



# Ageing Well Task Group

Update for HWB Steering Group

## Current Activity

- Ageing Creatively Community Café has opened at Theale Library with excellent attendance from the first session. The café is open every Monday afternoon and offers a varied programme of activities, information sharing and social connection opportunities to residents over the age of 55. This has been a great piece of partnership working between Ageing Well partners including The Corn Exchange, WBC Library service and Public Health & Wellbeing, as well as local community contacts such as the local church, community groups, businesses and the GP surgery.
- Nature for Health worked in partnership with Age UK Berkshire and volunteers from the Shaw House Community Garden and held a well attended bug house building activity workshop for carers during Carers week. Carers were able to bring their cared for along to the workshop which made a real difference in supporting attendance.
- Action planning workshop held which identified 3 new areas of focus in addition to the existing Falls Prevention work. As previously mini task and finish groups are being set up to agree and deliver on specific actions
  - Older people's oral health
  - Changing the perception of ageing
  - Wider health and wellbeing prevention at an earlier age

## Future Actions

- A number of possible falls prevention interventions have been researched and presented as potential uses of LIB funding for falls prevention. An update will be provided on the final decision in the next report.

# Building Communities Together Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group

## Current Activity

- The Partnership is due to meet on 16 July 2024.
- Current needs analysis to be completed which will inform the Partnership Plan (see 'Challenges').

## Serious Violence

- The Reducing Serious Violence Steering Group last met on 5 June 2024 Chaired by Chief Inspector David Whiteaker.
- Under the Serious Violence duty, a yearly needs analysis will be completed by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr. 2024/25 alongside a review of the current plan (by the end of November 2024). This will inform the Serious Violence Strategy for 2025/26 (see 'Challenges').
- Quarterly report due in to the OPCC to compile TVP report for the Home Office.
- Focus for the next quarter is on reviewing the needs analysis for serious violence for West Berkshire to identify any new trends or areas of focus in our strategy / delivery plan, and identifying ways to sustain any interventions or posts that are externally funded as current Home Office funding will end in April 2025
- Funding confirmed for the serious violence co-ordinator post until November 2025 via OPCC grant funding.
- Key work being developed at the moment links to a repeat of the schools' survey; work to be done with schools re Drugs referral policy; and a focus on understanding more about the risk factor associated with schools exclusions.
- Further problem-solving work continues with The Nightingales Estate which has continued to be a hotspot for violence, albeit reducing. This also links to the Safer Streets work referenced below.

## Safer Streets Fund

- SSF5 has faced a reduction in funding from the Home Office for 2024/25 but work on each of the five interventions continues.
- Project coordinator, Vicky Lees is now in post.
- Successfully interviewed 1 Safer Streets Guardian and the recruitment process has started.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> clear-up day scheduled for 30 July 2024.
- Leaflet in design to be distributed to residents in Greenham informing them of the project and activities.

## Anti-Social Behaviour

- Work in this area is currently extremely limited – see 'Challenges'.

## Prevent

- Annual Prevent benchmarking has highlighted areas where West Berkshire is not meeting its statutory duty.
- Prevent Risk Assessment is to be completed shortly.

- Next Prevent Steering Group scheduled 16 July.

### **Channel**

- Channel Panel meeting held 12/06/2024.
- 1 case to be discussed and 1 new referral adopted.
- Channel Annual Assurance Statement has highlighted areas where WBC is not meeting its statutory duty.

### **Domestic Abuse**

- 2024/25 funding confirmed for WBC under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021; MOU has been signed.
- Consultation on Domestic Abuse Strategy 2023-27 completed.
- Domestic Abuse Delivery Plan Workshop held to provide feedback on the proposed Delivery Plan.
- Domestic Homicide Review is being conducted.
- DHR Statutory Guidance Consultation response submitted.

### **Modern Slavery**

- The next Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement covering 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 will begin to be written and subject to sign off by Chief Executive.

### **Eastern Parish Conference**

- Eastern Parish Conference took place on 21 May 2024 as a result of feedback from the District Parish Conference held in January 2024. The Conference focused on developing the working relationship between West Berkshire Council and the town and parish councils with attendees focusing on 3 questions: What is working well? Areas for Improvement and Next Steps/Action Plan.

### **Community Forums**

- Report presented at Corporate Board for agreement on a formalised programme for Community Forums.
- Work underway to organise the next Community Forum.

### **Members' Community Bids**

- The processing of claims from the last Members Bids Panel on 28/11/2023 continues.
- Funding of Members Bids for 2024/25 has been agreed.

### **Future Actions**

- Future District Parish Conference scheduled for October.
- Organisation and delivery of Community Forums
- Domestic Abuse Strategy 2023-27 will be subject to approval by Executive once consultation closes.
- Serious Violence needs analysis to be completed and will inform the Serious Violence Strategy 2024/25.
- BCT Partnership needs analysis to be completed and will inform the Partnership Plan.
- Work to improve fulfilment of Prevent statutory duties.
- Work to improve fulfilment of Channel statutory duties.

## **Challenges**

Current uncertainty around the provision of analytical work from the OPCC which will impact needs analysis work that needs to be done ahead of developing the Serious Violence Strategy 2024/25 and the BCT Partnership Plan.

### **Staffing pressures within BCT Team:**

- Senior Community Co-ordinator Resolution post is currently vacant as the postholder is Acting BCT Team Manager. The majority of multi-agency anti-social behaviour related case work is no longer being done but any legislative requirements under the ASB, Crime and Policing Act 2014 are being prioritised.
- Equality Diversity and Inclusion Officer has recently resigned with only employee related work being addressed by HR. Remaining community related EDI work is currently 'on hold'.
- Senior Principal Officer is long-term sick.

### **Statutory Duties:**

- Channel Annual Assurance Statement has highlighted that WBC is not meeting its statutory duty – this has been escalated.
- Annual Prevent benchmarking has highlighted areas where West Berkshire is not meeting its statutory duty. Areas for improvement have been identified and are to be addressed.
- Community Coordinator (Prevention) continues to fulfil the DA Safe Accommodation duty via overtime.

# Children's Early Help & Prevention Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group

## Current Activity

Our last Children Prevention and Early Help Partnership, held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024, Rebecca Wilshire, new Service Director for Children's Social Care in West Berkshire Council picked up the chair of this Partnership.

## Early Help System Guide

This is an annual review of each local authority Early Help System. This is not intended for a single service. It is a review of the network of services, process and interaction that aim to help children, young people, and their families at the earliest opportunity. The early help System Guide outlines a national vision and descriptor for a mature Early Help System that is shared by DLUHC and DfE. It is produced by the national Supporting Families programme led by the DfE.

The system guide was discussed with partners, and feedback was sort to support its completion and submission.

More information on the Early Help System Guide can be found [here](#)

## Early Help Dashboard (Early Respond Hub)

A review of the Early Help Dashboard is reviewed at each meeting, this allows for scrutiny, oversight and appropriate challenge which support the development and delivery of early help. This evidence for Quarter 4 an increase in Early Response forms completed by Contact and Assessment (CAAS) and an increase in the timeliness of the forms, which is positive. Advice and Consultation was the highest outcome this quarter and 165 online referral forms was received. Parenting support was the highest referral reason. Engagement with Triple P session was at its highest this quarter and Child Mental Health was the significantly the highest risk factor followed b Parental Mental, poor school exclusion/attendance and Domestic Abuse.

## Early Help Early Response Hub (ERH)

ERH have completed an Annual Report outlining their work over the last year, this report demonstrates several positive areas of development, the work within the hub continues to strengthen and is clearly having a positive impact on those families which they support.

## Online Referral Forms

Following feedback on the online forms, changes have been made to make the form more accessible this was demonstrated in our last meeting and changes were welcomed.

## Supporting Families

An update was provided from the Supporting Families Operational Group – claims for this year are slightly under the desirable claims available, ongoing work in this area continues. The current funding linked to Supporting Families ceases in March 2025.

**Family Hubs**

Family Hub update shared, covering the cohort of families who are supported, and the development of family hubs explored on widening the scope of this work and how better engagement can be achieved with wider services for those children six and above. Hub work is heavily focused on 0-5yrs / Early Years, and wider development will explore how Family hubs, in partnership with other partners deliver a wider offer.

**Challenges from the CPEHP**

Capturing ethnicity of children open in Early Help: the system does not currently capture child's ethnicity and appropriate challenge about this and cultural sensitivity which will be explored further.

**Future Actions**

- Review the Terms of Reference for this group and update as required.
- Explore further development of Family Hubs and include wider partnership working.
- Continue to develop the Early Help Response Hub.

Rebecca Wilshire  
Service Director, Children's Social Care  
June 2024

# Health Inequalities Task Force

Update for HWB Steering Group



## Current Activity

The health inequalities task force has been stood down. This was a recommendation from the hot focus session as it was agreed that actions to reduce inequalities should be addressed by all sub-groups rather than in isolation.

## Future Actions

Actions to reduce inequalities and deliver on strategy priority one should be developed across all sub-groups and included in the delivery plan.

# Homelessness Strategy Group

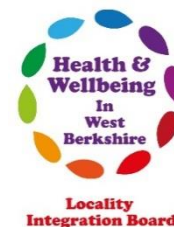
Update for HWB Steering Group



## **Actions and Updates from the last meeting:**

- Rough sleeping numbers continue to rise and discussed need to ensure all voluntary sector partners signpost clients to our Outreach Service rather than intervening themselves.
- Two tenders are due to go live imminently to replace existing adult Homelessness Contract and the Young Persons Homeless Contract.
- Membership of the group was discussed as there has been sharp drop in representation from key partners – this will be an action for the next meeting.
- Winter Provision project feedback - report to come to next HSG.
- Creation of Migration Steering group - on similar lines to HSG to be implemented following embedding the new Migration Team in the operational structure.
- Homeless hub action remains outstanding action for ongoing growth discussion by sub-group.





# Locality Integration Board

Update for HWB Steering Group

## Current Activity

Regular updates on Community Wellness Outreach Service received.

ASC CQC inspection report

Healthwatch's annual work plan shared.

Starting to receive updates from all funded services/schemes within BCF – Connected Care & Dementia Care Adviser Service in June 2024

### **Huge amount of focus on: -**

BCF year-end report – submitted to NHSE 23/5/24.

BCF refresh for 24/25 – submitted to NHSE 10/6/24, awaiting approval.

## Future Actions

Review of all schemes within BCF

Continue to receive updates from schemes within BCF: MH Street Triage, Care Homes (RRAT), Out of Hospital Services (Intermediate Care)

Work with health partners on enhancing data for Demand and Capacity plans for Hospital Discharge and Admission Avoidance

Receive update on Pharmacy First



# Mental Health Action Group

Update for HWB Steering Group – June 2024

## Current Activity

- Work has been continuing with service users and others to co-design a Mental Health Forum to bring together voluntary sector organisations, service users and mental health service providers to share information and feed any issues into the Mental Health Action Group. We have, rightly, been challenged as to whether this is the best way of bringing in the service user voice, so we continue to investigate other options which could complement a Forum.
- A meeting to explore the impact of bereavement on mental health and any significant needs that are not currently being met, is to be held in July.
- We have continued to support the establishment of the Mental Health Integrated Community Service (MHICS) in West Berkshire. We actively participated in a workshop to explore ways in which the service can be truly integrated, between service providers and with the community.
- We are planning a meeting in September to explore what support is, and could be made, available for people with mental health challenges to fill in forms and in other ways deal with officialdom. This seems to be a big and growing problem which puts considerable pressure on a number of voluntary organisations.
- We posted a set of 'Reading Well' (formerly Books on Prescription) leaflets to all West Berkshire GP practices and shared digital assets with a project manager from Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust for onward sharing.
- As part of mental health awareness week, we promoted the benefits of physical activity and asked our residents to consider how movement made them feel.

## Future Actions

- Discussions are planned with others doing work on digital inclusion with a view to identifying the various sources of support, and helping them learn from each other and possibly work collaboratively together.
- Discussing gaps, challenges and recommendations based on the draft state of the national mental health data report
- Work will continue on the other projects described above.

## Skills and Enterprise Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group – June 2024

### Current Activity

The SEP hasn't met since the last update provided to the HWBB in January. However, the update on planned actions is as follows:

	Planned Actions	Progress at June 2024
2.8.4	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 23, with a significant increase to 250 participants. The further funding bid for 2023/24 was discussed at the HWB Board, however there are currently no identified funds to support these activities in 23/24. Greenham Trust are providing continuing funding for part of the programme, but, at present, the offer to Schools has been reduced.
2.8.2	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	As previously reported, the 2023/24 annual Work & Careers Fair (the 'Destinations Expo') was successfully delivered on 12th October 2023 at Newbury College, with 1,200 young people from local secondary schools attending, and around 60 employers and other organisations exhibiting. Planning for the 24/25 Destinations Expo is well underway for 10th October 2024, with ambitious plans to increase attendance to 1,500 young people and to grow the number of employers and education providers exhibiting to 70. Recruitment of employers for the event is progressing well, and the meeting of the specific needs of students with SEND is embedded into the event.

1.4.6	<p>Green skills and jobs – seeking funding opportunities to extend the successful project, currently delivered in other areas of Berkshire, to develop skills and employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the Green economy (Groundwork)."</p>	<p>Groundwork South have secured funding in Reading to deliver 3 x 6 week Green Skills and Employability starting in September 24, the courses gives the participant the opportunity to learn new skills and gain a City and Guilds Brushcutter and Strimmer qualification.</p> <p>Funding sources are still being sought for West Berkshire to support a project which benefits both the SEND community and the wider community by improving the mental health and wellbeing of the participants and increasing employment outcomes.</p> <p>Groundwork also have a mixed 'Green and Blue' project in development, which will be a longer project. The participants will learn about river safety, invasive species their removal, and how they can support their local volunteers and employment progression in the industry. Both projects have proven that outdoor working has increased the mental health and wellbeing to the participants and in turn some have gained employment into the Green industries.</p>
1.4.7	<p>Supported Internships – development of local provision of supported internships to enhance the employment routes for people with disabilities (Newbury College).</p>	<p>The College have been working with WBC and 'Ways into Work' in developing two approaches: first, through the NHS 'Route to Recruit' strategy (led by Ways into Work) and identifies placements at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. Second, is placement in local businesses which links to WBC's target for twelve placements, with eight high needs learners currently identified, starting from September onwards.</p>
1.4.8	<p>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)</p>	<p>The DWP have been working with schools around Berkshire to deliver Employability Skills and have had some good feedback from those schools. Further details of West Berkshire activity to follow in the next quarter.</p>
<p><b>Future Actions</b> The SEP is continuing to work on the agreed actions outlined above.</p>		

# Substance Misuse Harm Reduction Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group

## Current Activity

- The last meeting took place on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2024, the next meeting is scheduled to take place on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2024.
- The Partnership agreed that owing to OHID's national priority to reduce the stigma related to the use of drugs and alcohol including language used, the Partnership's name should be changed to Substance and Behaviour Harm Reduction Partnership.
- The invite list is continuing to evolve to ensure we have representation from all relevant partners across West Berkshire.
- The S&BHR plan is currently being drafted in line with the Health and Wellbeing Board Plan. All partners have been requested to add relevant SMART actions and owners of these. The action plan will be a 'live' document to be reviewed at each meeting.
- A local plan for Nitazene is currently in draught and being reviewed by East and West Berkshire DPH's. Once agreed, this will be shared with the Partnership.
- Solutions 4 Health are now able to offer vapes to clients as part of the Swap to Stop scheme, in line with West Berkshire's vaping position statement.
- A plan is in place for the spending of the Local Stop Smoking Service and Support Grant funding.
- Drug testing on arrest has been given Home Office Funding, West Berkshire residents detained by police at Loddon Valley may be referred for drug testing on arrest. There will be mandatory testing for certain offences such as DA.
- Via have highlighted alcohol use as being an unmet need within West Berkshire so are focusing on improving their alcohol pathway. They have recently launched 'Renew' which is 6 brief interventions around wellbeing.
- A local drug related death panel has been set up to meet quarterly from April 24.
- Via are providing drug testing kits with two Naloxone kits as standard to service users owing to Nitazene overdoses requiring a higher dose of Naloxone.

## Future Actions

- The Drug and Alcohol Policy in schools is going to be reviewed and relaunched as it does not appear to be being utilised currently.
- A representative from the Community Wellness Outreach Programme will be invited to meetings moving forward.
- As we head into the summer holidays and festival season, plans to reduce potential harm related to alcohol and drug use among children and young people is required.