced Services:

- Appliance user reviews
- Flu vaccination service
- New medicine service
- Supervised consumption and needle exchange service
- Pharmacy contraception service
- Community pharmacy consultation service
- Smoking cessation service
- Hypertension case-finding service
- Weight management service
- Gluten free food supply
- Independent prescribing by pharmacists
- Pharmacist supervised consumption of prescribed opiate substitution therapy
- Guaranteed provision of palliative care drugs in the community
- Treatment of uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women by community pharmacists

4.31 As a statutory consultee, the Health and Wellbeing Board is invited to make comments on the application within 45 days of the notification date, which would be 5 January 2024. However, there is no requirement to do so.

4.32 To be given permission the applicant needs to prove that a new pharmacy would provide “significant benefits”. Factors that are considered whether to grant the application include:

- whether or not there is already a reasonable choice of pharmacy
- how easy it is for people who live or work near the applicant's proposed pharmacy to travel to existing pharmacies
- walking routes, bus services and access by car (including parking)
- whether people who are disabled, elderly, have young children or have other particular needs currently have problems using local pharmacies, and would benefit from the proposed pharmacy
- whether opening another pharmacy would have any significant negative effects.

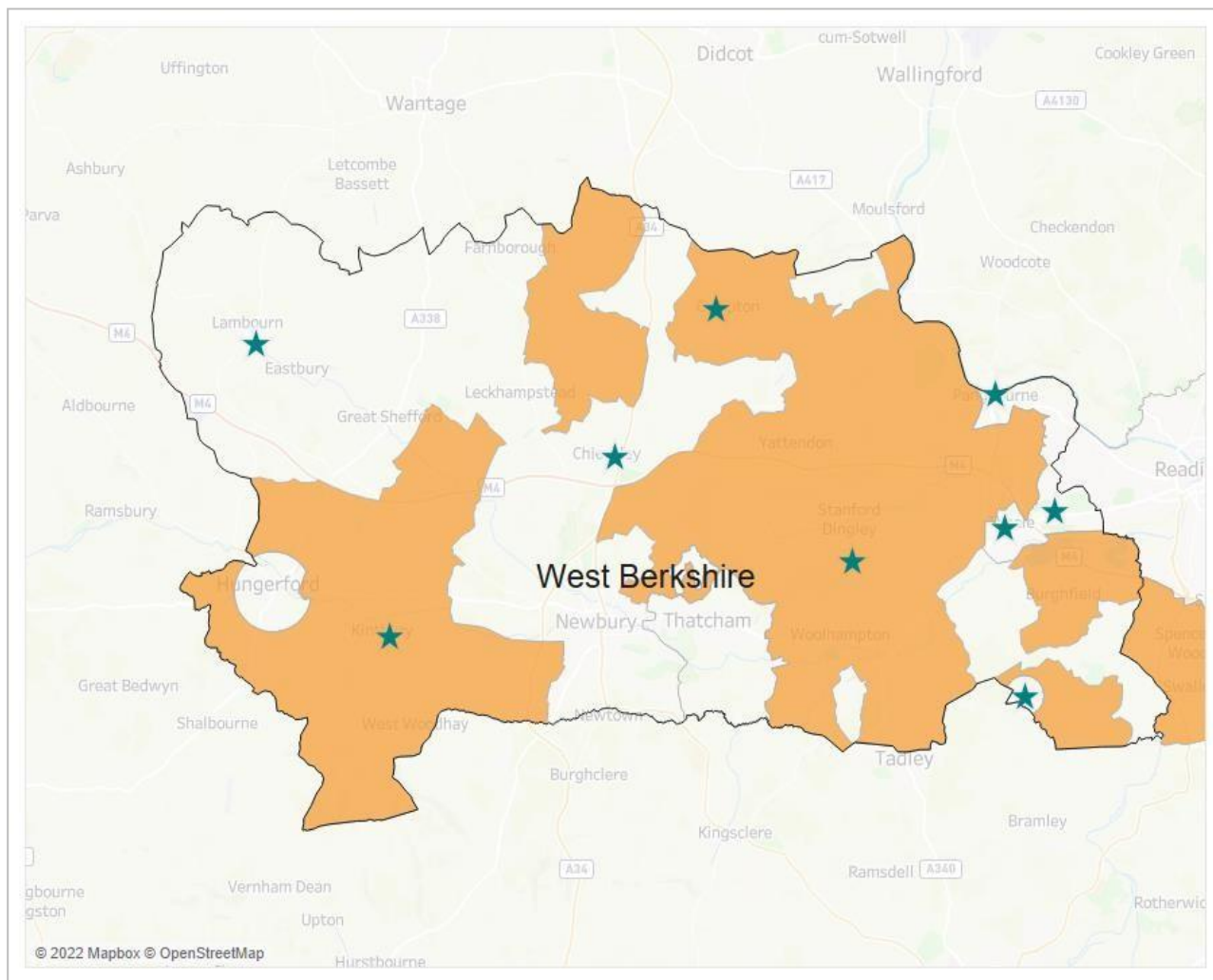
4.33 Although there have been two recent pharmacy closures in Newbury within the last year (Lloyds in the Sainsbury's Superstore, Hectors Way and Superdrug, Northbrook Street), the Health and Wellbeing Board did not consider that the closures had created a gap in the provision of pharmaceutical services that was sufficient to justify a review of the PNA or publication of a Supplementary Statement, since there were no additional households placed outside a 1 mile / 20 minute travel time to their nearest pharmacy as a result of the closures and there was sufficient capacity at the remaining pharmacies to be able to process the displaced activity. The lack of a gap in provision is the reason why this is an 'unforeseen benefits' application.

4.34 While there is not a significant gap in provision of pharmaceutical services within Newbury, a new pharmacy in Newbury town centre would help to improve capacity and choice for patients, and would help to improve the overall resilience of the pharmacy sector within West Berkshire. Also, the proposed location would be in a central location that is accessible by all travel modes and close to car parks and on-street parking, so accessibility for patients would be enhanced.

4.35 As the location for the proposed pharmacy is within 1.6km of a controlled locality (an area determined by NHS England to be "rural in character), if it is granted and the pharmacy opens, dispensing doctors will normally lose the right to dispense to patients living within 1.6 km of the pharmacy when it opens. However, under regulation 50(2), NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West ICB may postpone for such period as it sees fit, the discontinuation of dispensing rights if it considers that the dispensing practice will be adversely affected. The locations of the controlled localities and dispensing pharmacies are shown in Figure 4.1 overleaf.

4.36 Officers have not identified any issues of concern in relation to the application for an additional pharmacy in Newbury Town Centre. However, a number of inaccuracies have been provided in relation to the supporting data that accompanies the application.

Figure 4.1 Location of controlled localities and dispensing GPs



5. Options Considered

5.1 In relation to the changes to pharmaceutical services set out in paragraphs 4.4 – 4.27 above, the options available to the Health and Wellbeing Board are:

- (a) to refresh the PNA;
- (b) to issue a supplementary statement;
- (c) to do nothing

5.2 In relation to the unforeseen benefits application for a new pharmacy in Newbury Town Centre as set out in paragraphs 4.28 to 4.36 above, the options available to the Health and Wellbeing Board are:

- (a) to make written representations in support of the application;
- (b) to make written representations in opposition to the application;
- (c) to do nothing.

6. Proposal(s)

- 6.1 Having undertaken appropriate analysis and consultation, it is considered that the changes to pharmaceutical services described in 4.4 – 4.28 above will not create a significant gap in provision of pharmaceutical services, so there is no need to redo the PNA or publish a supplementary statement at this stage.
- 6.2 However, in recognition of local concerns about the cumulative impact of closures in West Berkshire, the ICB has committed to do some further investigation regarding the resilience of pharmacies across West Berkshire. Healthwatch has also been asked to see if they could perform a survey of waiting times at local pharmacies.
- 6.3 In relation to the unforeseen benefits application for a new pharmacy in Newbury town centre as set out in 4.27 – 4.36 above, the Board may wish to write to Primary Care Support England in support of the application but highlighting the errors in the supporting data. A draft response is set out in Appendix D.

7. Conclusion(s)

The changes in pharmaceutical services have been assessed in accordance with national guidance and relevant legislation.

8. Consultation and Engagement

- 8.1 The LPC has been consulted on the implications of the closure of Boots, Bath Road, Thatcham (FE788).
- 8.2 Local ward councillors have been informed of the changes to pharmaceutical services outlined in this report.

9. Appendices

Appendix A – Supporting Analysis

Appendix B – LPC Data

Appendix C – Application offering unforeseen benefits

Appendix D – Proposed response to Primary Care Support England

Background Papers:

[West Berkshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2022-2025](#)

[Pharmaceutical Needs Assessments: Information pack for local authority health and wellbeing boards, DHSC, October 2021](#)

Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by ensuring that there are sufficient pharmaceutical services in the District to meet the needs of the local population.

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A: Supporting Analysis

Closure of Boots Pharmacy closure, Thatcham, West Berkshire

Community pharmacy numbers

	At time of writing PNA	At 06/11/2023 (excluding FE788)
Community pharmacies in West Berkshire	21	17 (16)
Community pharmacies within a 1-mile radius of West Berkshire’s border	11	10
Excluded population based on 1 mile radius criteria. West Berkshire residents including pharmacies located in West Berkshire only.	43,192	Population within 1 mile radius of Boots Pharmacy Thatcham is 25,496. However, there is Halo Pharmacy Ltd located within 100 meters from Boots Pharmacy which can serve 25,496 local population. Therefore, no additional excluded population as result of closure.

Pharmacy proposed for closure

Permanent closure of the Boots Pharmacy at Thatcham Health Centre, Bath Road, Thatcham, RG18 3HD. (ODS code: FE788) (Thatcham North East Ward)



Services listed in PNA

- (NHS) Medication review service
- (NHS) Seasonal flu vaccination service
- (NHS) Supervised consumption of medicines
- (Non-NHS) Emergency contraception
- (Non-NHS) Emergency supply of medicines
- (Non-NHS) Inhaler technique service
- (Non-NHS) Seasonal flu vaccination service (not at risk groups)
- (Non-NHS) Stop smoking service
- Appointment booking available for consultations
- Appointment booking for consultations not required
- Body Mass Index (BMI) Machine
- Boots Macmillan Information Pharmacist
- Discharge Medicines Review
- Electronic Prescription Service
- Emergency Contraception
- Hypertension Case Finding Service / Blood Pressure Checks
- In Store Malaria Prevention Service
- Inhaler Recycling Scheme
- Inhaler recycling
- Medicines Check Up
- NHS Prescription Ordering
- NHS Urgent palliative care medicines service
- New Medicine Service
- Pneumonia Vaccination Service
- Prescription collection from local General Practices
- Prescription delivery service
- Prescriptions Direct
- Private consultation room
- Repeat Prescription Service
- Stop Smoking
- Winter Flu Jab Service

Alternative pharmacies

2 pharmacies within a 1-mile radius of Boots Pharmacy at Thatcham Health Centre.

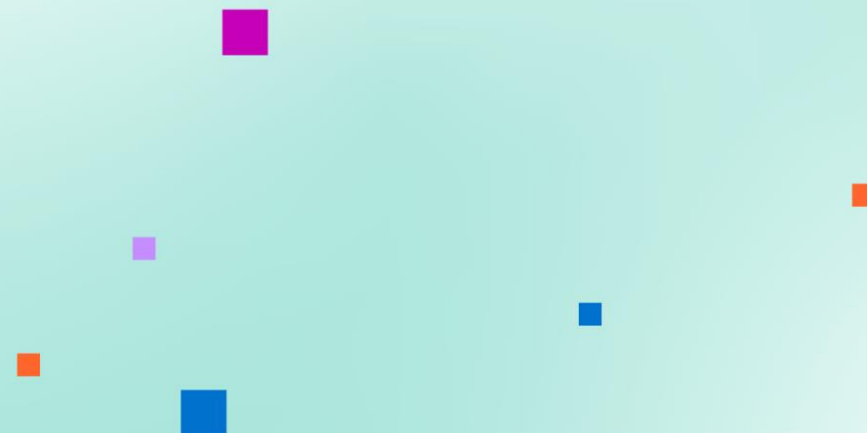
	Saturday opening	NMS	Seasonal flu	CPCS	Needle exchange/supervised consumption	EHC
Halo Pharmacy Ltd (FTJ67)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Thatcham Pharmacy (FXR54)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

This page is intentionally left blank



**Community
Pharmacy**
Thames Valley

Thatcham



Thatcham Health Centre

- Thatcham Health Centre generates 25000 items per month
- 49% to Boots Thatcham (12000 items (95% of all its items))
- 13% to Halo Pharmacy (was Lloyds Crown Mead) (<100m away)
- 18% go online (P2U or Lloyds Direct)
- 8% Boots Newbury (equal amounts to both branches)
- 4% to Tesco
- 3% to Burdwood Lloyds (now Thatcham Pharmacy)

GP Practice Electronic Prescription Service Statistics

Select Practice (Name or ODS Code)

Thatcham Health Centre (K81073)

Select Place

Berkshire West

Select Region

All

Dispensing Doctors Status

All

No. of Registered Patients

18,563

No. of Patients with a Nomination

13,329

% of Patients with a Nomination

0.0% 71.8% 100.0%

No. of Dispensing Patients

(Blank)

% of Dispensing Patients

0.0% (Blank) 100.0%

EPS Utilisation Rate July 2023

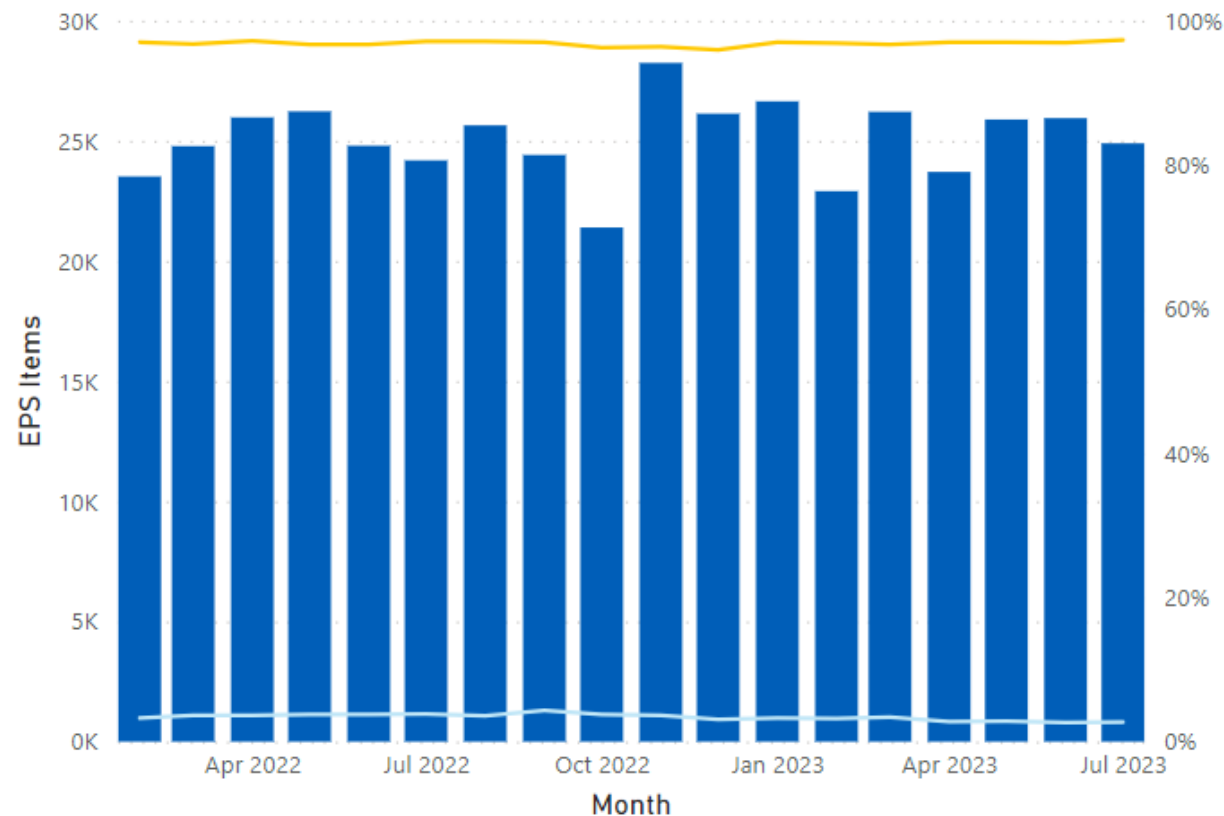
0.0% 97.3% 100.0%

eRD Utilisation Rate July 2023

0.0% 2.7% 100.0%

EPS Items and Utilisation Rates by Month

● EPS Items ● EPS Utilisation ● eRD Utilisation



Halo Pharmacy (Formerly Lloyds Crown Mead)

- 5000 items average per month
- 3400 currently from Thatcham Health Centre
- 700 from Burdwood Surgery

- Average 3 years ago was 8000 items per month

Halo Pharmacy Key Action Points

- Extension of opening times to match Health Ctr
- Extra Dispensing Station
- New Telephony System
- Improvement of staffing levels
- Deliveries to Patients in need
- Expansion of local Services
- Capacity for 12000+ items

Thatcham Pharmacy formerly Lloyds Burdwood

- 6000 items average per month
- 5000 currently from Burdwood Surgery
- 700 from Thatcham Health Centre

- Average 3 years ago was 10000 items per month

Thatcham Pharmacy Key Action Points

- 2 Pharmacists (1 for services)
- Capacity for 12000 items +
- Passion for Local Services – increase in Capacity
- Deliveries to patients in need
- Hypertension Focus
- Mostly existing staff – and increase skill set

Lloyds Kingsland Centre (closed Aug 22)

- Was 5000 items per month (2021)
- 3,300 were from Thatcham Health Centre
- 1,100 from Burdwood Surgery

- Average 3 years ago was 8000 items per month

Action Plan

- LPC has met with both Thatcham Pharmacies to understand their future planning
- Share with ICS, Healthwatch, H&W Board
- Offer of support and guidance to key stakeholders
- Monitor data
- Health Centre needs to expand use of Electronic Repeat Dispensing (ErD)

This page is intentionally left blank

Progress Report - Priority 3: Help Families and Children in Early Years

Report being considered by:	Health and Wellbeing Board
On:	7 December 2023
Report Authors:	Dave Wraight / Gordon Oliver
Report Sponsor:	John Ashton
Item for:	Discussion



1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The Berkshire West Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS) sets out five priorities:
- (1) Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people.
 - (2) Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives.
 - (3) Help children and families in early years.
 - (4) Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people.
 - (5) Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults.
- 1.2 Each of the three Health and Wellbeing Boards within the Berkshire West 'Place' has developed its own Delivery Plan to address these shared priorities, tailoring the approach to their particular needs and circumstances.
- 1.3 A rolling programme of reports will update the Health and Wellbeing Board on progress in implementing the actions set out in West Berkshire's Delivery Plan for each of the above priorities. This report focuses on the third priority: *help families and children in early years*.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
- (1) note the report and the progress made to date;
 - (2) consider if the actions are still appropriate, if existing actions need to be updated, or if additional actions are required;
 - (3) agree any actions to be referred upwards to the 'Place' or 'System' levels;
 - (4) commit their respective organisations to delivering the agreed actions.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 This report relates to actions in the JLHWS Delivery Plan that relate to the priority *help families and children in early years*. It presents the progress that has been made

since the Strategy was adopted in December 2021 and highlights key deliverables that will be targeted in the coming year. It also identifies where actions would be more appropriate to be progressed by other partnerships operating at the 'Place' or 'System' level. A new Early Years Inequalities Group has been created to focus on early years provision bringing focus on that area which will bring significant value.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 Prevention and early help actions are key to positive health outcomes. The first 1,001 days, from pregnancy to the first two years of a child's life, are critical ages for development. This sensitive window sets the foundations for virtually every aspect of human development.

4.2 Inequities in child health and development start early. Not all children and families have the support they need for their children to be physically healthy, emotionally secure and ready to learn. Reasons for this are often social, including income and poor housing quality, and these factors can often accumulate over the lifecourse, having long term consequences on health and social outcomes such as educational attainment and employment. This is why it is so important to ensure we support families to provide as best a start as possible for their children.

4.3 The JLHWS identified a number of key improvements that needed to be made locally:

- (1) Supporting new parents, including single parents, in the transition to parenthood;
- (2) Ensuring access to effective interventions throughout the first 2 years of a child's life;
- (3) Guaranteeing affordability and timeliness of services during and after Covid-19.

4.4 The Strategy set out the following objectives under this priority:

- Work to provide support for parents and carers, during pregnancy and the early years, to improve personal and collective resilience using research and good practice.
- Ensure families and parents have access to right and timely information and support for early years health. Working with midwifery, Family Hubs, healthy visiting and school nursing to improve the health, wellbeing, developmental and educational outcomes for all children.
- Increase the number of two-year olds (who experience disadvantage) accessing nursery places. Ensure that our early years settings staff are trained in trauma-informed practice and care, know where to find information or help, and can signpost families properly.
- Publish clear guidelines on how families can access financial help, including for childcare costs; tackling stigma around this issue where it occurs.

4.5 The Delivery Plan set out a range of actions designed to achieve the above objectives. In addition to the work of the Children's Early Help and Prevention Partnership a new group, the Early Years Inequalities Group has been created to

focus on early years provision. Good progress has been made and many of the original actions have now been completed as set out in Appendix A. Some of the key actions are highlighted below:

- 3.1.2 We have enhanced the Midwifery, Health Visitor and Children's Services liaison meeting to identify children and families at early help at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.2.1 We have mapped parenting provision in West Berkshire identifying any gaps in provision
- 3.2.4 We have developed and promoted Parental Conflict training and resources to those involved in providing Early Help across agencies
- 3.2.5 We have worked with the wider partnership to address gaps in parenting provision by providing training and resources to partners to deliver parenting groups
- 3.3.1 We have undertaken a self-assessment of Early Help in West Berkshire to identify strengths and areas for development and submitted this to the DLUHC.
- 3.3.5 We have developed a Family First assessment that assesses and intervenes with families who require more enhanced early help support thereby providing support at an earlier stage and avoiding statutory intervention.

4.6 Further progress is expected with some of the above actions, with work also starting on a number of new / amended actions. Current priorities include:

- 3.2.2 Updating the West Berkshire Directory with Parenting information to ensure professionals and parents can access courses.
- 3.2.3 Creating parenting information on West Berkshire Council website that enables parents to identify the most suitable type of parenting support available to them linking back to the Directory.
- 3.3.2 Piloting and then evaluating an Early Help digital referral form that can be used across the partnership.
- 3.3.3 Supporting the review and update of My Family Plan as a tool that can be used across the Early Help system to drive the early help practice.
- 3.3.4 Supporting the review the role of Family Hubs in the Early Help system in light of the Social Care Review recommendations.

4.7 The Delivery Plan was reviewed in Quarter 1 of 2023/24. As part of this process, a number of actions were identified for deletion due to: being complete; now being considered 'business as usual' activity; a lack of budget / resources; or not being an agreed action. Further details are provided in Appendix A.

- 4.8 As part of the review process, a number of Delivery Plan actions have been identified as being more appropriate for delivery at the Place or System levels, and have been escalated accordingly, however, none of these relate to Priority 3.

5. Options Considered

- 5.1 All actions have been reviewed by the Children Early Help and Prevention Partnership Group to understand:
- if they are still relevant;
 - if they have the necessary support, resources and budget;
 - if they are completed and should be removed;
 - if they represent business as usual activity that will be delivered through existing business / service plans;
 - if actions would be best delivered at the 'Place' or 'System' level;
 - if additional actions are needed to respond to circumstances that have changed since the Delivery Plan was first adopted.
- 5.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board may choose to accept the changes or make recommendations for further changes.

6. Proposal(s)

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- consider if the actions designed to deliver Priority 3 of the JLHWS are still appropriate, if existing actions need to be updated, or if additional actions are required;
- consider if any actions would be better delivered at 'Place' or 'System' levels;
- commit their respective organisations to delivering the action plan.

7. Conclusion(s)

This report provides the Board with assurance that Delivery Plan actions around the JLHWS priority *help children and families in early years* are being delivered and updated and note that Early Years Inequalities Group will drive the agenda around early years.

8. Consultation and Engagement

- 8.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board Steering Group has been consulted on this report.

9. Appendices

Appendix A – Priority 3 Delivery Plan

Appendix B – Case Studies: Early Response Hub, Parenting Provision

Background Papers:

[Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2030](#)

Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by ensuring that the JLHWS Delivery Plan actions are delivered and regularly reviewed.

This page is intentionally left blank

Appendix A - New or Refreshed Actions

Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan 2022-2025													
Objective	Description	New 23/24	Owned by	Contact	Timescale	Indicator	Target	2023/24				RAG Status	Commentary
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		

Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan 2022-2025

Objective	Description	New 23/24	Owned by	Contact	Timescale	Indicator	Target	2023/24				RAG Status	Commentary
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Priority 3 - Help families and children in early years													
3.1 Ensure families and parents have access to right and timely information and support for early years health. Working with midwifery, Family hubs, healthy visiting and school nursing	3.1.1 1001 Days Platform	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	Jo Roberts / Nerys Probert			Feedback from families.						
	3.1.2 Enhance the Midwifery, Health Visitor and Early Response Hub liaison meeting to identify children and families at early help at the earliest opportunity	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	Steph Coomber - Early Response Hub	Sep-23	Increase in the number of pregnant women from vulnerable communities accessing support at an earlier stage	Vulnerable women receive support					G	Unborn liaison meeting takes place including Midwifery, Health Visitors and CFS - processes are in place to identify women who would benefit from earlier support via the Early Response Hub.
3.2: Ensure families and parents have access to right and timely information and support for early years health. Working with midwifery, Family hubs, healthy visiting and school nursing	3.2.1 Map parenting provision in West Berkshire identifying any gaps in provision	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	Amber Clarke - Supporting Families Parenting Coordinator	Aug-23	Parenting provision (groups, classes, one to one, online) is identified across West Berkshire, with any gaps in provision being identified	To identify parenting provision across different sectors and locations					G	Parenting Provision has been mapped and gaps identified. Training and resources have been delivered to meet the identified gaps in parenting provision with further training planned.
	3.2.2 Update the West Berkshire Directory with Parenting information to ensure professionals and parents can access courses	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	Amber Clarke - Supporting Families Parenting Coordinator	Dec-23	Parenting information is available and accessible through the West Berkshire Directory	To make information available to parents and professionals, easing access to such provision					A	The West Berkshire Directory is maintained directly by each page owner, we are working towards ways of making this an easier way to navigate - including on the WB Website.
	3.2.3 Create parenting information on West Berkshire Council website that enables parents to identify the most suitable type of parenting support available to them linking back to the WB Directory	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	Amber Clarke - Supporting Families Parenting Coordinator	Mar-24	Parents can identify through age range/stage, specialist need or location the most appropriate course/support to meet their parenting need	Parenting provision is easier to identify and locate by parents and professionals					A	The developments are in progress with IT and the Web team - test website has been created and amendments are being made.
	3.2.4 Develop and promote Parental Conflict training and resources to those involved in providing Early Help	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	Didge Oku - Reducing Parental Conflict Coordinator	Jan-24	Practitioners and professionals are trained and equipped to identify and address parental conflict in the Early Help space	Practitioners are trained in reducing parental conflict	74	25			G	West Berkshire were successful in their funding bid to DWP and the RPC worker has lead on training and development in reducing parental conflict. We are on track to deliver our training plan linked to the funding, and champions for parental conflict are being trained. We hope that more funding may be available that we can apply for as this post will end next year. DRPC Worker is delivering training in the early help space to our community partners, schools, Homestart.
	3.2.5 Work with the wider partnership to address any gaps in parenting provision identified	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	Amber Clarke - Supporting Families Parenting Coordinator	Mar-25	Gaps identified in parenting provision are addressed through the creation or commissioning of provision to meet identified needs	Gaps in parenting provision are met					G	Provision has been reviewed and gaps in provision identified. As a result of the gap is primary age provision, Parenting training has been arranged for Schools family support workers in two tranches.
3.3 The Early Help system in West Berkshire is designed to meet the needs of children and families who need early help support	3.3.1 Undertake a self-assessment of Early Help in West Berkshire to identify strengths and areas for development	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	Stacey Clay - Supporting Families	Jul-23	Early Help System Guide is completed covering Leadership, Data, Workforce, Communities and Family Voice	Strengths and areas for development are identified in the our Early Help System					G	This was completed by the deadline of 30th June 2023 and submitted to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
	3.3.2 Create, test, pilot and evaluate an Early Help digital referral form that can be used across the partnership	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	Steph Coomber - Early Response Hub	Oct-23	Partners in community settings have confidence in identifying and referring children and families who need Early Help support	Early Help referral form is created and embedded in practice.					A	The pilot is currently underway with 12 organisations using the form and providing feedback, with modifications and improvements being suggested.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan 2022-2025

Objective	Description	New 23/24	Owned by	Contact	Timescale	Indicator	Target	2023/24				RAG Status	Commentary
								Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
3.3: Publish clear guidelines on how families can access financial help, tackling stigma around this issue	3.3.3 Review, amend and update My Family Plan as a tool that can be used across the Early Help system to drive the early help practice	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	Karen Atalla - CAAS	Dec-23	Partners in community settings have confidence in leading or participating in a My Family Plan	Children and Families in need of early help find My Family Plan a useful tool to drive change and support					A	ERH offer consultations and support if needed to partners who undertake MFP's. We have funding for three MFP co ordinators and have been succesful in recruiting to these posts. The three co ordinators will focus on supporting partners, particularly schools to use the MFP as a tool to drive change and support. The MFP form was developed using feedback from schools and hubs. It is hoped that with the addition of the MPF co ordinators, the ongoing support of ERH, and the influence of senior managers, that the uptake will continue to improve.
	3.3.4 Review the role of Family Hubs in the Early Help system in light of the Social Care Review recommendations	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	HOS Education / HOS CFS	Mar-24	Family Hubs role in Early Help and Family Help is clarified and strengthened	Families in need of Early Help are able to access support in a timely accessible way					A	Family Hub links with the Early Response Hub have been strengthened with a significant number of referrals to Family Hubs being made by ERH. A review of Family Hubs will be undertaken to further strengthen the work of the hubs.
	3.3.5 Develop a Family First assessment that assesses and intervenes with families who require more enhanced early help support	New 23/24	Childrens Early Help and Prevention Partnership	Karen Atalla - CAAS and Steph Coomber	Aug-23	Families presenting with multiple needs are diverted from statutory intervention through a Family First Assessment to have their needs met in the Earlier Help space	Families receive the right support at the right time from the right people					G	CAAS and ERH have and continue to develop their offer, the right support at the right time from the right people has been the vision that ERH was built upon, and the offer from ERH has grown significantly and continues to develop. In response to the Care Review and the national Framework we are developing a practice framework to enhance our offer and develop a way of working to ensure that children and families are enabled to bring their own solutions and supported to do so. The first draft and show of this was in October 2023. Family First Assessments have been introduced and are now being completed in ERH and we are seeing a reduction in the number children progressing for longer term statutory intervention.
3.5: Publish clear guidelines on how families can access financial help, tackling stigma around this issue	3.5.4 Work with voluntary sector partners to review options and agree a way forward for providing ongoing support to residents who are struggling to cope with the rising cost of living.	New 23/24	Public Protection	Sean Murphy	Oct-23	Support model agreed.	New arrangements in place from October 2023						

X

This page is intentionally left blank



Parenting Overview November 2023

Role: Parenting co-ordinator and facilitator

The role was newly created to work across the Supporting Families network. The role takes on two parts; one of coordinating the parenting offer within West Berkshire and one delivering parenting interventions in groups or individually.

The vision for West Berkshire is to have a universally accessible parenting offer that parents are comfortable to access without stigma.

Parenting Provision

Engagement took place with partners across the early help system to explore what parenting work was on offer and being undertaken across West Berkshire. Engagement took place with partners in Public Health and Education to consider the child's first 1001 days, school readiness and transition to secondary school. A report was completed and explored at the Prevention and Early Help Partnership meeting in June 2023.

A number of different parenting groups and programmes are on offer within West Berkshire. There are a number of targeted parenting provisions included in the offer which the parenting coordinator and facilitator has been trained in and supported in delivery (STOP and Who's in Charge). Also, individual parenting support is on offer via a range of professionals.

The Parenting coordinator and facilitator recognises the wide range of agencies offering support and has arranged a parenting network meeting to provide connections between the group. The first meeting took place and was attended by 14 professionals and the next meeting will explore the ongoing agenda of the group and to ensure that effective practice is shared.

Work is taking place to update the West Berkshire website to provide a platform where parents seeking support can readily access information and advice.

Care for the Family Facilitator Training – Primary Schools

When engaging with schools a gap in knowledge and skills was noted when children start school. Concerns raised by parents in relation to school readiness and boundaries/routines were noted. Therefore exploration took place regarding a parenting support programme that could be offered by schools in an environment that parents could access without stigma.

Care for the family were identified as a provider to offer training for schools, which has been utilised within family hubs. The parenting coordinator and facilitator arranged funding for two training courses, which could provide 28 trained professionals.

The first of two Care for the Family 'Time Out' facilitator training commenced at the start of November 2023, with very positive feedback from the participants, they are very keen to complete the final part and to start coordinating and facilitating these universal programmes within the school. Part two is taking place at the end of November.

Next steps:

- Promotion of the second programme will commence immediately, taking onboard the positive feedback from the first group. Second Programme running in February
- Continued work to ensure the webpages are accessible for parents seeking support and advice.
- A Parenting Network Meeting is arranged for December
- Exploration of developing support for parents of exploited children – including parents as safeguarding partners
- Further training for school professionals offering ‘children with additional needs’ module via Care for the Family.

Amber Clarke
Parenting Coordinator and Facilitator
November 2023

Better Care Fund Plan 2023-24 Q2 Report

Report being considered by:	Health and Wellbeing Board
On:	7 December 2023
Report Author:	Maria Shepherd, Integration Lead
Report Sponsor:	Councillor Alan Macro
Item for:	Information



1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is for the Board to note the Q2 Better Care Fund (BCF) Report. The report was submitted to NHS England at the end of October 2023 with the necessary sign off from the Chairman of the HWB.

2. Recommendation(s)

To note the Better Care Fund Plan 2023-2024 Q2 report.

3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 The Better Care Fund Policy Framework for 2023-25 provides continuity from the previous rounds of the programme and is a two-year plan.
- 3.2 The Policy Framework requires quarterly reports to be submitted, using a template to report on the performance against the five national metrics.
- 3.3 The template also requires a review of the demand and capacity plans for Hospital Discharge and Community as set out in the 2023-25 plan.
- 3.4 The five national metrics are:
 1. Avoidable admissions - indirectly standardised rate of admissions per 100,000 population.
 2. Falls – Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over directly age standardised rate per 100,000. (This metric is new for 2023-25).
 3. Discharge to usual place of residence – percentage of people, resident in HWB, who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of resident.
 4. Residential Admissions – long-term support needs of older people (age 65 and over) met by admission to residential and nursing care homes, per 100,000 population.
 5. Reablement – proportion of older people (65 and over) who are still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement/rehabilitation service.

- 3.5 We are currently on track to meet all our targets set out in the 2023-24 Plan against these five metrics.
- 3.6 Our Demand and Capacity plans for Hospital Discharge have been refreshed. Our Demand numbers have changed following our 2023-25 plan submission. We have taken the average actuals for April – September 2023 and applied a 10% increase for December 2023 – March 2024.
- 3.7 We have a vibrant domiciliary care market and have increased the number of commissioned contract beds. However, we are concerned about the number of clients coming into Adult Social Care from the hospital route on pathway 3 – admission into a residential/nursing home. This has been discussed with the Acute Hospital (RBH) and the Community Hospital and both have been asked to re-emphasise the home first approach.
- 3.8 Our Demand and Capacity Plans for Community (Admission Avoidance) have not changed. This data is provided by partners at Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT) and revised data for August and September only suggest that there is not enough capacity in the system to meet demand. However, further analysis of this data needs to be completed before we change our plans.

4. Supporting Information

The formal governance for the Better Care Fund plan sits within the Locality Integration Board, a sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

5. Options Considered

None.

6. Proposal(s)

n/a

7. Conclusion(s)

The quarter report must be signed off by the Chair of HWB.

8. Consultation and Engagement

Alan Macro, Health and Wellbeing Board Chair and Locality Integration Board.

9. Appendices

Appendix A – Q2 Report

Background Papers:

None

Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by driving health and social care integration, using pooled budgets.

This page is intentionally left blank

Better Care Fund 2023-25 Quarter 2 Quarterly Reporting Template

1. Guidance for Quarter 2

Overview

The Better Care Fund (BCF) reporting requirements are set out in the BCF Planning Requirements document for 2023-25, which supports the aims of the BCF Policy Framework and the BCF programme; jointly led and developed by the national partners Department of Health (DHSC), Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), NHS England (NHSE), Local Government Association (LGA), working with the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS).

The key purposes of BCF reporting are:

- 1) To confirm the status of continued compliance against the requirements of the fund (BCF)
- 2) In Quarter 2 to refresh capacity and demand plans, and in Quarter 3 to confirm activity to date, where BCF funded schemes include output estimates, and at the End of Year actual income and expenditure in BCF plans
- 3) To provide information from local areas on challenges, achievements and support needs in progressing the delivery of BCF plans, including performance metrics
- 4) To enable the use of this information for national partners to inform future direction and for local areas to inform

BCF reporting is likely to be used by local areas, alongside any other information to help inform Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) on progress on integration and the BCF. It is also intended to inform BCF national partners as well as those responsible for delivering the BCF plans at a local level (including ICBs, local authorities and service providers) for

BCF reports submitted by local areas are required to be signed off by HWBs, including through delegated arrangements as appropriate, as the accountable governance body for the BCF locally. Aggregated reporting information will be

Note on entering information into this template

Throughout the template, cells which are open for input have a yellow background and those that are pre-populated have a blue background and those that are not for completion are in grey, as below:

Data needs inputting in the cell

Pre-populated cells

Not applicable - cells where data cannot be added

Note on viewing the sheets optimally

To more optimally view each of the sheets and in particular the drop down lists clearly on screen, please change the zoom level to between 90% - 100%. Most drop downs are also available to view as lists within the relevant sheet or in The row heights and column widths can be adjusted to fit and view text more comfortably for the cells that require Please DO NOT directly copy/cut & paste to populate the fields when completing the template as this can cause issues during the aggregation process. If you must 'copy & paste', please use the 'Paste Special' operation and paste 'Values'

The details of each sheet within the template are outlined below.

Checklist (2. Cover)

1. This section helps identify the sheets that have not been completed. All fields that appear as incomplete should be complete before sending to the BCF Team.
2. The checker column, which can be found on the individual sheets, updates automatically as questions are completed. It will appear 'Red' and contain the word 'No' if the information has not been completed. Once completed the checker column will change to 'Green' and contain the word 'Yes'
3. The 'sheet completed' cell will update when all 'checker' values for the sheet are green containing the word 'Yes'.
4. Once the checker column contains all cells marked 'Yes' the 'Incomplete Template' cell (below the title) will change to 'Tem
5. Please ensure that all boxes on the checklist are green before submitting to england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net and copying in your Better Care Manager.

2. Cover

1. The cover sheet provides essential information on the area for which the template is being completed, contacts and sign off. Once you select your HWB from the drop down list, relevant data on metric ambitions and capacity and demand from your BCF plans for 2023-24 will prepopulate in the relevant worksheets.

2. HWB sign off will be subject to your own governance arrangements which may include a delegated authority.

4. Please note that in line with fair processing of personal data we request email addresses for individuals completing the reporting template in order to communicate with and resolve any issues arising during the reporting cycle. We remove these addresses from the supplied templates when they are collated and delete them when they are no longer needed.

3. National Conditions

This section requires the HWB to confirm whether the four national conditions detailed in the Better Care Fund planning requirements for 2023-25 (link below) continue to be met through the delivery of your plan. Please confirm as at the <https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PRN00315-better-care-fund-planning-requirements-2023->

This sheet sets out the four conditions and requires the HWB to confirm 'Yes' or 'No' that these continue to be met. Should 'No' be selected, please provide an explanation as to why the condition was not met for the year and how this is being addressed. Please note that where a National Condition is not being met, the HWB is expected to contact their

In summary, the four national conditions are as below:

National condition 1: Plans to be jointly agreed

National condition 2: Implementing BCF Policy Objective 1: Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home

National condition 3: Implementing BCF Policy Objective 2: Providing the right care in the right place at the right time

National condition 4: Maintaining NHS contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of

4. Metrics

The BCF plan includes the following metrics:

- Unplanned hospitalisations for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions,
- Proportion of hospital discharges to a person's usual place of residence,
- Admissions to long term residential or nursing care for people over 65,
- Reablement outcomes (people aged over 65 still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital to reablement or rehabilitation at home), and;
- Emergency hospital admissions for people over 65 following a fall.

This section captures a confidence assessment on achieving the locally set ambitions for each of the BCF metrics.

A brief commentary is requested for each metric outlining the challenges faced in achieving the metric plans, any support needs and successes in the first six months of the financial year.

Data from the Secondary Uses Service (SUS) dataset on outcomes for the discharge to usual place of residence, falls, and avoidable admissions for the first quarter of 2023-24 has been pre populated, along with ambitions for quarters 1-4, to assist systems in understanding performance at HWB level.

The metrics worksheet seeks a best estimate of confidence on progress against the achievement of BCF metric ambitions. The options are:

- on track to meet the ambition
 - not on track to meet the ambition
 - data not available to assess progress
- In making the confidence assessment on progress, please utilise the available metric data along with any available proxy data

Please note that the metrics themselves will be referenced (and reported as required) as per the standard national published datasets.

5. Capacity & Demand Refresh

Please use this section to update both capacity and demand (C&D) estimates for the period November 2023 to March

This section is split into 3 separate tabs:

5.1 C&D Guidance & Assumptions

Contains guidance notes including how to calculate demand/capacity as well as 6 questions seeking to address the assumptions used in the calculations, changes in the first 6 months of the year, and any support needs and ongoing data

5.2 C&D Hospital Discharge

Please use this section to enter updated demand and capacity related to Hospital Discharge in the bottom two tables. The table at the top then calculates the gap or surplus of capacity using the figures provided. expected capacity and demand from your original planning template has been populated for reference. If estimates for demand and/or capacity have not changed since your original plan, please re enter these figures in the relevant fields (i.e. do not leave them blank).

In Capacity and Demand plans for 2023-24, areas were advised not to include capacity you would expect to spot purchase. This is in line with guidance on intermediate care, including the new Intermediate Care Framework. However, for this exercise we are collecting the number of packages of intermediate/short term care that you expect to spot purchase to meet demand for facilitated hospital discharge. This is being collected in a separate set of fields. You should therefore:

- record revised demand for hospital discharge by the type of support needed from row 30 onwards
- record current commissioned capacity by service type (not including spot purchasing) in cells K22 to O26
- record the amount of capacity you expect to spot purchase to meet demand in cells P22 to T26.

Spot purchased capacity should be capacity that is additional to the main estimate of commissioned/contracted capacity (i.e. the spot purchased figure should not be included in the commissioned capacity figure). This figure should represent capacity that your local area is confident it can spot-purchase and is affordable, recognising that it is unlikely to be best value for money and local areas will be working to reduce this area of spend in the longer term.

5.3 C&D Community

Please use this section to enter updated demand and capacity related to referrals from community sources in the bottom two tables. The table at the top then calculates the gap or surplus of capacity using the figures provided. The same period's figures has been extracted from your planning template for reference.

If estimates for demand and/or capacity have not changed since your original plan, please re enter these figures in the relevant fields (i.e. do not leave them blank).

Data from assured BCF plans has been pre-populated in tabs 5.2 and 5.3. If these do not match with your final plan, please let your BCM and the national team know so that we can update our records and note the discrepancy in your response to question 1 on tab 5.1. Enter your current expected demand and capacity as normal in tabs 5.2 and 5.3.



HM Government



Better Care Fund 2023-25 Quarter 2 Quarterly Reporting Template

2. Cover

Version 3.0

Please Note:

- The BCF quarterly reports are categorised as 'Management Information' and data from them will be published in an aggregated form on the NHSE website. This will include any narrative section. Also a reminder that as is usually the case with public body information, all BCF information collected here is subject to Freedom of Information requests.

- At a local level it is for the HWB to decide what information it needs to publish as part of wider local government reporting and transparency requirements. Until BCF information is published, recipients of BCF reporting information (including recipients who access any information placed on the Better Care Exchange) are prohibited from making this information available on any public domain or providing this information for the purposes of journalism or research without prior consent from the HWB (where it concerns a single HWB) or the BCF national partners for the aggregated information.

- All information will be supplied to BCF partners to inform policy development.

- This template is password protected to ensure data integrity and accurate aggregation of collected information. A resubmission may be required if this is breached.

Health and Wellbeing Board:	West Berkshire
Completed by:	Maria Shepherd
E-mail:	maria.shepherd@westberks.gov.uk
Contact number:	01625 519782
Has this report been signed off by (or on behalf of) the HWB at the time of submission?	Yes
If no, please indicate when the report is expected to be signed off:	

Checklist
Complete:
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

Question Completion - when all questions have been answered and the validation boxes below have turned green you should send the template to england.bettercarefundteam@nhs.net saving the file as 'Name HWB' for example 'County Durham HWB'. This does not apply to the ASC Discharge Fund tab.

Complete

	Complete:
2. Cover	Yes
3. National Conditions	Yes
4. Metrics	Yes
5.1 C&D Guidance & Assumptions	Yes
5.2 C&D Hospital Discharge	Yes
5.3 C&D Community	Yes

[<< Link to the Guidance sheet](#)

[^^ Link back to top](#)

Better Care Fund 2023-25 Quarter 2 Quarterly Reporting Template

3. National Conditions

Selected Health and Wellbeing Board:

Has the section 75 agreement for your BCF plan been finalised and signed off?	No
If it has not been signed off, please provide the date the section 75 agreement is expected to be signed off	10/11/2023

Confirmation of National Conditions		
National Conditions	Confirmation	If the answer is "No" please provide an explanation as to why the condition was not met in the quarter:
1) Jointly agreed plan	Yes	
2) Implementing BCF Policy Objective 1: Enabling people to stay well, safe and independent at home for longer	Yes	
3) Implementing BCF Policy Objective 2: Providing the right care in the right place at the right time	Yes	
4) Maintaining NHS's contribution to adult social care and investment in NHS commissioned out of hospital services	Yes	

Checklist

Complete:

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

Better Care Fund 2023-25 Quarter 2 Quarterly Reporting Template

4. Metrics

Selected Health and Wellbeing Board:

West Berkshire

National data may be unavailable at the time of reporting. As such, please use data that may only be available system-wide and other local intelligence.

Challenges and Support Needs Please describe any challenges faced in meeting the planned target, and please highlight any support that may facilitate or ease the achievements of metric plans

Achievements Please describe any achievements, impact observed or lessons learnt when considering improvements being pursued for the respective metrics

Metric	Definition	For information - Your planned performance as reported in 2023-24 planning				For information - actual performance for Q1	Assessment of progress against the metric plan for the reporting period	Challenges and any Support Needs	Achievements - including where BCF funding is supporting improvements.
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Avoidable admissions	Unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care sensitive conditions (NHS Outcome Framework indicator 2.3i)	130.3	127.5	132.4	129.0	130.2	On track to meet target	This is on the Locality Integration Board's forward plan to invite key personnel from the South, Central and West Commissioning support Unit to talk to the board in detail about the SUS inpatient admissions data to	We hit our target in Q1. At the time of reporting only month 5 data was available - 102.6. Effective support in the community from both Health and Social Care through UCR, Virtual Wards, Social Care links with
Discharge to normal place of residence	Percentage of people who are discharged from acute hospital to their normal place of residence	91.4%	91.6%	91.1%	91.0%	91.98%	On track to meet target	We have a discrepancy in data coming from the South, Central and West Commissioning Support Unit, which is being reviewed. It would indicate that some records are missing from local Data. This was flagged in	According to National data we are hitting our target but we are still showing a discrepancy in our local data. Q1 is reporting 89.2% and as of Month 5 is showing 90.7%. We are currently using
Falls	Emergency hospital admissions due to falls in people aged 65 and over directly age standardised rate per 100,000.				1,686.0	374.8	On track to meet target	We are in the process of assessing the falls pathway and reviewing the interventions already in place. This is on the forward for Locality Integration Board in December - we hope to evaluate work that has taken place	At the time of reporting only month 5 data was available - 703.8. A number of interventions are already in place as outlined in the BCF Plan.
Residential Admissions	Rate of permanent admissions to residential care per 100,000 population (65+)				616		On track to meet target	At mid point in the year we are on target but we know with winter pressures we often see a spike in Q4 so meeting the target of 616 remains a challenge. It should be noted that numbers relate to all	As at the end of September there were 98 new admissions. The rate per 100,000 population is 295. New admission remain high but we are lower than this time last year (September 2022/23 YTD was 117 new
Reablement	Proportion of older people (65 and over) who were still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement / rehabilitation services				85.0%		On track to meet target	n/a	At the time of reporting only month 5 data was available - 87%.

Checklist Complete:
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

Better Care Fund 2023-24 Capacity & Demand Refresh

5. Capacity & Demand

Selected Health and Wellbeing Board:

West Berkshire

5.1 Assumptions

1. How have your estimates for capacity and demand changed since the plan submitted in June? Please include how learning from the last 6 months was used to arrive at refreshed projections?

Our demand numbers for Hospital Discharge have changed since our last submission. I have used actual numbers from April - September 2023, averaged out per month and applied 10% increase for December, January and February 2024 for all Pathways.

2. Please outline assumptions used to arrive at refreshed projections (including to optimise length of stay in intermediate care and to reduce overprescription of care). Please also set out your rationale for trends in demand for the next 6 months (e.g how have you accounted for demand over winter?)

Demand:

For Hospital Discharge I have used Local Authority data, demand for PW1 from Apr - Sep was an average of 95 per month. I have applied this for Nov - Mar 24 allowing 10% increase for Dec, Jan and Feb. I have used data from BHFT for PW2. Data was not available for Apr and May but Jul - Sep was on average 44 per month. I have applied this for Nov - Mar 24 allowing 10% increase for Dec, Jan and Feb. I have used data from the Local Authority for PW3, demand from Apr - Sep was an average of 14 per month - I have applied this for Nov - Mar 24 allowing 10% increase for Dec, Jan and Feb. This data is

Capacity:

Hospital Discharge - Around 25-30% of PW1's are picked up by our in-house reablement service, the remainder is spot purchased. We have a vibrant Dom Care market in West Berkshire, capacity is not an issue. I have made an assumption that 75% will be spot purchased. We have increased the number of commissioned block beds in order to manage high needs but we still have to spot purchase some of these. We know there is a low availability of dementia nursing beds and we can at times struggle to source complex needs. Capacity for PW2 has been adjusted - we know from BHFT that there are 115 beds available

3. What impact have your planned interventions to improve capacity and demand management for 2023-24 had on your refreshed figures? Has this impact been accounted for in your refreshed plan?

We have a vibrant Dom Care Market in West Berkshire which is being monitored on a regular basis - no capacity issues reported from April - September 2023. We have increased the number of contract beds and have a mix of medium - high level needs.

4. Do you have any capacity concerns or specific support needs to raise for the winter ahead?

Yes, the numbers of new clients coming into Adult Social Care from the hospital route and particularly going into PW3. We need to work with the Trust to avoid too many people coming out on PW3.

5. Please outline any issues you encountered with data quality (including unavailable, missing, unreliable data).

There are some discrepancies in national and local data, which we are trying to address with the Commissioning unit eg. % people discharged to normal place of residence. We are using data sources from several sources - Acute Trust, Community Health Partners, Commissioning Unit and Local Authority Data and still making lots of assumptions.

6. Where projected demand exceeds capacity for a service type, what is your approach to ensuring that people are supported to avoid admission to hospital or to enable discharge?

We have increased the number of contract beds, which does include high needs. We are running regular reports from the capacity tracker which is telling us there is capacity available but we are not confident these are the right beds at an affordable price.

Checklist

Complete:

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Yes

Guidance on completing this sheet is set out below, but should be read in conjunction with the separate guidance and question & answer document

5.1 Assumptions

The assumptions box has been updated and is now a set of specific narrative questions. Please answer all questions in relation to both hospital discharge and community sections of the capacity and demand template.

You should reflect changes to understanding of demand and available capacity for admissions avoidance and hospital discharge since the completion of the original BCF plans, including

- actual demand in the first 6/7 months of the year
- modelling and agreed changes to services as part of Winter planning or following the Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund announcement
- Data from the Community Bed Audit
- Impact to date of new or revised intermediate care services or work to change the profile of discharge pathways.

5.2 and 5.3 Summary Tables

The tables at the top of the next two tabs show a direct comparison of the demand and capacity for each area, by showing = (capacity) – (demand). These figures are pre-populated from the previous template as well as calculating new refreshed figures as you complete the template below. **Negative figures show insufficient capacity and positive figures show that capacity exceeds demand.**

5.2 Demand - Hospital Discharge

This section requires the Health & Wellbeing Board to record their refreshed expectations of monthly demand for supported discharge by discharge pathway.

Data from the previous capacity and demand plans will be auto-populated, split by trust referral source. You will be able to enter your refreshed number of expected discharges from each trust alongside these. The first table may include some extra rows to allow for areas who are recording demand from a larger number of referral sources. If this does not apply to your area, please ignore the extra lines.

This section in the previous template asked for expected demand for rehabilitation and reablement as two separate figures. It was found that, by and large, this did not work well for areas so the prepopulated figures for these service types have been combined into one row. Please enter your refreshed expectations for rehabilitation and reablement as one total figure as well.

Virtual wards should not be included in intermediate care capacity because they represent acute, rather than intermediate, care. Where recording a virtual ward as a referral source, please select the relevant trust from the list.

From the capacity and demand plans collected in June 2023, it emerged that some areas had difficulty with estimating demand and capacity for Pathway 0 (social support). By social support, we are referring to lower level support provide outside of formal rehabilitation and reablement or domiciliary care. This is often provided by the voluntary and community sector. Demand estimates for this service type should only include discharges on Pathway 0 that require some level of commissioned low-level support and not all discharges on Pathway 0. If it is not possible to estimate figures in relation to this please put 0 rather than defaulting to all Pathway 0 discharges.

5.2 Capacity - Hospital Discharge

This section collects refreshed expectations of capacity for services to support people being discharged from acute hospital. You should input the expected available capacity to support discharge across these different service types:

- Social support (including VCS) (pathway 0)
- Reablement & Rehabilitation at home (pathway 1)
- Short term domiciliary care (pathway 1)
- Reablement & Rehabilitation in a bedded setting (pathway 2)
- Short-term residential/nursing care for someone likely to require a longer-term care home placement (pathway 3)

The recently published Intermediate Care Framework sets out guidance on improving capacity, and use of this capacity. You should refer to this in developing your refreshed BCF Capacity and Demand plans.

As with the 2023-24 template, please consider the below factors in determining the capacity calculation. Typically, this will be $(\text{Caseload} \times \text{days in month} \times \text{max occupancy percentage}) / \text{average duration of service or length of stay}$.

Caseload (No. of people who can be looked after at any given time).

Average stay (days) - The average length of time that a service is provided to people, or average length of stay in a bedded facility.

Please consider using median or mode for Length of Stay where there are significant outliers.

Peak Occupancy (percentage) - What was the highest levels of occupancy expressed as a percentage? This will usually apply to residential units, rather than care in a person's own home. For services in a person's own home then this would need to take into account how many people, on average, that can be provided with services.

The template now asks for the amount of capacity you expect to secure through spot purchasing. This should be capacity that is additional to the main estimate of commissioned/contracted capacity (i.e. the spot purchased figure should not be included in the commissioned capacity figure). This figure should represent capacity that your local area is confident it can spot-purchase and is affordable, recognising that it may impact on people's outcomes and is unlikely to be best value for money and local areas will be working to reduce this area of spend in the longer term.

5.3 Demand - Community

This section collects refreshed expectations of demand for intermediate care services from community sources, such as multi-disciplinary teams, single points of access or 111. As with the previous template, referrals are not collected by source, and you should input an overall estimate each month for the number of people requiring intermediate care or short term care (non-discharge) each month, split by different type of intermediate care.

Further detail on definitions is provided in Appendix 2 of the 2023-25 Planning Requirements.

The units can simply be the number of referrals.

As with all other sections, figures from the 2023-24 template will be auto-populated into this section.

5.3 Capacity - Community

This section collects refreshed expectations of capacity for community services. You should input the expected available capacity across health and social care for different service types. As with the hospital discharge sheet, data entered in the assured BCF plan template has been prepopulated for reference. You should include expected available capacity across these service types for eligible referrals from community sources. This should cover all service intermediate care services to support recovery, including Urgent Community Response and VCS support. The template is split into these types of service:

Social support (including VCS)

Urgent Community Response

Reablement & Rehabilitation at home

Reablement & Rehabilitation in a bedded setting

Other short-term social care

Please see the guidance on 'Demand – Hospital Discharge' for information on why the capacity and demand estimates for rehabilitation and reablement services is now being collected as one combined figure. Please consider the below factors in determining the capacity calculation. Typically this will be $(\text{Caseload} * \text{days in month} * \text{max occupancy percentage}) / \text{average duration of service or length of stay}$.

Caseload (No. of people who can be looked after at any given time).

Average stay (days) - The average length of time that a service is provided to people, or average length of stay in a bedded facility.

Please consider using median or mode for Length of Stay where there are significant outliers.

"Peak Occupancy (percentage) - What was the highest levels of occupancy expressed as a percentage? This will usually apply to residential units, rather than care in a person's own home. For services in a person's own home then this would need to take into account how many people, on average, that can be provided with services."

Better Care Fund 2023-24 Capacity & Demand Refresh

5. Capacity & Demand

Selected Health and Wellbeing Board:

West Berkshire

Community	Previous plan					Refreshed capacity surplus:				
	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Capacity - Demand (positive is Surplus)										
Social support (including VCS)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urgent Community Response	74	102	81	62	83	74	102	81	62	83
Reablement & Rehabilitation at home	-1	32	7	17	20	-1	32	7	17	20
Reablement & Rehabilitation in a bedded setting	24	34	34	19	27	24	34	34	19	27
Other short-term social care	7.6725	19.18125	5.754375	5.754375	21.099375	0	0	0	0	0

Capacity - Community		Prepopulated from plan:					Please enter refreshed expected capacity:				
Service Area	Metric	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Social support (including VCS)	Monthly capacity. Number of new clients.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urgent Community Response	Monthly capacity. Number of new clients.	212	240	219	200	221	212	240	219	200	221
Reablement & Rehabilitation at home	Monthly capacity. Number of new clients.	103	118	104	109	109	103	118	104	109	109
Reablement & Rehabilitation in a bedded setting	Monthly capacity. Number of new clients.	24	34	34	19	27	24	34	34	19	27
Other short-term social care	Monthly capacity. Number of new clients.	7.6725	19.18125	5.754375	5.754375	21.099375	0	0	0	0	0

Demand - Community		Prepopulated from plan:					Please enter refreshed expected no. of referrals:				
Service Type		Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24
Social support (including VCS)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Urgent Community Response		138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138
Reablement & Rehabilitation at home		104	86	97	92	89	104	86	97	92	89
Reablement & Rehabilitation in a bedded setting		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other short-term social care		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Checklist

Complete:

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes

This page is intentionally left blank

Health and Wellbeing Board Conference

Report being considered by: Health and Wellbeing Board

On: 7 December 2023

Report Author: Gordon Oliver

Report Sponsor: April Peberdy

Item for: Discussion



1. Purpose of the Report

This report provides an update on planning for the 2024 Health and Wellbeing Board Conference.

2. Recommendation(s)

The Board is asked to agree the proposals for the 2024 Health and Wellbeing Board Conference as set out in Section 6 of the report.

3. Executive Summary

3.1 This report sets out proposals for the 2024 Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Conference. The proposals have been informed by feedback from previous events.

3.2 It is proposed to hold the event in late April in the Council Chamber. The proposed theme is 'Primary Care and Community Outreach', reflecting live issues that have been highlighted as being of importance to local residents and showing how these are being addressed by the Board and its partners.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Conference has evolved from being a closed event for Members of the Board and its partners to being an open event that anyone can attend. It provides an opportunity to engage with key partners, stakeholders, and members of the public on issues and initiatives affecting the health and wellbeing of communities across West Berkshire.

4.2 The last conference was held on 31 January 2023. This was a hybrid event, with the option for people to attend in person or virtually. In total, 105 people registered to attend, 70 in-person with the remainder via Zoom.

4.3 The venue was the Council Chamber in the Council's Market Street Offices. This was chosen as it had the necessary audio-visual equipment for broadcasting the event, as well as being an accessible venue in a central location. It also meant that the same room could be used for the District Parish Conference, which was held later that day. This allowed town / parish councillors to attend both events.

4.4 The theme of the event was 'Creating Resilient Communities' and covered the local response to the challenges posed by the rising cost of living. There were presentations on:

- The BOB Integrated Care System and its Strategic Priorities
- Cost of Living Support
- Coping with Financial Pressures
- Food Poverty
- Mental Health
- Grant Funding

4.5 A stalls marketplace was set up in the Council reception, which included representation from local voluntary and community sector organisations and service providers that offer advice and support to local residents. The marketplace was open for half an hour before and after the event.

4.6 Based on feedback collated from the 2023 event, the following recommendations were made in relation to future events:

- The Health and Wellbeing Conference and District Parish Conference should be held as separate events since few people attended both events.
- The conference should be held later in the year so comms were not lost in the Christmas / New Year Break, and the event did not clash with the busy winter period within the NHS.
- The lead-in time should be extended to facilitate planning and promotion of the conference.
- Subject to budget availability, an alternative, more 'neutral' venue should be investigated, ideally with space for breakout sessions to enable delivery of a more interactive and engaging event, space for a stalls marketplace, and with dedicated staff to help organise and run the event.
- Health and Wellbeing Board partner organisations should be involved more in preparations for the event.

5. Options Considered

5.1 The 2024 conference was discussed at the Health and Wellbeing Board Steering Group. Various options were considered in terms of:

- In-person vs hybrid
- Choice of venue
- Dates
- Theme and topics
- Format

6. Proposal(s)

- 6.1 It is proposed to retain the hybrid format for the conference, since this supports professional networking for those who are able to attend in-person, while providing the opportunity for others to take part if they are unable to travel due to time constraints or personal circumstances.
- 6.2 The Council has a mobile AV kit to support the live streaming of meetings from any venue with a suitable Wi-Fi connection. However, given that there is no budget available for the conference, options would be limited to Council buildings such as the Market Street offices or Shaw House, or any other venue that partners are willing to make available. Shaw House would have space for breakouts, but it is challenging to have breakout sessions when you have a mix of people in the room and online. Also, the acoustics in the main hall are poor, which makes it difficult for those attending remotely to hear what is going on in the room. On balance it is considered better to have the event in the Council Chamber.
- 6.3 It is suggested that the event be held towards the end of April, avoiding Easter and the associated school holidays (27 March to 12 April). Mornings are felt to be easier for a greater number of people to attend.
- 6.4 It is proposed that the theme for the conference would be 'Primary Care and Community Outreach'. This would pick up on live issues that have been highlighted as important to the local community, and would show how these are being addressed by the Board and its partners.
- 6.5 As with previous events, it is proposed to start the event with a video of recent activities and achievements of Health and Wellbeing Board partners.
- 6.6 Opening presentations would focus on current Health and Wellbeing Board activities, including:
- **HWB dashboard** – Highlighting the new graphical interface and key performance metrics that are being used to demonstrate progress towards the aims and objectives of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Also encouraging delegates to make use of data available on the West Berkshire Health Observatory website.
 - **Hot focus sessions** – Summarising some of the outcomes from the first 'Hot Focus Session' on the work of the Children's Early Help and Prevention Partnership and looking ahead to the next session on inequalities.
- 6.7 It is proposed that these would be followed by presentations related to the core theme of the conference:
- **General Practice** – Summarising the new Primary Care Strategy for Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire & Berkshire West, which is scheduled to be adopted in March 2024.
 - **Pharmacy** – Outlining the challenges and opportunities facing the pharmacy sector and how these are being managed locally. Explaining the function of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment and the role of the Integrated Care Board in commissioning pharmacy services. Noting recent closures in West Berkshire, but highlighting positive developments with independent

pharmacies, and the work of the Local Pharmaceutical Committee. Also, highlighting the Integrated Care Board (ICB) study on the resilience of the local pharmacy network and work being done by Healthwatch on customers' experience of local pharmacies.

- **Dentistry** – Outlining the challenges and opportunities facing NHS dental services. Explaining the new role of the ICB in commissioning dental services, and what is being done to help patients who have struggled to get an appointment with an NHS dentist, including the initial results from the flexible commissioning pilot.
- **CVD Wellness Outreach** – Highlighting the work being undertaken to address premature mortality, with a focus on cardiovascular disease (CVD) through the new CVD Outreach service.

6.8 As mentioned above, it is challenging to have breakout sessions / workshops with a hybrid event and there is limited scope for this at the Council Offices. However, it is important to provide an opportunity for interaction and two-way communication, so it is proposed to have panel discussions at the end of both sets of presentations.

6.9 It is hoped that a 'marketplace' of stall could be provided before and after the event to allow delegates to meet with local service providers and learn about the health and wellbeing programmes that they are delivering in West Berkshire. However, this will need to be carefully managed in order to minimise impacts on the operation of the Council's reception area.

6.10 Practical support for the planning and implementation of the event would be largely through Council staff, with support from partners as appropriate.

7. Conclusion(s)

The proposals outlined above are considered to provide an effective basis for the 2024 Health and Wellbeing Board Conference. However, the Board is free to suggest changes or alternatives to any of the proposals.

8. Consultation and Engagement

The Health and Wellbeing Board Steering Group has discussed the proposals for the Conference.

9. Appendices

None

Background Papers:

None

Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by highlighting the issues around Primary Care and Outreach, and providing the opportunity to hear from individuals, communities and organisations across West Berkshire about their experiences and activities.

This page is intentionally left blank



Reading | West Berkshire | Wokingham

Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report 2022/2023



Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire
and Berkshire West
Integrated Care Board



WOKINGHAM
BOROUGH COUNCIL



Contents:

Section	Page No.
Section 1: Introduction	
Foreword/Executive Summary from the Berkshire West Safeguarding Executive	2
Governance and Accountability – review and future arrangements	xx
Section 2: Priority Areas of Work	
Our Approach to Extra-Familial Risk – Contextual Safeguarding, Exploitation, and Serious Youth Violence	xx
Strategic Response to Extra-Familial Risk	xx
Our Approach to Extra-Familial Risk – Online Safety and Social Media	xx
Effective Understanding of Child Protection Thresholds	xx
Priority Review For 2023/2024	xx
Section 3: Case Review Activity	
Rapid Review Activity and Learning	xx
Case Review Group Activity	xx
Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews	xx
Section 4: Wider Effectiveness/Work of Our Partnership	
BWSCP Safeguarding Executive: Challenges and Response	xx
Quality Assurance Framework	xx
Supporting the Education Sector	xx
Pan Berkshire Arrangements	xx
Section 5: Learning, Development and Communications	
Website and Multi-Media Learning	xx
BWSCP Virtual Forums	xx
Safeguarding Assurance	xx
Section 6: Engagement and Feedback	
Surveys and feedback	xx
Section 7: Appendices	
Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership Subgroup structure chart	xx
Knowing our Children	xx

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Foreword/Executive Summary from the Berkshire West Safeguarding Executive

Welcome to the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership (BWSCP) Annual Report for 2022/2023, which provides an account of the work and progress undertaken by the multi-agency partnership to promote the safeguarding and wellbeing of children in Reading, West Berkshire, and Wokingham.

Our unique tri-borough partnership provides us with opportunities for collaborative working over a wider footprint. This can be challenging, and takes time, but throughout this document you will see examples of our progress. These include but are not limited to the alignment of Threshold Guidance to support continuity for practitioners working across Berkshire West, provision of support and training for schools (Alter Ego Productions) and clear and specific updated procedures and practice changes as a result of case reviews.

During this reporting year we have published an unprecedented six Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. The Child Safeguarding Practice Review process requires significant resource from all our partner agencies, and it is a huge strength of our local safeguarding leads that they have, and continue, to commit to each review with openness, fully prepared to identify and respond to immediate learning. Please see section 3 for further information on these reviews and the learning identified.

We continue to reflect and scrutinise our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements to gain the benefits from working over a three local authority area footprint. Our new Independent Scrutineer, David Goosey, has been a huge help in enabling us to think more collaboratively and identify where our endeavours to work together are best focused. Please see the Governance and Accountability page below for more information. In addition, throughout the report you will see 'Scrutiny and Challenge' boxes that highlight where we need to focus our attention.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and say thank you to every member of the Partnership, our Subgroup Members, practitioners from all our partner agencies, education colleagues, volunteers, and those people out in the community, for their commitment and the work they continue to do to help keep children in Berkshire West safe and to improve their life chances. We would also like to thank our Partnership Business Unit, who manage all the partnership meetings, support the Chairs, and keep in communication with colleagues across the whole of Berkshire West. This is no mean feat, and we all appreciate the positive nature of the team, the high calibre of work produced, and their ability to keep the partnership on track.

Message from the Independent Scrutineer & Safeguarding Executive Chair, David Goosey

Governance and Accountability – review and future arrangements

Our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements were created as a result of revised statutory guidance (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018) and have been in existence as the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership (BWSCP) since June 2019. The Statutory Safeguarding Partners hold the oversight, governance, and responsibility of the partnership arrangements, with delegated responsibility to the BWSCP Safeguarding Executive.

The composition of the Safeguarding Executive from June 2022 is:

- Directors of Children's Services - Reading, West Berkshire, and Wokingham
- Chief Nursing Officer – Integrated Care Board (Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, and Berkshire West)
- Head Protecting Vulnerable People - Thames Valley Police
- Chief Superintendent, Local Policing Berkshire – Thames Valley Police
- Independent Scrutineer (Chair)

From the outset our multi-agency arrangements have been designed to be flexible, with the Safeguarding Executive acknowledging the need to review the structure and responsibilities if required. As such, we recognised there were some challenges and improvements required in our high-level accountability and governance, communication between subgroups, and our scrutiny model.

The statutory responsibility for the partnership arrangements sits at the Chief Executive level of the safeguarding partners, who delegate this duty to the BWSCP Safeguarding Executive. It is vital that the Chief Executives remain informed of progress and are themselves curious about risks or improvements made, plus the potential or realised benefits of a tri-borough shared arrangement. We recognised that this link needed to be stronger, therefore we initiated regular joint meetings between the three Local Authority Chief Executive Officers and the three Directors for Children's Services. These meetings are being broadened to include the equivalent roles within Thames Valley Police and the ICB, and a new scheme of delegation is in the process of being agreed to ensure clear governance and line of sight for the statutory partners.

This year we have benefitted from the challenge, support, and advice of our new Independent Scrutineer. This role has been a critical part of our Safeguarding Executive discussions, enabling us to consider different viewpoints and think critically. David has also provided a consistent approach to the Chairing arrangements of the Executive Group and the three locality Independent Scrutiny and Impact Groups. We are clear that this role does not hold responsibility for the partnership, which firmly remains with the Safeguarding Executive, but Chairing these particular groups allows a vital communication link between them and provides a helicopter view across Berkshire West. Further links between the Safeguarding Executive and the wider subgroup structure will continue as we plan to invite Subgroup Chairs to periodically join the Executive meeting to discuss how the work of the groups can be better understood and shared.

For this reporting year the Safeguarding Executive met monthly to enable conversations and decisions to move quickly while our Independent Scrutineer settled into post. We have now agreed to return to a quarterly meeting timetable to enable work to progress in between meetings. Likewise, we have moved the Independent Scrutiny and Impact Groups to be quarterly and in line with the data availability, to support partnership colleagues to be able to complete work and auditing in between meetings and enable actions to be progressed and completed.

An area of focus for us going forward is the need to improve our multi-agency audit planning and delivery. This year, multi-agency auditing has continued to be driven on a locality basis through case review recommendations or inspection preparation. While the audits have been useful and learning is shared across the partnership, this still lacks clear coordination with no formally agreed multi-agency auditing process and is an area of development for the Independent Scrutiny and Impact Groups. We have, however, implemented a new Quality Assurance Framework, with the considerable help of our Independent Scrutineer. This provides clear purpose and focus for the partnership, detailing the safeguarding assurance processes we expect to follow (See section 4).

Our partnership structure allows us to promote partnership collaboration, which has enabled constructive independent scrutiny from partner agency colleagues. This has been evident locally in our subgroups but is also replicated in our pan-Berkshire work. Further details can be found in the following sections.

Scrutiny and Challenge:

Working over a Berkshire West footprint is complicated, and it requires continued engagement, ownership, discussion, and willingness for it to work at all levels and to be successful and provide added value. Our tri-borough partnership provides us with the opportunity to think more creatively, for example, the opportunity of cross boundary working allows us to identify common safeguarding issues and consider the strengths of joint discussion and co-working with partners. The examples above provide some evidence of the positive impact for our workforce of working in this coordinated way. However, much more could be done and should be done at pace to benefit from cross boundary working. This has to be a major part of the progress achieved in the coming year.

SECTION 2: PRIORITY AREAS OF WORK

During the 2021/22 year the BWSCP focused on some key themes identified by Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews and feedback from colleagues within our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements. This was undertaken in subgroups across our localities, Berkshire West, and Pan Berkshire. The BWSCP subgroup structure chart can be found in Appendix 1.



Whilst individual organisations respond to emerging and existing safeguarding concerns, the information below represents the partnership approach, work, and outcomes in relation to these themes.

OUR APPROACH TO EXTRA-FAMILIAL RISK – CONTEXTUAL SAFEGUARDING, EXPLOITATION, AND SERIOUS YOUTH VIOLENCE

We recognise the importance of practitioners understanding the local approach to ‘contextual and complex’ safeguarding and how this work needs a response often outside of our usual safeguarding frameworks.

There are regular multi-agency meetings in each of the three areas that discuss individual cases and separate strategic meetings to agree a joint agency response. These are routinely reviewed and changes to approach taken where necessary.

In Reading, an Independent Reviewer was appointed to review the Child Exploitation Missing Triage and Review (CETAR) and Child Exploitation and Missing Operational Group (CEMOG) Meetings following a recommendation in the Thematic Child Safeguarding Practice Review. There were a number of positive reflections including clear information sharing within the meetings, trauma informed compassion around the young person’s experience, great relationship among colleagues attending the meetings and exploitation mapping was deemed important, and practitioners were pleased with the mapping work done.



There were recommendations for improvement also and these include better involvement with the young people and their parents, increasing the timeliness of referrals into these meetings, more effective meeting actions and timeframes (with an escalation route identified), introduction of a risk and issues log and more regular multiagency audits, where all agencies look at the arrangements for the young person. Including Adult Services to enable better transition planning is important, all ‘red’ raged cases should have a social worker and a problem profile is required. The review was completed in March 2023, and a multi-agency group is putting in place an action plan to support these recommendations.

In West Berkshire our Independent Scrutineer attended an Exploitation & Missing Risk Assessment Conference (EMRAC) and provided some useful feedback for development in the 2023/24 reporting year for the incoming chairs of the group. The feedback was mostly positive, noting that the meeting was well managed, the purpose was clear and understood by those present and the Child Exploitation/Child Sexual Exploitation criteria being used to good effect. There were close working relations between several different professionals and agencies which facilitated information sharing. A recommendation was to explore contexts further, including that of the impact of significant harm and ensuring that the young person’s ethnicity is discussed and understood, as these will have an impact on the young person’s identity.

Indicator Tool: To support our vulnerable young people, it is crucial that practitioners have the right tools and knowledge. Colleagues across Berkshire West continue to receive contextual safeguarding or similar training from their respective organisations. Colleagues are also supported to use the Pan Berkshire Exploitation Indicator Tool, which is regularly reviewed by the Pan Berkshire Exploitation Subgroup to ensure it is fit for purpose, ensuring a county wide approach. Locally, audits have shown the tool is well used and subsequent referrals are appropriate.

Audit: West Berkshire colleagues conducted an audit of indicator tools to establish if the relevant EMRAC thresholds were applied on a consistent basis, this concluded that in the vast majority of cases thresholds were

correctly applied. The type of factors that are most prevalent would commonly be present in young people working with children's social care. There has been a considerable increase in the number of young people identified at risk of exploitation where there is family relationship breakdown or conflict in comparison to the previous year.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) Response:

In Reading, following the Thematic LCSPR into Serious Youth Violence, weapon crime continues to be a priority; Thames Valley Police Officers have a process in place to stop and search "habitual" knife carriers in the community. Thames Valley Police continue to provide safety arches in Secondary Schools when needed and the Neighbourhood Police Team have offered to support and undertake work with primary schools. Funding was secured by Thames Valley Police to provide assemblies from St Giles Trust in Reading schools. St Giles Trust helps vulnerable young people who are criminally exploited through gangs, serious violence, and offending. More than 20 assemblies were delivered to year groups seven, eight and nine across a number of Reading Schools and focused on debunking the myths and stereotypes around crime, weapons, gang involvement, county lines, exploitation, and violence.

Impact of LCSPR learning:

In Wokingham, following a LCSPR featuring serious youth violence, a pilot Exclusion Prevention Programme was initiated in September 2022 involving 5 schools in the area which had the highest exclusions rates. This programme is focused on exclusions related to offending type behaviour and works with the individual children and their schools to support the pupil to remain in school. In May 2023 the programme was working with 9 children and had evidence of success for a child who had been planned to move education settings but will now be staying at their current school given the noted improvements after they started working with the Prevention and Youth Justice Service.

Impact of Partnership working:

Adolescent Risk – Reading Festival – Concerns were raised by local services about the safeguarding and welfare of young people who attend large scale events such as festivals. Festival Republic alongside colleagues across the Partnership footprint undertake work in preparation for Reading Festival on an annual basis. The safeguarding practice at Reading Festival 2022 was effective and a Safeguarding Coordinator is always on site alongside welfare teams; there are key safeguarding partners in the welfare teams. There are also links with local hospitals, Thames Valley Police, and South-Central Ambulance Service.



Planning for 2023 will include a review of the visibility of services for young people and signage at the festival so any concerns can be responded to effectively. Festival Republic and local partners will be facilitating a project looking at the development of Help Hubs that will operate 24 hours a day throughout the festival period. These Hubs will be staffed by local safeguarding professionals and will be a one-stop hub where young people can come to talk, seek advice, and offer support.

Attending any large event, such as Reading Festival can be anxiety inducing; the Mental Health Support Team are considering hosting webinars and assemblies for the parents of Festival Goers to outline the range of safeguarding officers available at the festival.

Impact of Partnership working:

Starting Point – Navigator Programme - The Starting Point Navigator programme launched in June 2021. Based within the Royal Berkshire Hospital over the weekend it supports young people who come to the Emergency Department due to violence or risk-taking behaviours with the aim of reaching young people at a moment of crisis and to try to connect/divert them to other opportunities.

This programme format has been introduced in schools to engage with young people that are struggling in and need additional support. They offer support both in the education setting, but also ensure the young person is connected with a mentor in the community. So far, the programme has connected with 47 young people. Once they have made a connection, they work to understand their interests, what they want to achieve and explain to them the opportunities available via the Navigator Programme. Young People have an allocated mentor to accompany them throughout their journey and provide support as and when required.

STRATEGIC RESPONSE TO EXTRA-FAMILIAL RISK

We recognise the importance of practitioners understanding the local approach to ‘contextual and complex’ safeguarding and how this work needs a response often outside of our usual safeguarding frameworks. Locally, high profile incidents of serious youth violence have reminded us that a coordinated and consistent approach and response is crucial to support our families and practitioners.

In recent years, each locality area has produced a multi-agency strategy that relates to extra-familial Harm (using the terminology of either Adolescent Risk, Exploitation or Harm Outside the Home). While the detail and governance of these strategies is different for each locality, the BWSCP expectation is that there is general consistency in strategic approach and response, while recognising that the scale and breadth across local service delivery may differ. For example, we know that the Thames Valley Police response will be consistent across Berkshire West, but the preventative services provided by other agencies will vary, dependent on need.

While the three locality-based strategic groups have been continuing to provide direction within their locality, the BWSCP Safeguarding Executive have agreed that greater alignment of strategies is a key priority for 2023/2024.



Our Strategic Intent: *To work towards locality-based strategies for Extra-Familial Harm that are more aligned, supporting a more combined and collaborative approach across Berkshire West.*

A task and finish group will be set up in in July 2023 to progress this work. For more information see the BWSCP Delivery Plan: [BWSCP Website - Assurance Documents](#)

Exploitation (Yellow YoYo) Project: To support the strategic intent for 2023/24, Thames Valley Police were able to offer additional funding to commission an organisation to review at the customer journey for all organisations that should either signpost or offer direct support in relation to exploitation. We want to ensure that, as far as possible, the public receive a consistent and user-friendly experience when they are looking for help – from the language used through to appropriate signposting and support. This work was commissioned at the end of the reporting year, and results will therefore be discussed and incorporated into the strategic work during 2023/24.

Scrutiny and Impact:

In each area there is a continued drive to ensure processes and strategic direction are improving through evaluation and review. Whilst changes have been implemented, the Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews have highlighted that more is required. These recommendations need to be acted upon quickly, and the learning shared widely. The Safeguarding Executive must work together to improve aligned responses and understanding across our Berkshire West footprint.

OUR APPROACH TO EXTRA-FAMILIAL RISK – ONLINE SAFETY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

To support schools, parents, and young people, we developed an Online Safety Page on the BWSCP website. It contains information relating to various types of online abuse that our young people can experience with links to guidance and agencies that can provide further information or support. There are also links to some useful articles for parents and carers about how to keep young people safe online. Online Safety features regularly in the BWSCP Facebook and Twitter posts.



We recognise that social media has been highlighted as a significant concern within the Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews focussing on serious youth violence. Whilst the scope of the reviews could not evidence social media as harmful contributory factor, the criminal processes and a subsequent documentary did highlight the influential effects of pushed content and how social media can be used to organise and incite violence. As a result, our reviews have included recommendations for our local Partnership to both support practitioners and schools with current knowledge and information, whilst recognising that this is a national, if not global, issue.

Crest Advisory Report: The Dawes Trust commissioned Crest Advisory in 2019 to run a multi-year programme of work examining the underlying causes and drivers of serious youth violence including the use of technology, specifically social media. As part of the process, Crest Advisory interviewed a number of Reading Headteachers', Thames Valley Police and Metropolitan Police colleagues; Thames Valley Police Project Alpha has been created to assist with the disruption of harmful media content that could be seen to incite violence, specifically gang related content.



The report published in 2022 identified that online conflict is happening much younger than the current preventative work is aimed at and whilst primary schools are aware of the issues, other services do not engage until secondary school age. One of the key findings of the report outlines that violence is seen as an accepted response when it is not challenged; if a large group of individuals accept conflict escalating online it increases the expectation that it will be resolved physically. Crest Advisory are recommending that there is a roll out of “online active bystander” training for children and young people, delivered through PSHE lessons from key stage 3 to enable children and young people to understand that their actions online have real world consequences.

Effective reduction of the risk of violence from online activity cannot be achieved through any single group or organisation through a single solution, instead a wide range of mitigation strategies need to be deployed at varying scales: parents, public services, schools, technology companies and Ofcom.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) Response:

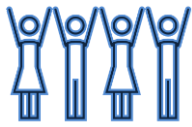
Learning from our Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews has challenged us to understand how confident practitioners are in speaking to young people about their social media usage and online safety and understand how they use this information in their work with young people and any assessment of risk. We therefore undertook a practitioner survey in early 2023 to explore this further.

78% of respondents knew where to find their organisations online safety policy, and 79% did feel confident to speak to children about social media and how they use it. Respondents raised a number of barriers they felt they encountered to them regularly being able to have these discussions, and half reported that no clear training was available to them on this subject. While respondents were able to list a range of negative influences the social media can have, it did raise some questions about practitioners using a trauma informed approach. The results of this survey are due to be shared with the Learning and Development Subgroup in the first instance.



Theatre Productions in Schools:

To support our school community, in the Autumn of 2022, the Safeguarding Partnership funded Alter Ego's productions 'In the Net' and 'Unacceptable' for Primary and Secondary Schools across the Berkshire West footprint; these performances were well received and a positive experience for the schools involved.



30 performances of the In the Net production were delivered to 43 Primary Schools (schools shared sessions), reaching approximately 3,500 pupils in Years 4-6.

Performances of the Unacceptable production were delivered to 29 Secondary Schools, reaching approximately 5,800 pupils in Years 9-11.

Following these performances, a survey with all participating Schools was undertaken in order to gain feedback on how engaging the sessions were and whether there was an increase and staff and student knowledge in relation to the subject matter.

Primary Schools reported that:

- children were able to list and give examples of how to stay safe online and use the internet responsibly
- children were able to talk confidently about what they learnt and understood that they should speak out if they see something scary, or someone says something unkind
- children were able to understand the importance of being kind and the repercussions of their actions



Secondary Schools reported that:

- the performances increased pupil's awareness of sexism, sexual harassment, and sexual violence and gave them the space to reflect on their views
- the performance promoted good 1:1 discussions
- the performance is being used as a tool as part of their restorative measures
- the real-life stories were very useful, and it sparked a discussion about sexism; and how to challenge the behaviours of the minority of students

EFFECTIVE UNDERSTANDING OF CHILD PROTECTION THRESHOLDS

Aligned threshold guidance

It is crucial to prevent escalating risk by supporting all partners to be able to respond to concerns and confidently hold responsibility for risk at an appropriate level. This should prevent our children and their families from having to access high level support or not be subjected to Children's Social Care involvement if not required.



In Berkshire West we have three locality-based Threshold Guidance documents, due to differences in relation to referral routes and service provision for each Local Authority Children's Services. However, a project was initiated towards the end of 2021/22 to fully align and standardise these three documents, which successfully concluded in the autumn of 2022.

The content and layout of the documents was updated to include:



- The issues highlighted by a local Domestic Homicide Review to ensure the content adequately reflected information in relation to the risks associated with domestic abuse, and the new Domestic Abuse Act.
- Improve the risk and protective factors in relation to exploitation, special educational needs and disabilities and sexual harassment in schools
- Alignment of the document detail across the three areas, with the only differences being referral information and some specific service detail
- An improved layout to enable practitioners to more easily access the important information
- Improved information and detail about consent requirements at each level of need.

These revised documents mean that whichever document a practitioner refers to they know that the detail within the levels of need is the same in each local authority area. In addition, we have uploaded the document detail

into a webpage. Practitioners can now easily review threshold guidance online, as well as download a pdf version is preferred. Details and links to the webpages and documents can be found here: [BWSCP website - threshold guidance](#)

Holding and managing risk for cases that don't meet the criteria for statutory intervention

Following an independent review of the 18 rapid reviews undertaken across Berkshire West from the beginning of 2020 until June 2021, a theme arose relating to professionals' confidence in holding risk for cases that fall below the statutory level. Education colleagues were asked to complete a short survey to coordinate a response to the findings.

The survey was sent out in early 2022/23 to Designated Safeguarding Leads across West Berkshire and Wokingham and 132 responses were received. The results of the survey have not yet been discussed at the Education Safeguarding Engagement Groups, but initial results indicate that 24% of respondents in Wokingham and 34% of respondents in West Berkshire were 'somewhat not confident in holding risk'. In addition, 43% of respondents in Wokingham were not aware of either the Threshold or Escalation Guidance documentation, compared to 22% in West Berkshire. However, most responders do feel confident to escalate safeguarding concerns within the multi-agency environment with only 6% and 11% not feeling confident in Wokingham and West Berkshire respectively.



Scrutiny and Impact:

There is clearly some awareness raising work to be considered with regards to the Threshold Guidance and support to be considered for education settings to enable them to feel more confident in working with some of their more challenging pupils.

Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) Response:

In response to learning from our local Safeguarding Practice Reviews the Partnership produced guidance to support Professionals, Parents and Carers to understand the Child in Need process and the expectations when attending meeting. This guidance is easily accessible on our website and the links have been widely shared across the workforce.



- Guidance for Practitioners: [BWSCP Website - Professionals: Child in Need meeting and plan](#)
- Information for Parents and Carers: [BWSCP Website: Parents and carers: Child in need meeting information](#)

PRIORITY REVIEW FOR 2023/2024

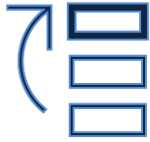
Through the support of our Independent Scrutineer, the BWSCP Safeguarding Executive have reviewed and agreed some clear priorities for the year ahead. In addition to the 'Strategic Response to Extra-Familial Harm' (noted above) we have also specifically agreed the need for clarity and guidance in relation to our combined response to Neglect. This is also in response to one of our Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. Neglect is a persistent safeguarding risk for children, and it can be difficult for professionals with safeguarding responsibilities to identify indicators of neglect, to assess whether what they have observed is sufficiently serious for them to take action, and to decide on the most appropriate course of action.



While each locality is working with a significant number of cases of neglect, with a variety of tools and approaches, there is currently no strategic strategy to tackle neglect either at a locality or Berkshire West level. This is where our tri-borough partnership can provide consistent strategic guidance, which will particularly benefit practitioners who work across Berkshire West.

Our Strategic Intent: *To develop an agreed Berkshire West approach to neglect in relation to principles, training, and evaluation of service provision, enabling consistency but flexible enough to allow each area to deal with the issues relevant to their population.*

A task and finish group will be set up in in July 2023 to progress this work, building on the BWSCP Practitioner Guidance for Neglect that was agreed in 2023 ([BWSCP Website - Neglect](#)) to produce a Berkshire West Strategy.



Other areas of focused work identified include the development of a Berkshire West MASH Oversight Group (more information in Section 3), actively respond to the Social Care Review and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023 consultation when published, develop a comprehensive BWSCP Learning and Development offer (more information in Section 5) and embed the Quality Assurance Framework, providing assurance and evidence of progress and impact (more information in Section 4).

For more information see the BWSCP Delivery Plan: [BWSCP Website - Assurance Documents](#)

SECTION 3: CASE REVIEW ACTIVITY

RAPID REVIEW ACTIVITY AND LEARNING

During the 2022-2023 year, only one Rapid Review was undertaken at the beginning of the reporting year. This was a case in Reading of an unborn child who died unexpectedly in utero at 36 weeks gestation. This was initially notified to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel as both parents were well known to Children's Services. However, one outcome of the Rapid Review meeting was to agree that the death was not as a result of parental abuse or neglect, although there were co-morbidity factors recognised. This was reported to the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel, who agreed that a formal Rapid Review Report was no longer required, however we decided to complete the Rapid Review and submit a report as there was learning identified. This included:

- The documentation of case history needs to be evident in records and considered in meetings and in planning. As a result Children's Social care reported that quality of practice was externally audited, to consider the use of history in assessments as part of accelerated improvement work. This practice would remain in place.
- Thames Valley Police information could have been shared and documented better, plus, the recording of requests for strategy meetings and conferences for all the children in the family concerned could be streamlined to make it more easily followed. This learning was shared with the MASH Manager and included in training across the area.



Scrutiny and Challenge:

It is notable that between March 2020 to June 2021, an unprecedented total of 22 Rapid Reviews were undertaken across Berkshire West. The case described above was the only case notified from July 2021 until March 2023. While there is no indication that cases have been missed, colleagues across the partnership must remain alert and ready to discuss cases which may meet notification threshold.

It is positive that there have been cases of potential concern brought to the Case Review Group for discussion throughout this period, and examples of cases that may meet notification threshold being discussed between statutory partners. However, this discussion process did not have a clear escalation or sign off route, which has been rectified through revisions to the BWSCP Case Review Process document described below.

CASE REVIEW GROUP ACTIVITY

The Case Review Group continues to promote active discussion about any cases that colleagues may feel meet criteria for a level of multi-agency review. This was particularly important considering the significant drop in cases being identified that met the criteria for making a notification of a serious child safeguarding incident. Due to the reduction, consideration was given to the process in place and challenging discussions took place to review whether any cases may have been missed. During this period the Case Review Group continued to review cases of concern, that didn't meet the criteria for notification, to ensure that there was a multi-agency view and to consider if any further local-based work was required.

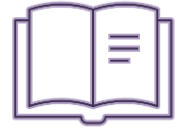
An outcome of the case review process discussion and the Independent Review report referenced in the previous Annual Report, was that the Safeguarding Executive had not been fully sighted on all the Rapid Reviews from across Berkshire West, at the different stages of review. This inadvertently meant a lack of clear ownership and direction at the Executive level which subsequently impacted on the ability of the Safeguarding Executive to be fully assured about the process, learning identified and the impact. A thorough review of the process has been undertaken, to ensure that appropriate Safeguarding Executive members are informed or involved at key stages of decision making. The latest version of the BWSCP Case Review Process document can be found here: [BWSCP Website - Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews](#)

LOCAL CHILD SAFEGUARDING PRACTICE REVIEWS

The purpose of a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSRP) is to look at the multi-agency response of organisations working alongside children and families, to identify any improvements that can be made to the services they provide; and as a partnership for us to understand and share good practice and learning to improve and promote the wellbeing of our children and young people.

Published LCSRPs:

The BWSCP have published six LCSRPs in the 2022/2023 year. These relate to two cases of known or suspected non-accidental injury of a young child (Reading 'Aiden' and West Berkshire 'Bobby'), one case of sexual abuse (Wokingham 'Aisha and Ciara'), two individual CSRPs for two perpetrators of serious youth violence (Wokingham 'Harry' and 'David' and a Thematic Review into the same topic for Reading). All our LCSRP reports are published on this page: [BWSCP Website - Safeguarding Practice Reviews](#).



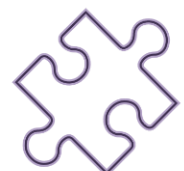
Some of the key areas of learning from the cases include:

- Assessments should recognise and take account of the multiple risk factors, analyse statements of fact about a parent/adult with what impact the issue may have on a child's safety and welfare, ensure records reflect this thinking process, management oversight promotes clear rationale for decisions.
- Recognising and understanding patterns of behaviour through the use of chronologies (single or multi-agency) to support assessment and risk management work.
 - Ensuring safe step down of intervention - to include a clear, multi-agency process to support these cases once higher level of intervention is removed and re-assessment of risk if the family circumstances change, or parental disengagement is a cause for concern.
 - All cases reiterate areas for improved information sharing at different stages in safeguarding processes, plus the need for empowering practitioners to escalate if they have a concern or difference of opinion.
 - It is important to find out and understand if family members have any learning needs or borderline learning difficulties - professionals must make sure that family members understand what meetings they are asked to attend, why the meeting is happening, and what is expected of them.
- The importance of Child Focused Practice - professionals should always try to understand and record children's views where possible, even if they are young with limited verbal skills, with due consideration of different communication styles, including issues of disability, age, and language.



Learning specifically in relation to serious youth violence:

- Recognition that this cohort are likely to have a range of complex needs and are at risk of school exclusion.
- Improve information sharing with schools about pupils at risk of exploitation.
- The need for appropriate alternative education provision to support a multi-agency response.
- Earlier referral and engagement with CAMHS for children at risk of exclusion and understanding the role of speech and language services.
- Development of diversionary support to avoid entry into the criminal justice system.
- The need to reduce the number of professionals involved, whilst enabling consistency and continuity of workers to build relationships with the young people and their family.
- Improving data to understand the problem profile more accurately.
- Ensure that the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are really understood by all professional working with them.



As part of the Child safeguarding Practice Review process, we also identify and highlight the positive work undertaken by practitioners. Many examples of this were identified, including:

- Clear identification of vulnerabilities in families and multi-disciplinary discussions being undertaken.
- Early referrals when concerns identified, and examples of quality assessments.
- Swift responses after an incident to safeguard children and their siblings.
- Practitioners effectively sharing information and communicating, and examples of cultural sensitivity.
- Positive examples of practitioners being child focussed and challenging decisions when they felt it was appropriate.
- Significant support was initially put in place for a family, which was appropriately reduced when good progress was made.
- Examples where the multi-agency response when some new information was received was timely and coordinated.

Recommendations and action plans are in place for these reviews; they are being actively monitored and acted upon through the Berkshire West Case Review Group and the locality based Independent Scrutiny and Impact Groups. A number of partnership actions have been completed which include:

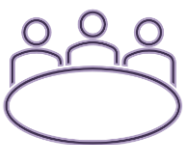
- A BWSCP webpage has been created using the best practice resources developed by the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse. These resources, and other guidance, have been shared widely across the safeguarding network
- Review and update of the Threshold Guidance (noted above)
- Review and update of the Escalation Guidance and procedures
- Produce and share Child in Need Meeting Guidance for practitioners, and parents/carers (noted above)
- A range of locality and agency specific, plus Berkshire Wide procedures and processes have been reviewed and updated as a direct result of CSPR learning.



Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review (LCSPR) Response:

There are examples of our response to LCSPR recommendations throughout this report, but in addition:

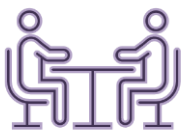
- In Wokingham Children's Services, following CSPR recommendations, there has been significant improvement in process, practice and information sharing when a child with an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) moves into the area. Multi-disciplinary meetings are arranged to share any relevant information between new professionals and those formerly involved, providing continuity for the children/young people moving between Local Authorities and mitigates the risk of important information being missed, or the family 'repeating their story'. Social Workers are now routinely invited to annual reviews of children/young people with an EHCP, and if there is no Social Worker involvement, consideration is given to whether a referral to Children's Social Care or Early Help would be beneficial to the family.
- Thames Valley Police has a vulnerability and risk annual programme and, as a result of LCSPRs, child criminality, and the appropriate trauma informed and partnership approach to children suspected of crime, was covered in the 2022 training delivered to Incident Crime Response and Neighbourhood teams. A Vodcast has also been developed with family members involved in a serious youth violence incident that triggered two of our LCSPRs. The Vodcast will be mandatory training for all front-line officers, student officers, PCSO's, Child abuse and MASH staff.



- In West Berkshire Children and Family Services, Conferences Chairs received refresher training to ensure that 'respectful curiosity' is maintained, and self-reporting is regarded with due weight. The Service Manager has carried out observations and confirmed that the issues which arose within the case review are considered as part of this process and that reflective discussions occur where these factors are considered. The Service Manager reads all feedback provided by attendees of conferences and where necessary these are acted upon and used to inform service development.

- Brighter Futures for Children initiated a review of the Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) and alternative provision, focusing on their potential contribution to work to combat extra-familial harm and exploitation. The review has concluded, and actions are being implemented. The report commented that there had been a recent change in leadership at the PRU, and interviewers were encouraged with their level of planning and training around areas of safeguarding concern. Relationships need to be strengthened with the borough's alternative provision and they need to be considered by all professionals as a key partner in the safeguarding network around a child. Priorities include ensuring consistent information for schools and internal Local Authority staff to ensure monitoring, quality and review is in place, Alternative Provision safeguarding policies need to be developed more in respect of Extra-Familial Risk and Harm through training, engagement, and local offers of Continual Professional Development.

Audit:

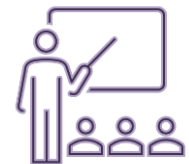


In response to LCSPR learning Wokingham Children's Services have undertaken an audit of cases where the Early Help service has been tasked to support young people with special educational needs and disabilities. This included feedback from parents and identified that a better understanding of what constitutes 'Early Help' in Wokingham - including thresholds and the full range of early help activity on offer is required; reiterated the need for shared knowledge, co-ordination, and oversight for the group of children who have SEN support needs and EHCPs, but also that when a family receives an appropriate Early Help service that feedback is positive and the family find the support beneficial.

Sharing learning:

Along with ensuring processes and procedures are effective, once of the key outputs from any case review is to share learning to improve practice. Whilst there is much learning for practitioners involved in a case review, while the process is ongoing, we also produce a two-page learning brief for each case published. This focusses on the learning identified, the recommendations, and information and guidance for practitioners. Along with the full report, we share these widely with the expectation that these are used and discussed within agencies and teams.

In addition, details of the learning and recommendations from the Rapid Reviews and recently published CSPRs have been collated and shared widely, particularly at sessions with School Designated Safeguarding Leads and nearly 100 GPs across Berkshire West. Along with common themes and learning from previous case reviews the presentation slides, published reports, learning briefs and 7-minute briefings can be found here: [BWSCP Website - Safeguarding Practice Reviews](#)



Local Case Review Process:



While previous feedback from the National Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel and the independent review conducted in February 2022 concluded that the local process for Rapid Reviews has been effective, one LCSPR (not yet published) identified some weaknesses in our LCSPR panel process and another. As a result, a review of our Case Review Process Guidance and Documentation has been undertaken, with key areas regarding the expectation of the LCSPR Chair and Panel, and escalation processes strengthened. The revised document can be found on our website: [BWSCP Website - Safeguarding Practice Reviews](#)

Review of National Cases of Local Interest

The Berkshire West Case Review group regularly reviews recently published national cases. Information is collated and shared with regards to learning and recommendations that would benefit from further consideration locally.

As an example, following the tragic death of Arthur Labinjo-Hughes and subsequent National Child safeguarding Practice Review and Joint Targeted Area Inspection, colleagues across Berkshire West initiated a project to review local services against the report findings. The project focused on the different approaches and multi-agency support into the MASH arrangements in the three local authority areas. Some of the key findings were:

- Multi-agency input into the MASH varies between the three areas.
- MASH processes are not consistent across the three areas.
- While there are good examples of strong multi-agency response and decision making, this is not consistent and in one area there were significant concerns regarding decision making resting solely with Children's Social Care.

The results of this work identified how different the MASH approaches are in each area, which was surprising considering the three areas share the same police and health partners. This has directly led to the Safeguarding Executive agreeing that this is a priority area of work and the need to establish a Berkshire West MASH Oversight Group with the remit to provide scrutiny, advice, and challenge on how the MASH arrangements are working in each locality and identify improvements.



Impact of Partnership Working:

Learning from local and national safeguarding case reviews highlighted the need for a clear escalation policy that all practitioners felt confident to use. To support our local practitioner's additional escalation guidance was produced to explain how to work towards the best outcome for a child, particularly in complex cases, local contact information for each agency was included so that contact can be made should an escalation reach a stage where formal resolution is required. A briefing note template was also included for practitioners to complete, to allow them to outline their concerns and describe the solution they are looking to achieve. Our solution focused approach to the escalation process has been replicated in the Pan Berkshire Policy.

Scrutiny and Challenge:

There is considerable independent scrutiny built into the case review process, with multi-agency partners scrutinising information at the Rapid Review stage and Independent Reviewers brought in for Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews. The Case Review Group continues to scrutinise any cases of concern to ensure the appropriate decision has been made. In addition, as Independent Scrutineer, I now have a significant involvement with the subgroup bringing an independent perspective.

The partnership has recognised that improvements needed to be made to the LCSPR process, to increase oversight and management. The revised documentation should support this. It is important that colleagues involved in LCSPRs understand the remit and their responsibility to achieve a proportionate and effective review.

There also remains a need to establish the sharing of learning across a tri-borough arrangement, utilising the new Quality Assurance Framework, and to ensure there is clear responsibility for plans and a method of identifying impact.

SECTION 4: WIDER EFFECTIVENESS/WORK OF OUR PARTNERSHIP

SAFEGUARDING EXECUTIVE: ESCALATIONS, CHALLENGES AND RESPONSES

We are aware that we have challenged ourselves locally by forming a tri-borough safeguarding partnership arrangement but recognise that we can work more coherently and collaboratively across the three borough boundaries. Throughout the document are examples of decisions taken and topics discussed by the Safeguarding Executive, but some other examples include:

Looked After Children Initial Health Assessments (IHA): The Safeguarding Executive were alerted to the local challenges around completion of LAC Health Assessments within the statutory timeframe. Timeliness of health checks is critical because any delay results in the child's care plan not being able to include the child's health needs at the first looked after child review.



Health colleagues were invited to the Safeguarding Executive Meeting to discuss and consider the steps to resolve the issue. A subsequent report from the Integrated Care Board with the provider agency provided assurance that there had been no specific safeguarding concerns resulting from an IHA not being completed within the 20-day period. There were either legitimate reasons for the delay, which enabled a more effective assessment, or process issues were identified which colleagues agreed to resolve. The local Independent Scrutiny and Impact Groups continued to receive data and no further issues have been escalated.

Health Visiting Provision: In early 2023, it was identified locally that the unprecedented number of vacancies within the Health Visiting Service led to the need to implement a business continuity plan and develop a remedial action plan with adjustments to the service provision. It was highlighted that even with a full complement of staff there would still be insufficient numbers of HV's to provide a comprehensive service.

Mitigating actions included (but were not limited to) prioritising targeted contacts for vulnerable families, all antenatal notifications being triaged to ensure that targeted face to face antenatal appointments are offered when needed, in the family home, and continued attendance at safeguarding meetings.



There is an LGA review underway into Public Health in Berkshire so hopefully this will provide a clearer picture moving forward in relation to the commissioning position. The Safeguarding Executive agreed that they will wait until the Public Health review has concluded and, in the meantime, regular updates of assurance will be provided to the ISIGs. In recent months the position has improved considerably.

Arrival of families from Ukraine: During 2022 the Safeguarding Executive regularly discussed this situation to ensure organisations were working together and in alignment across Berkshire West. A particular issue relating to accompanied minors was identified as the messaging from Government to Local Authorities seemed not to be compliant with the suggested framework. The Safeguarding Executive agreed that there was merit in aligning the processes across the 3 areas so that practice across Berkshire West was consistent.

QUALITY ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK

In 2022 our Independent Scrutineer highlighted that the partnership was lacking a Quality Assurance Framework to support the understanding of the quality of practice to safeguard children and young people. The Independent Scrutineer has provided us with a framework that combines various data sources (qualitative and quantitative) and is designed to help generate a culture where the best standards of practice are expected, by providing high challenge and high support. The challenge comes via rigorous scrutiny of practice and delivered using skilled feedback across the professional system, which is informed by strong values of openness, transparency, honesty and of never setting out to harm others, whether fellow professionals or children and families. The new Quality Assurance Framework is published on our website: [BWSCP Website - Quality Assurance](#)



BWSCP Dataset Improvements: Reviewing our local data is a key element of the Quality Assurance Framework. Our three areas have very different demographics, and as such are never in the same group of statistical neighbours. However, our children and families regularly cross the borders and as a Berkshire West area we obviously share many safeguarding risks. When we came together as a partnership, we produced a combined Berkshire West dataset that included the same information from all three Children’s Services to provide a comparison, as well as data from other key partners. This dataset has been discussed at each Independent Scrutiny and Impact Group (ISIG) meeting during the reporting year. A selection of the data included in the dataset can be found in Appendix 2.

The combined dataset provided some interesting points of comparison between the three local authority areas, but more frequently the natural differences between the data (due largely to demographics, economics, different reporting mechanisms and local procedures) meant that time was spent unnecessarily reviewing these differences rather than understanding what the data was telling us for each locality. The Independent Scrutineer has been supporting the development of an enhanced dataset, which will be locality specific, and more comprehensive. Each locality ISIG will receive data pertinent to them, enabling focussed and relevant discussion. More effective analysis of the data is a priority for the ISIGs and feedback on the new dataset and how it has been used can be provided in the next annual report.



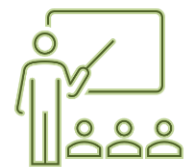
Scrutiny and Challenge:

The existing dataset was not fit for purpose and proved more of a distraction than a mechanism to understand the local picture. The three Independent Scrutiny and Impact Groups need to use and analyse the information within the new enhanced and locality specific datasets more effectively to drive discussion, risk identification and improvement.

SUPPORTING THE EDUCATION SECTOR

We have three locality-based Education Safeguarding Engagement Groups, with Headteacher and Local Authority Safeguarding Leads/representatives, which provides a mechanism for education leaders to identify and inform the development of safeguarding and improvement across schools and ensure that issues specific to the school/education community have a voice and can be escalated for discussion to the Statutory Safeguarding Partners.

Alongside these meetings are locality-based learning sessions for Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) where we can share consistent but tailored safeguarding messages. The DSL sessions have continued to develop with a range of key speakers from local services but also regional or national organisations. This year this has included:



- Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service attended the 3 DSL meetings to provide an overview of the sessions they have on offer for young people. Fire Safe is a programme that schools can refer young people who are showing an interest in or have displayed fire setting behaviours; the programme looks at the consequences of fire setting, provides fire safety information and diverts to alternative activities. They also provide Fire Safety Training along with Road and Water Safety Sessions for children in Years 5 to 7.
- The NSPCC Schools Coordinator attended the 3 DSL meetings to present the range of training and resources that are on offer to Schools. For Early Years Foundation Stage children, they use the ‘PANTS’ resources as a simple way to talk to young children about staying safe from sexual abuse. For KS1 and KS2 pupils they offer ‘Speak Out, Stay Safe’ assemblies that teaches young people about all forms of abuse and where to get help. For secondary and further education pupils they offer the ‘It’s Not Ok’ resources and lesson plans that help young people recognise concerning behaviour and identify characteristics of positive relationships as well as the ‘Love Life’ resources which provides strategies for staying safe as young people grow up and gain independence.

To support our Education colleagues the BWSCP also developed a briefing for their return after the summer break. It provided safeguarding updates in relation to revised Threshold Guidance, Escalation Guidance, CSPR Learning, Training Links and Private Fostering.

School Safeguarding Audit: The Section 175/157 (school safeguarding audit) process continues to be aligned across the three authority areas using the NSPCC audit tool. The audit request was sent to Schools in the Autumn of 2022 with a 6-week timeframe for completion. In Reading there was a 98.51% return rate, up 7.5% on last year's returns. In West Berkshire and Wokingham there was a 100% return rate.



It is a requirement that schools confirm that they have completed the audit with their Safeguarding Governor and that it is seen by the Local Governing Body, to promote awareness and responsibility for safeguarding within the school governance structure. The returns are analysed by safeguarding leads locally to identify any areas of concern. The results are shared between the local authority leads across Berkshire West to enable the learning to be shared across the three areas, but also with the Education Safeguarding Engagement Group in each locality.

The audits highlighted some local areas of focus however the common areas of attention were:

- Governor and Trustee CP Training
- Parents and carers understanding of child protection and safeguarding policy and procedures
- Visitors understanding of how they are able to raise concerns for a child's welfare.
- Supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children
- Online Safety
- Safer Recruitment



Action plans in each locality are in place and will be monitored through the Section 175/157 Subgroup.

Op Encompass: A challenge was raised in the local education safeguarding Engagement Groups that Schools were not receiving timely or accurate notifications of Domestic Abuse via the Op Encompass System. Following this concern, a meeting was held with local Op Encompass leads from Thames Valley Police who advised that they are continuing to develop and improve their automated reporting processes for domestic abuse notifications. However, it was recognised that the police school lead/email details had not been updated since the original request for schools to sign the information sharing agreement in 2017 and some were therefore likely to be out of date. The BWSCP Business Unit has been liaising with colleagues to obtain up-to-date school contact lists which have been shared with Thames Valley Police. This topic needs to be re-addressed in the autumn of 2023 to establish if issues remain.

Scrutiny and Impact:

Domestic Abuse is another example of a high-risk concern where the responsibility for a coordinated response lies with multiple partnership arrangements. It is vital that BWSCP members engage fully with the three new Domestic Abuse Partnership Boards to ensure the risk to children is appropriately included in their agendas and remains a robust challenge within the safeguarding partnership.

Child Death Overview Panel Bereavement pack: Whenever a child or young person dies it is a tragedy. First and foremost, for the child and the family, but also for those around them including school professionals who may have worked with them. Following discussions at the Pan Berkshire Child Death Overview Panel a Bereavement Guide was produced for school professionals on how to respond to a sudden or unexpected death of a child or young person; this document was finalised in the Autumn of 2022. The guidance outlines the Child Death process and other statutory functions that need to be considered as well as providing useful contacts, resources, and links to local support services. This has been shared with schools across Berkshire West and is available on our website: [BWSCP Website - Child deaths](#)



PAN BERKSHIRE ARRANGEMENTS

BWSCP has continued to support the Pan Berkshire safeguarding arrangements through the Section 11 Panel, Pan Berkshire Policy and Procedures Subgroup and Pan Berkshire Exploitation Subgroup. These groups are well respected by colleagues from across the county and are crucial to effective partnership arrangements.

The **Section 11 Panel** requests that representatives from key agencies who work across two or more Berkshire local authority areas attend the panel to present their Section 11 self-assessment return. A tool is provided to enable agencies to demonstrate and provide evidence that they are fulfilling their safeguarding duties under the Children Act 2004. Panel members scrutinise the return, ask questions of the presenter and provide feedback on areas for improvement. Agencies value this process, but our new Quality Assurance Framework is clear that we should expect more challenge and practitioner feedback in the process to provide greater assurance.

The **Pan Berkshire Policy and Procedures** subgroup is also a multi-agency group with representatives from agencies across the county. The meetings scrutinise chapter amendments suggested by the procedure's provider, but also has a timetable of chapters for local review. This cross border and multi-disciplinary approach enable all Berkshire Safeguarding Partnerships to maintain up-to-date localised on-line procedures that are easily accessed by all practitioners.



Subgroup members remain willing to take responsibility for, and be proactive in, reviewing chapters outside of the schedule provided by Tri.x and in line with our local forward planner. Out of a total of 48 chapters, 30 (62.5%) have been reviewed since early 2022, and all but two have been reviewed between March 2021 and May 2023.

It is difficult to quantify the impact of this subgroup, however, there remains confidence in the group processes and accuracy of the procedures provided. Any errors are quickly resolved, and good relations with our Tri.x representative has supported us to achieve this. The tone of the group and the strong multi-disciplinary and countywide attendance is a good foundation for multi-agency working. Plus, having a pan county arrangement is helpful for all practitioners working across boundaries.

Impact of Partnership Working: This group also reacts to findings from local case reviews, an example being revisions in the Child Protection Conference chapter following a West Berkshire Child Safeguarding Practice Review. The chapter is now clear that when a case is stepped down from a child protection plan that a child in need plan is in place for at least three months and be subject to management scrutiny and review before closure.

Following a Wokingham Child Safeguarding Practice Review the Children of Parents with Learning Disabilities Procedure was reviewed and refreshed to incorporate the learning from the review, with a specific focus on those parents who do not have a formal diagnosis, in line with the Equalities Act 2010, and signposting the best practice guidance from the Centre of Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse.

It is positive that an issue raised in one local authority area can positively impact procedures that are accessed by six local authority areas.

Scrutiny and Challenge:

Development work is required within the Section 11 process to improve and test the level of assurance provided. This requires improved attendance at the Section 11 Panel from key partners within Berkshire West to enable discussion and support change.

SECTION 5: LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

WEBSITE AND MULTI-MEDIA LEARNING

Website: The main mechanism for sharing information with the wider workforce and our families continues to be via the BWSCP website, which is updated regularly and contains a wide range of safeguarding information, guidance and links for support and training.



From April 2022 to March 2023 there were 130762 views on 73 pages. The most accessed page was eLearning with over 5,800 views; this is where the Universal Safeguarding Training is hosted alongside various other learning opportunities, and it is positive that the workforce knows where and how to access this.

The second most accessed page on the BWSCP website was the Child Safeguarding Practice Review page. This page contains the Overview Reports and Learning Briefings for all of the published Reviews. It was anticipated that this page would receive more coverage due to the publication of several reviews; this increase suggests that the ongoing publicising of this page is helping professionals access this information and learning.

This year we have added or improved key information pages on topics identified through audit and case review. These have included, but are not limited to:

- Threshold guidance
- Child in Need process and meeting guidance
- Neglect guidance

Social Media: We have increased our social media presence with regards to promoting safeguarding campaigns, posting on Facebook and Twitter every two to three days. Statistics show that engagement with our posts has increased significantly this year, with the most popular topics being exploitation, mental health, and safe sleep/co-sleeping. Some of the identified areas of focus for this year have been:



- Summer campaigns on water safety
- Safe sleeping
- Weapon crime and Exploitation
- Online Safety
- Mental health
- Healthy relationships and domestic abuse

E-Learning: Across Berkshire West we continue to provide a free online level 1 universal safeguarding training module that is available to anyone working with children and young people via our website.

It has always been our aim to retain this element of training for our workforce as free to access; over the past 12 months 4008 people have successfully completed the online Universal Safeguarding Training, an increase of 500 from the previous year. This year we updated the case example provided to ensure more recent and pertinent cases of national importance are highlighted.



Newsletters: The Learning & Development Subgroup published a number of newsletters that were developed to help support all professionals in their self-guided learning. Learning and Development is not just about attending training courses, it can include reading, researching, online sessions & webinars, shadowing and looking at useful tools, resources, and websites. The newsletters are available on the BWSCP website ([BWSCP Website - Newsletters](#)) and relate to: Transitional Safeguarding, Safer Internet, Effective Engagement and Trauma Informed Practice.

BWSCP VIRTUAL FORUMS



The Partnership have successfully hosted a number of online multi-agency forums; these are open to everyone whose service works with the children, young people, parents/carers, and families. Each Forum provides professionals the opportunity to gain information about local & national learning, current initiatives, network and share good practice.

Working with Dads – Working with Dads has been a theme in several safeguarding practice reviews. The aim of this session was to help professionals understand the importance of working work more inclusively with Dads to allow professionals to gain the bigger picture of the families they are working with. The Forum was attended by more than 80 professionals from several agencies.

Child on Child Abuse – An area of improvement from the completion of the Schools S175 Audit in 2021/2022 related to the measures in place to prevent and respond to Child-on-Child abuse. As a result, Child-on-Child abuse is now included in the Universal Safeguarding training and DSL training. The Partnership also hosted a multi-agency forum that outlined what child-on-child abuse is, what it looks like, when to be concerned and how to respond. The Forum was attended by more than 75 professionals from several agencies.

Words Matter - The language that professionals use can have a significant and potentially lifelong impact on victims of abuse and exploitation. This forum enabled us to come together and discuss victim blaming language and how we can accurately and sensitively record and report on victim experience. Colleagues had the opportunity to consider unconscious bias, remodeling their language and barriers.



The Forums are recorded and made available via our YouTube channel: [BWSCP YouTube Channel](#) and our website: [BWSCP Website - Multi-agency Forums](#)

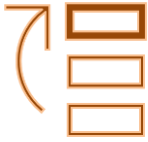
SAFEGUARDING ASSURANCE

The BWSCP Learning and Development (L&D) Subgroup need to ensure that all partner organisations are providing single and multi-agency training, and that there is the required uptake of such provision. In addition, the subgroup wants to ensure that organisations are appropriately and adequately assessing their learning needs and using the information to determine learning priorities. This in turn should enable the BWSCP to identify any gaps or additional learning needs across the workforce.

To support this discussion the L&D Subgroup run a Training Needs Assessment. This survey was undertaken in Spring 2023 and at the time of writing this report, not all required responses had been received, meaning that a discussion of the results has not yet taken place. However, of the responses received, almost all organisations confirmed that they provide regular safeguarding children training for their staff which is regularly reviewed and updated, and that the majority of staff who require training have received it. A range of safeguarding children training at all levels has been delivered by a number of different training providers.



Some gaps in training have been highlighted within the responses including domestic abuse. Whilst domestic abuse appears to be embedded within other areas of training, there are no standalone training resources specifically for the subject. The results also highlighted a mix of responses regarding the delivery of training; the majority of responses are in favour of a mixed method including both face-to-face and virtual.



Challenge from the Independent Scrutineer has highlighted to the Safeguarding Executive that there is no current multi-agency training offer other than the BWSCP Forum Sessions described above. The majority of the decision making, direction and organisation has been placed on the outgoing L&D Subgroup Chair and the BWSCP Business Unit. While the current offer complies with the requirements of Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018, it falls short of a comprehensive and cohesive programme of training. This is now an element of the BWSCP Delivery Plan for 2023/2024.

Scrutiny and Challenge:

As noted above, the current L&D multi-agency programme is not fit for purpose and a new L&D Subgroup Chair needs to be identified. The new Chair must be given the support of key partnership colleagues who understand the locality learning requirements. A Learning and Development Strategy is required to provide clear direction and expectation in this area of partnership working. Finally, resources must be made available to ensure the learning and development offer is credible and sustainable.

SECTION 6: ENGAGEMENT AND FEEDBACK

Our multi-agency safeguarding arrangements recognise the need to improve our partnership engagement with children and families, ensuring that their voice and experiences are part of our discussions and decision making. Whilst this remains a work in progress, colleagues have undertaken surveys that we have considered in our partnership meetings. Some of the below have been referenced directly in other sections of this report.



Attitudinal Survey: This survey was distributed across all West Berkshire Secondary School; there were a total of 6353 responses with the majority of responders being aged between 11 and 18 years. Young People were asked a series of questions relating to how happy they are to the concerns they are faced with and whether they feel safe in the area they live.



When asked what the most important concerns are 62.9% of young people selected mental health and wellbeing, 6.7% selected domestic abuse and only 4.4% selected exploitation and grooming. There are ongoing projects with young people to raise awareness of exploitation including the Risking it All theatre production, posters, and online information. However, this topic generally expected to be covered by schools as part of the PSHE curriculum, therefore local RSHE forum will review this further to ensure that the material is up to date and informative. In addition, the missing children coordinator is working more closely with youth workers to create a half a day, during school holidays, where they work with a cohort of young people of concern around online exploitation.

'Taking illegal drugs' was highlighted by quite several young people as an issue in the area; however, when asked if any of them had someone close affected by the highlighted issues, the number of responses dropped. Similarly, 26% of young people reported 'carrying a weapon' as a problem in the area they live in; however, when asked whether they or anyone close to them was personally affected by this issue, the percentage dropped to 4.5%. This highlights the difference between perception and experience of an issue and Thames Valley Police confirm that they are not finding many weapons in their stop and searches. The Serious Violence Steering Group will be focusing on addressing how to communicate these statistics to young people to provide some reassurance and highlight that there is more risk of harm if you are carrying a knife.

Due to the success of this survey in West Berkshire, the Police and Crime Commissioner have funded it to be undertaken in Reading and Wokingham for the first time.

Reading Extra-Familial Harm Workshop: In March 2023, the BWSCP delivered the Reading Extra-Familial Harm Workshop; the purpose of this being:

- To review and refresh the Extra-Familial Harm Strategy Action Plan
- To build in links with the Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy
- Take the opportunity to learn from the Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) published in Berkshire West recently
- To support the completion of relevant Reading Thematic Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) actions



The workshop was productive, and it provided detail about what the focus should be going forward. Workshop attendees were divided into different groups, each of which was given a topic to discuss relating to the recommendations from the recently published Thematic CSPR. This exercise provided analysis around what is working well, where further development is required works well, and ideas about how progress can be made. An action plan is currently being developed and work will be progressed in the coming months.

Crest Advisory Report: The Dawes Trust commissioned Crest Advisory in 2019 to run a multi-year programme of work examining the underlying causes and drivers of serious youth violence including the use of technology, specifically social media. As part of the process, Crest Advisory interviewed a number of Reading Headteachers', Thames Valley Police and Metropolitan Police colleagues. More information can be found in Section 2.

Practitioner Engagement: Our engagement with practitioners has predominantly continued through auditing and case review work. We have ensured that all our Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews (CSPRs) have included a practitioner event, where the independent reviewer has had a chance to ask questions and hear directly from those involved about their experiences and what they feel is the key learning. This has been particularly challenging in an environment of online meetings, and these sessions would always be preferable as face-to-face, however we have endeavoured to make sure practitioners are supported through the process and feel comfortable to speak.

Auditing is also a key area where practitioners are able to reflect and feedback on areas of work or practice. Multi-agency and single agency audit (where there is a safeguarding element) findings are reported back to the Independent Scrutiny and Impact Groups with audit topics including (but not limited to) pre-birth assessments, first time entrants into the Youth Offending Service, referrals from the Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust to the three Children's Services, vulnerable caseload audit from Health Visiting and School Nursing, and the Berkshire West Child in Need audit.

In addition, we have surveyed sections of the workforce on specific topics. These have been referenced within the report and include:

- Practitioner confidence in speaking to young people about their social media usage and online safety and using this information in their work with young people and any assessment of risk (Section 2)
- Feedback from the Alter Ego Theatre Productions in Schools (Section 2)
- Education professionals' confidence in holding risk for cases that fall below the statutory level (Section 2)
- Agency Training Needs Assessment (Section 5)
- School Safeguarding Audit using the NSPCC audit tool (Section 4)

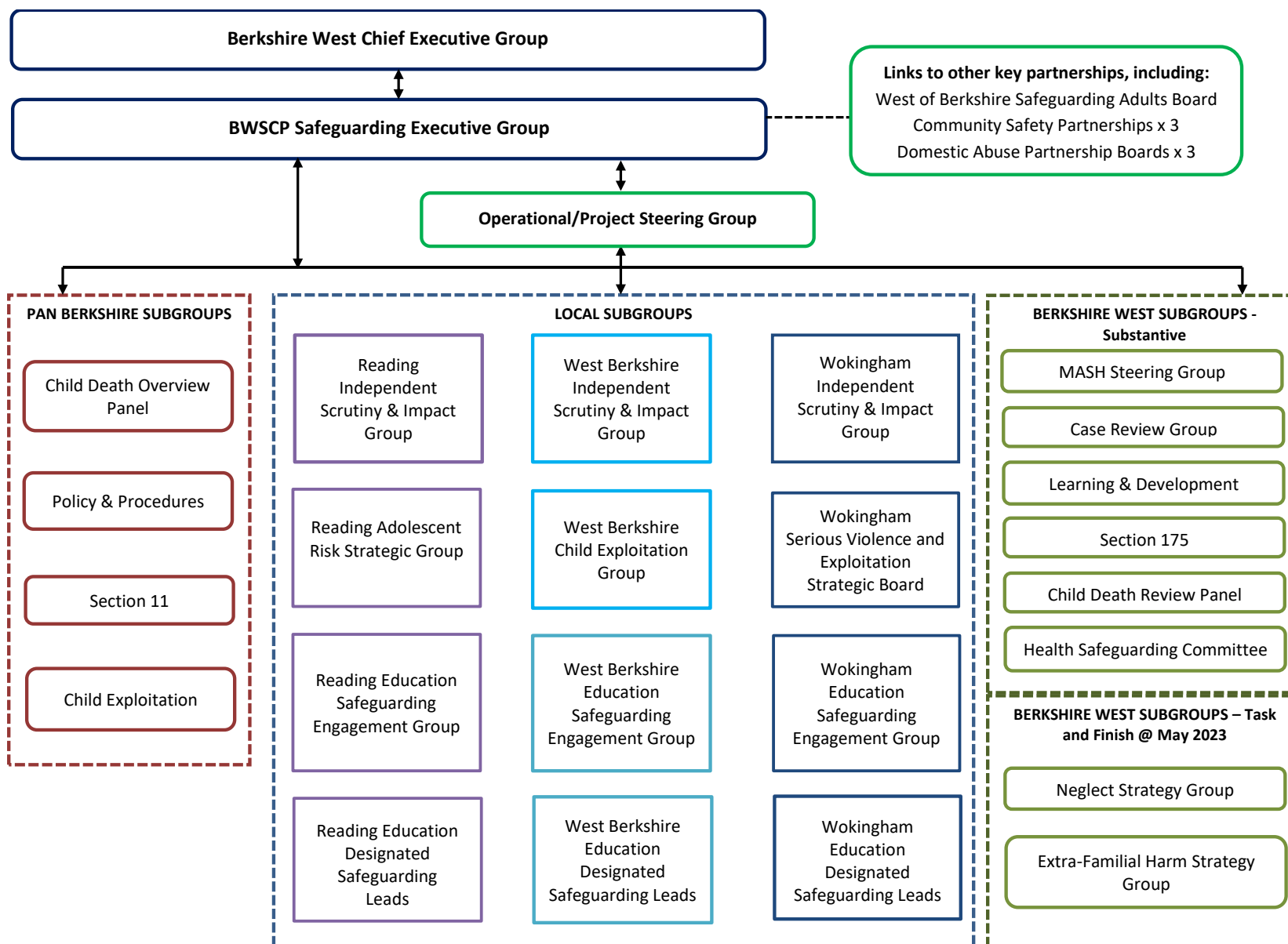


Scrutiny and Challenge:

This continues to be an area of challenge for the BWSCP. It is positive to receive the results of surveys from our children and young people and practitioners, but there is not yet enough direct evidence of subsequent decision making by the partnership as a result. Any plans to engage young people more directly within our partnership arrangements needs to be done with care and clear purpose.

SECTION 6: APPENDICES

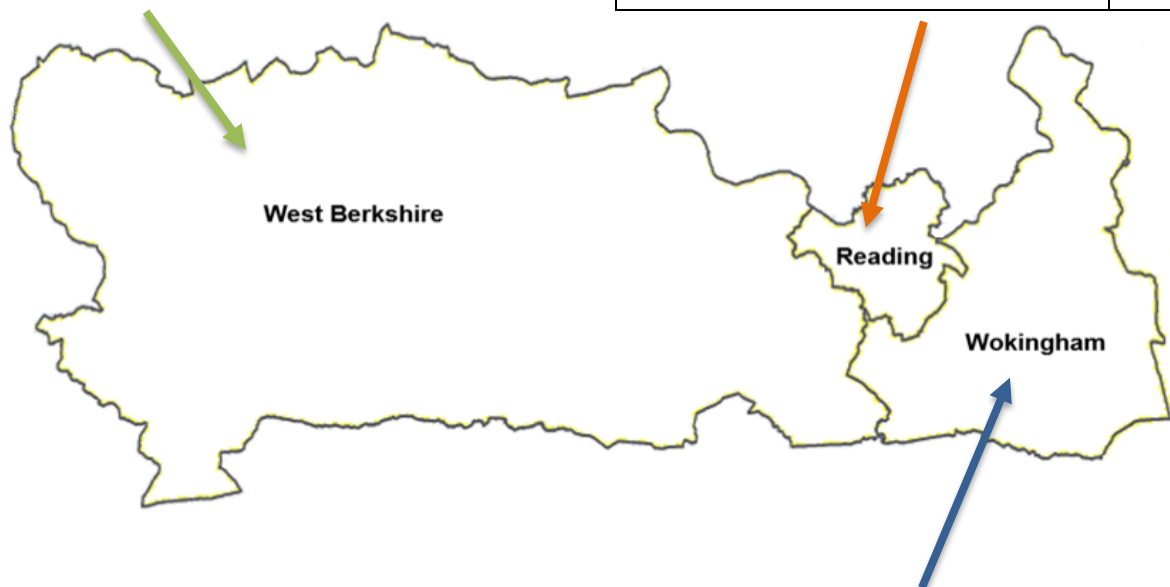
Appendix 1 – Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership Sub-group structure chart



Appendix 2 – Knowing our children

West Berks	
West Berks Under 19 Population (Census 2021)	37,122
Children Subject to Child Protection Plan (Rate per 10,000) March 2023	95
Number of Children in Need (Rate per 10,000) March 2023	421
Children in Care (Rate per 10,000) March 2023	55
Domestic Crimes involving Children Q4 2022/2023	250
Total number of children 0-18-year-olds admitted to RBFT (including MH & Self-Harm) - Q4 2022/2023	25

Reading	
Reading Under 19 Population (Census 2021)	41,808
Children Subject to Child Protection Plan (Rate per 10,000) March 2023	50.2
Number of Children in Need (Rate per 10,000) March 2023	430.3
Children in Care (Rate per 10,000) March 2023	72
Domestic Incidents involving Children Q4 2022/2023	310
Total number of children 0-18-year-olds admitted to RBFT (including MH & Self-Harm) - Q4 2022/2023	30



Wokingham	
Reading Under 19 Population (Census 2021)	44,375
Children Subject to Child Protection Plan (Rate per 10,000) March 2023	37.8
Number of Children in Need (Rate per 10,000) March 2023	146.6
Children in Care (Rate per 10,000) March 2023	33.2
Domestic Incidents involving Children Q4 2022/2023	168
Total number of children 0-18-year-olds admitted to RBFT (including MH & Self-Harm) - Q4 2022/2023	23

This page is intentionally left blank



Ageing Well Task Group

Update for HWB Steering Group – November 2023

Current Activity

- Group will now meet face to face on alternate meetings
- Actions assigned to mini task groups for progression
- Successful delivery of Older Persons Day event in partnership with Dementia Friendly West Berkshire and Age UK Berkshire. 16 stall holders attended to meet residents, share information and signpost to activities. WBC Adult Social Care, Walking for Health, Public Health and Community Learning teams also attended. The afternoon included a Love to Move seated exercise session which was very much enjoyed by residents along with a Dementia Friends Information Session which saw residents and stall holders learn more about what it is like to live with dementia and become a Dementia Friend.
- Stay Well in Winter booklet updated and distributed.
- Active Social Media posting around staying well in winter, slips trips and falls and impact of the clock changes and darker evenings

Future Actions

- Partners to progress actions – outcomes will be shared in future updates

Building Communities Together Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group – November 2023

Current Activity

- The Partnership met last on 10 October and will meet again on 16 January 2024.
- The Partnership receive local crime and disorder data at each quarterly meeting and the sub groups have access to local police data to inform local activity and multi-agency problem solving.
- The Strategic Assessment is about to commence with a request to partner agencies to advise on what has changed enough to warrant further analysis. This data will assist the Partnership in identifying issue of concern and enable a review of the Partnership Priorities within the Partnership Plan.

Serious Violence

- In accordance with the Serious Violence Duty through the Serious Violence Steering Group the Partnership is developing a local Serious Violence Reduction Strategy and Delivery Plan. This must be submitted to the Home Office in January 2024.
- West Berkshire is fortunate to have maintained a low prevalence of serious violence however the Duty requires that each locality develops a Serious Violence Plan and a Serious Violence Needs Analysis. The Needs Analysis to inform the strategy is now virtually complete and the Strategy and Plan are in draft.
- A Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) survey was undertaken seeking information on perceptions of areas where people feel unsafe and the data captured has been analysed, and the outcome will inform local partnership activity. Initial responses indicate positive feelings of safety. Further analysis of the results has now indicated the key locations for potential action to reduce fear and feelings of being unsafe.
- In support of the Safer Streets Fund (Round 5), West Berkshire feature as one of the bids submitted by the OPCC to obtain grant funding to focus on reducing ASB in The Nightingales, Greenham. There are several key criteria for approval, but this will enable a number of necessary interventions, via grant funding. The bid has now been approved by the Home Office and activity has started in relation to each of the agreed interventions.
- Partnership Trauma Informed Practice Training has been delivered via a mix of Face to Face and online courses. Further courses are expected in the New Year

Anti-Social Behaviour

- Work in this area is currently extremely limited – see ‘Challenges’.
- PSPO at Speen Lodge Court has been discharged.
- A six-week consultation has just started on the future of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Newbury town centre and the proposal to extend and vary the PSPO for a further three years. The current PSPO is due to expire in early February 2024.

Prevent

- The Prevent Steering Group met on 23 October 2023.

- There are currently zero cases in Channel and zero cases in Police Led Panels. One case has progressed to the information gathering stage.
- The new Prevent and Channel duty guidance has been published.
- The annual County Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) is underway and West Berkshire agencies are in the process of completing the return.
- The Home Office and the Joint Extremism Unit (JEXU), on behalf of HMPPS, have developed a process to ensure Local Authority Prevent leads are aware of nominals residing in their area, managed by HMPPS, who are deemed to pose a terrorist risk. The Chief Executive has now signed and completed the required MoU to support an ISA. No referrals have been received to date.

Domestic Abuse

- The last domestic abuse board meeting took place on 25 September and will meet again on 20 November.
- The domestic abuse and safe accommodation local needs assessment is almost complete.
- An exceptional domestic abuse board meeting is scheduled 22 November in the form of a workshop to review needs assessment findings and act as first phase of strategy development.
- The DRIVE perpetrator programme is progressing, awarded to Caunston, for high-risk, high-harm perpetrators. Scheduled to go live shortly. Task and finish group set up to monitor implementation across Thames Valley.
- West Berkshire's domestic abuse service, provided by Berkshire Women's Aid, are very high with referrals and have funded themselves an extra worker until 31 March 2024.

Modern Slavery

- The Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 2022-23 has been signed off by Chief Executive. This has been published on the Council's website and on Gov. Registry.

District Parish Conference

- Work is underway to deliver a District Parish Conference in December or January; with the final decision on the date of the conference and agenda topics to be determined at the Corporate Board meeting on 7th November. It's very likely that the new Council Strategy and next year's Council Budget proposals will feature at this conference. It has also been suggested to broaden the agenda to consider issues wider than just WBC services and allow the input from external agencies and this may also be incorporated into the event.

Members' Community Bids

- The application deadline has just closed for the next round of Members' Bids and there will be a cross-party Panel established to consider the bids and allocate £82k of funding towards community projects. The Panel date has been set for 28th November.

Town/Parish Councils

- There's not any major concerns or issues being raised by our towns/parish councils at the present time.

Future Actions

- Implementation of the Serious Violence Reduction Strategy which has to be published by the end of January 2024.

Challenges

- Senior Community Co-ordinator Resolution post is currently vacant as the postholder is Acting BCT Team Manager. The majority of anti-social behaviour related case work is no longer being done but legislative requirements under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 mean that a significant amount of work must continue particularly around the PSPOs. This is adding pressure to an already small BCT Team.
- BCT Team had to make the difficult decision not to do the Giving Tree this year. Staffing levels within the Team have made it impossible to undertake.

Children's Early Help & Prevention Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group – November 2023

Current Activity

Public Health – Universal Offer: Public Health provided an update to the group on the nature and extent of the universal offer that is available in West Berkshire, where are the gaps and where there are strengths. There is ongoing work around accessibility of support and information about how to access universal services for families.

Early Help Data: focussed work exploring the trends and needs associated with the provision of Early Help in West Berkshire. The volume of referrals for Early Help is high and increasing with the most common risk factors being Domestic Abuse, children/adult mental and emotional health concerns.

Digital Referral Form: A pilot has been initiated with 12 settings who make early help referrals to use a digital referral form. This pilot will support the decision making about the best way to make non-safeguarding referrals into the early help space. The findings from the pilot will support the decision making about a wider roll out or alternative mechanism.

Supporting Families: feedback was provided from the operational group. Information sharing and the collection of data from a variety of different agencies involved in early help remains challenging, there are some workarounds in place but a longer term technical solution is being sought. There was a visit from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities exploring the Supporting Families programme and the Early Help System Guide.

Parenting: following on from the parenting mapping exercise, a gap in parenting provision for those who have primary school aged children was identified, training and material is being provided to staff in primary schools to be able to deliver such provision.

Overlapping groups - Schools and Universal Offer Working Group (SEND): there is ongoing work on the SEND Strategy and there is an overlap between the these groups. The Early Years Inequalities Group is a new group looking at the first 1001 days and family hubs, this group also overlaps with the CEHPP.

Future Actions

The CEHPP are continuing to drive the actions and agenda around Early Help building on the activity outlined above. Specifically:

- Pilot the Early Help Digital Referral Form
- Establish a robust dataset around Early Help indicators
- Drive forward actions stemming from the Early Help Self Assessment
- Undertake a Hot Focus Session focussed on Early Help



Health Inequalities Task Force

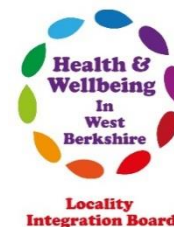
Update for HWB Steering Group - November 2023

Current Activity

- The Health Inequalities Task Force met at the end of September, after a 6-month break. The new BOB ICB Lead for Health Inequalities, Manu Cuccureddu, joined the meeting.
- Mike Bridges, Interim Consultant in Public Health has taken on the role as Chair of the Task Force and is undertaking a final review of the Terms of Reference. The key roles for the Task Force will be identifying key priorities, action to be taken, accountability and outcome measures captured in an Action Plan.
- Zoe Campbell was voted in as Vice-Chair.
- Membership of the Task Force requires further review and development to ensure involvement of key partners, particularly for the development and implementation of the Action Plan.
- A working group will be set up to assist Mike with the review of the Terms of Reference and the membership of the Task Force.
- It was confirmed that the newly established Early Years Inequalities group will be affiliated to the HITF as a Task and Finish Group.

Future Actions

- Going forward, the HITF will meet monthly.



Locality Integration Board

Update for HWB Steering Group – November 2023

Current Activity

- Following departure of Belinda Seston from the ICB, the new co-chair is Helen Clark.
- Inequalities & Prevention Community Outreach model approved – Public Health mobilising the project. To avoid any delay to the project, the Co-Chairs have agreed that BCF will continue to fund the JOY App at the same level as they are now for the next 18 months, the remaining amount will be underwritten by the ICB.
- Funding for the inequalities and prevention project needs to be shared more widely – PCN's were unaware of the split across BOB and top-slicing.

Future Actions

Mental Health Action Group

Update for HWB Steering Group – November 2023

Current Activity

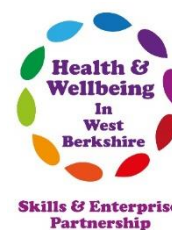
- A final report on Financial Problems and Mental Health was presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 3rd October. The Board noted the actions already undertaken and ongoing progress with delivery of the recommendations. Amongst other things, it also agreed:
 - that the Scrutiny Commission be asked to review issues around debt recovery and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme
 - that the Public Protection Service be asked to review how it could be involved in delivery of the targets identified in the report, including training of staff on mental health
 - that consideration be given to improved co-ordination of work between the voluntary sector and BHFT
 - that BHFT be asked to respond to the original request on the ability of its staff to provide support on financial problems, such as through signposting to other sources of help
- We have continued to work with the Health and Wellbeing in Schools Co-ordinator to produce a guide for teachers of resources to help them support students on financial management. This was produced to coincide 'Talk Money Week', 6th-10th November.
- The Chair of MHAG attended the first meeting of the Berkshire West Mental Health Place Board. It is hoped that improved integration with wider governance structures will enable MHAG to be more effective.
- We continued to support the Volunteer Centre's series of workshops exploring people's understanding of mental health pathways and their experience of services
- We held a Poetry in Mind Celebration Event at Shaw House on Tuesday 10th October. We invited residents who had submitted a poem about mental health as part of the Poetry in Mind campaign. We received over 100 poems and a selection were displayed in West Berkshire libraries, museum and Shaw House. At the event, participants were presented with a certificate of participation from Cllr Janine Lewis and some brave residents read out their poems to the group, which was at times very emotional. All the chosen poems are available to read online: <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/poetry-in-mind> We are also planning on creating a book with all the poems in in order to raise money for charity.
- A very positive meeting of the MHAG was held on 13th September. This was the first face-to-face meeting for some time, and it seemed to create a more energetic atmosphere.

Future Actions

- The next meeting of the Mental Health Action Group is on 22nd November, again, in person. This will address how we tackle the remaining objectives assigned to the group.

Skills and Enterprise Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group – November 2023



Current Activity

The SEP met on the 2nd November 2023 and received updates on the remaining actions identified in the Delivery Plan.

	Planned Actions	Progress at November 23
2	Extension of the Developing Life Skills' programme	The H&WB approved funding for this programme in 2022/23, which was delivered in secondary schools by the EBP. All sessions were completed by July 2023, with a significant increase to 250 participants. The further funding bid for 2023/24 was discussed at the recent HWB Board, however there are currently no identified funds to support these activities in 2023/24.
4	Enhanced delivery of a Work and Careers Fair – including participation by local schools and supporting the work on employment opportunities for people with learning disabilities	The 2023/24 annual Work & Careers Fair (the 'Destinations Expo') was successfully delivered on 12th October 2023 at Newbury College. There was a significant growth in attendees with over 1,400 young people from local secondary schools attending, and around 60 employers and other organisations exhibiting. There was, once again, a strong focus on careers for students with disabilities, with attendees from special schools and those with EHCPs from other local schools. The EBP project managed the event, with financial support from Greenham Trust.

The SEP also discussed the promotion of 'Workplace Wellbeing Charters and Commitments' to local businesses. The discussion was prompted by a paper provided by the Mental Health Action Group summarising the options for 'wellbeing charters' for employers to support the mental health of their staff. The SEP were supportive of these initiatives and colleagues from the DWP agreed to promote to businesses the national 'Mental Health at Work Commitment' www.mentalhealthatwork.org.uk/commitment/

Future Actions

The SEP has two identified actions which it is now supporting on an annual basis – the 'Developing Life Skills' programme and the 'Destinations Expo', as reported above.

The SEP has reviewed the current work being delivered across the agencies aimed at supporting the development of skills and employment of people from under-represented groups (including People with physical disabilities, People with mental health problems, People with learning disabilities, People with long-term health conditions, and Young People).

The group has identified three further potential areas for future action by the SEP. These are:

- Green skills and jobs – extension of a successful project, currently delivered in other areas of Berkshire, to develop skills and employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the Green economy (Groundwork).
- Supported internships – development of local provision of supported internships to enhance the employment routes for people with disabilities (Newbury College).
- Employability sessions – extension of the support provided by DWP to local schools and colleges to enhance the understanding of employment options for young people. Particularly focussed on under-represented groups and on the wide range of routes to skills and future employment (DWP).

Substance Misuse Harm Reduction Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group – November 2023

Current Activity

Owing to Denise Sayles (previous chair) currently being on long term sick, the chairing of the SMHRP meeting is being undertaken by Jessica Ryall-Spoor, Senior Officer – Community, Protection and Health within the Public Protection Partnership.

- The first meeting since Denise's absence took place on 2nd November 2023
- The majority of those in attendance at the meeting, including the chair, were new to the meeting and to their role.
- During the meeting, the Terms of Reference were considered alongside the purpose of the meeting and membership.
- It was agreed that the Young Person's Substance Misuse Strategy Meeting should be relaunched.
- The meeting provided a good opportunity for new partnership links and potential partnership working.
- It identified some comms issues which are being rectified.

Future Actions

- Finalise TOR for SMHRP
- Update Young People's Substance Misuse Strategy document.
- Arrange SMHRP Meeting and YPSMS Meeting for the beginning of the new year.
- Rectify identified comms issues.

Suicide Prevention Outreach worker

Project Report Update for Trustee Meetings

Quarter 2

Project Scheme/Title:	Suicide Prevention Outreach project
Period:	July August September
Aim/Objective:	To provide training and resources throughout West Berkshires, voluntary organisations, small businesses, sports and social organisations
Activities Resources contacts made etc	<p>I delivered a Suicide First Aid Course face to face in June to 7 attendees, these represented Healthwatch, Newbury Street Pastors, a Solicitor, Citizens Advice, Soup Kitchen, Greenham Trust</p> <p>Because of the summer holidays it was decided to hold off courses in July and August, and then recommence during September onwards.</p> <p>Follow up meeting Andrew Spaak, who is hoping to make a bid for funding for courses for Rugby Club (Hungerford/Thatcham)</p> <p>Meeting with Dave Seward at the Waterside, discussed courses and where to deliver, encouraged to book at Broadway House for training.</p> <p>Meeting with 2 local PCOS to explain courses, both felt that would be very useful and agreed to share info. with colleagues</p> <p>We are aware of a lack of local support for those bereaved by Suicide, I contacted SOBS who explained the process of how to set up a support group, I discussed this with Garry, and information has been sent through the Volunteer media of how to apply through SOBS, and how the support groups run and function.</p> <p>I attended The Suicide Prevention Action Group quarterly meeting and updated on my activities.</p> <p>I attended the Theale meeting of 3 regarding local Mental Health Services, the attendees were a diverse mix and many were very interested to hear about what I have been doing, I felt very included in the discussions and workshop</p> <p>I attended Mental Health Academy Virtual webinars, and was able to dip into those sessions of interest to me.</p> <p>I attended a tutor drop-in session and regular check-ins with a fellow tutor for continuing support and further CPD</p> <p>I attended the National Centre for Suicide Prevention Education and Training Virtual Conference 2023 "Suicide Prevention: Working Together</p> <p>I have continued to deliver leaflets, cards, QR code to many whilst I am out and about, these include shops and businesses,</p> <p>I have been to East Garston also to discuss delivering a course either at a local hall or the local café for local people</p> <p>I have also taken the opportunity to continue emailing contacts, particularly Sports Clubs of all types</p>

<p>Significant events/successes:</p>	<p>Attending the virtual NCSPET Conference. The speakers were brilliant, particularly the session on Gambling and Suicide, but also the key speakers Jonny Benjamin and Neil Laybourn, both of whom share their true story on the video I present on the training course I deliver. To hear their back story and how their relationship and work has evolved since, was one of the most emotive and incredible things, and certainly will help further my content of the course. Dr Frank Campbell talked about his work in postvention, very inspiring and a man who is a complete expert in his field.</p> <p>Each course I deliver I consider to be a success, as new knowledge and confidence is gained by attendees, which will forever potentially keep more people in a place of safety. I always invite the Samaritans to attend, which I think is a good collaboration and learning tool for us, their local outreach worker tries to endeavour to do this. This enables a great listening ear for those who need it, as the course can be quite triggering.</p>
<p>Any Difficulties?</p>	<p>So many people who I meet agree that the courses I deliver would be so very useful and important to do, I have been passed contacts who listen intently to my explanations of the course content. However due to possibly time needed to apply for their funding, many are yet to book.</p> <p>We agreed that the summer holiday months would be difficult to book and made the decision of cancelling July/August</p>
<p>Planned Future Activities Training Events</p>	<p>I will continue as planned monthly face to face training courses, and have booked a room at Broadway House through to the end of 2024 for this.</p> <p>I will continue to attend the Tutor drop-ins through NCSEPT, and I also hope to attend an upskill event and Men's Mental Health CPD during November</p> <p>To see a local SOBS group get themselves started will be a huge achievement for them and will be so good to see and ultimately be able to share the resource with those in need.</p> <p>Participate in the open day at Broadway House in November and the next Suicide Action Group Meeting.</p> <p>I have been asked to attend the local Samaritans Group AGM at St Bartholomew's School, and I am very much looking forward to it.</p> <p>"Most people thinking of suicide do not want their lives to end, they want the pain to stop".....therefore "Suicide has to be one of the most preventable deaths" NCSEPT, two core beliefs that I try to instil in those that I meet along the way , this opportunity that I have been given still evokes a passion to show how kindness and care really do help change people's lives.</p>

	13 trained in October
Directors comments	Very pleased with the work we are doing. In addition to Sues excellent work we have been advocating for the work within the Health and Wellbeing board at WBC which has been noted by elected members of the council and council officers.

Health & Wellbeing Board – 7 December 2023

Item 16 – Members’ Questions

Verbal Item

This page is intentionally left blank

Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan (All meetings are on a Thursday, starting at 9.30am in the Council Chamber except where otherwise stated)

Item	Purpose	Action Required	Date Agenda Published	Lead Officer(s)	Those consulted
22 February 2024 - Board Meeting					
Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy	To provide an update on the Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy	For discussion	14/02/2024	Mike Bridges	Health and Wellbeing Steering Group
Safeguarding Adults Board for Berkshire West - Annual Report for 2022/23	To present the annual report from the Safeguarding Adults Board	For information	14/02/2024	TBC	Health and Wellbeing Steering Group
Right Care, Right Person - three month update	To update the Board on the implementation of the Right Care, Right Person model for responding to calls involving concerns about an individual's mental health	For discussion	14/02/2024	Supt. Helen Kenny	Health and Wellbeing Steering Group
Resilience of Community Pharmacies in West Berkshire	To report on the resilience of community pharmacies in West Berkshire and their ability to cope following pharmacy closures in Newbury, Thatcham and Calcot.	For discussion	14/02/2024	Sarah Webster	Health and Wellbeing Steering Group
Local Response to the Cost of Living Increases	To provide updates on the impacts of the cost of living on local residents	For discussion	14/02/2024	Sean Murphy	Health and Wellbeing Steering Group
Delivery Plan Progress Report: Priority 4	To update on progress in implementing the actions set out in West Berkshire's Delivery Plan, focusing on the fourth priority to: <i>'Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people'</i>	For discussion	14/02/2024	April Peberdy	Health and Wellbeing Steering Group
Better Care Fund Monitoring Report - Q3 2023/24	To approve the BCF quarterly monitoring report for Q3 2023/24	For decision	14/02/2024	Maria Shepherd	Health and Wellbeing Steering Group
Hot Focus Session - Health Inequalities (date TBC)					
Conference (date TBC)					
2 May 2024 - Board Meeting					
Health and Wellbeing Board Peer Review	To present the findings from the Health and Wellbeing Board Peer Review	For decision	24/04/2024	April Peberdy	Health and Wellbeing Steering Group
Local Response to the Cost of Living Increases	To provide updates on the impacts of the cost of living on local residents	For discussion	24/04/2024	Sean Murphy	Health and Wellbeing Steering Group
Delivery Plan Progress Report: Priority 5	To update on progress in implementing the actions set out in West Berkshire's Delivery Plan, focusing on the fifth priority to: <i>'Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults'</i>	For discussion	24/04/2024	April Peberdy	Health and Wellbeing Steering Group

Updated 28 November 2023

This page is intentionally left blank