



# Ageing Well Task Group

Update for HWB Steering Group (February 2025)

## Membership

- **Public Health & Wellbeing**
- **Adult Social Care**
- **West Berkshire Library Service**
- **VCWB**
- **Sovereign Housing (Extra Care Scheme)**
- **Community United**
- **Eight Bells for Mental Health**
- **Corn Exchange**
- **BHFT Memory Clinic, Falls Service, Community Nursing**
- **Falkland Grange Care Home**
- **Winchcombe Place Care Home**
- **Age UK Berkshire – Dementia Friendly West Berkshire, Carers Partnership, Older Persons Services**
- **Get Berkshire Active**
- **SCAS**
- **RBFRS**
- **West Berkshire PCN Social Prescribers**
- **West Berkshire Methodist Churches**

## Current Activity

- **Task & Finish Group ongoing work with ASC to support non digital access and greater use of the new West Berkshire Directory.**
- **Focus on raising awareness and understanding of the impact of SCAMS on our older population. Speaker and partner workshop in planning.**
- **Focus on working with VIA, our drug and alcohol service, to raise awareness, understand barriers and encourage engagement in support around alcohol consumption in older people.**

## Future Actions

# Building Communities Together Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group (February 2025)

## Membership

**Chair: Joseph Holmes; Deputy Chair: Ch/Insp. Stewart Codling**

**Statutory Partners:** West Berkshire Council, Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service, Probation and Health (Public Health and Integrated Care Board)

The BCT Partnership also has representatives from: Community and Voluntary Sector, Healthwatch, Registered Housing Providers, Education, Faith Sector and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

## Current Activity

The Partnership met on 28/01/2025.

- The Domestic Abuse Related Death (DARD), previously known as a Domestic Homicide Review or DHR was signed off for submission to the Home Office. An Action Plan will now be developed to take forward the recommendations; this is usually discharged to Domestic Abuse Boards.
- The Partnership accept the updated version of the strategy as the 2025/26 West Berkshire Serious Violence Reduction Strategy for the next 12 months.

## Serious Violence

- The last meeting of the Serious Violence Steering Group took place on 05/12/2024. The next meeting is scheduled for 5/03/2025 and will be chaired by C/Insp Stewart Codling (interim Deputy Commander).
- As required under the Serious Violence Duty, a yearly needs analysis has been completed alongside a review of the current strategy and delivery plan. The Strategy has been shared for update on the WBC external website. It is also being updated for accessibility.
- Schools' survey is due to commence this quarter and will provide some useful analysis about children's views and concerns – both new and in comparison, with the previous survey; consultation continues via Berks Youth with more young people to ensure the strategy and delivery actions fit their needs and expectations.
- Focus for the next quarter is on completing those updates and identifying ways to sustain interventions that are externally funded as current Home Office funding will end in April 2025.
- Work is currently underway to try to identify funding for the Hospital Navigator scheme based at the RBH – currently at risk of ending due to grant funding coming to an end 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.
- A Bid has been submitted to fund virtual reality programmes linked to violence reduction and young people's decision making and choices.
- Awaiting update from the Home Office to determine whether there will be any SV funding beyond March 2025 and to better understand how proposed Prevention Partnerships are expected to be introduced and implemented.

## Safer Streets Fund

Work on the four interventions continues.

- CCTV – offenders of the extensive damage await CPS decision. Reinstallation of the cameras is planned thanks to funding from the Home Office and OPCC. Some of the cameras are to be relocated and additional preventative measures will be put in place.
- Clear Up day scheduled for 18/02/2025 and will be the last one of the SSF5 program. A Booth Bus has been arranged – this a mobile music/Podcast/Gaming studio which comes with a studio manager/supervisor who has experience of working with challenging communities. Other activities on the day will include litter picking, ground maintenance, free van hire for removal of white goods etc, maintenance repairs and food (provided by The Waterside).
- Outreach Youth Work have delivered 20 hours of detached youth work in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. resulting in 55 individual engagements. An open access Friday night youth session has been opened in the Community Centre Youth Room. It is called ‘The Chill’ and is typically attended by 9-12 young people, including a high number of young people who have been excluded from school. Partnering with Thames Valley ABC, a Saturday Boxing Taster session was held at Greenham Community Centre. Four young people attended and enjoyed the session.
- LIME are regularly engaging with schools and being very flexible to support schools deliver in whatever way they can: Park House and St Barts to begin delivery, Falkland and I-college continuing to use choices and deliver content. St Joseph’s hoping to use again this year having used in summer 2024.

#### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

- Work in this area is currently extremely limited.
- TVP have requested a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) for Pangbourne Meadows.

#### **Prevent**

- Annual Prevent assurance process is about to commence. 8 benchmarks are used to assess how West Berkshire is delivering the statutory duty. A meeting with the Home Office will take place in mid-February.
- 2024 Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) will be presented shortly.

#### **Channel**

- There are no current cases in Channel.

#### **Domestic Abuse**

- West Berkshire Domestic Abuse next meets in March 2025.
- The 2025/26 DA Duty Grant forms part of the local government settlement.
- Initial training dates for 2025 for Domestic Abuse Awareness Raising and Champions training have been released.

#### **Modern Slavery**

- The Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Statement 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024 submitted to the Home Office.

#### **Substance Misuse**

- A Bitesize Briefing took place on 27/01/2025 delivered by Thames Valley Alcoholics Anonymous with another Briefing being delivered by Via on 26/02/2025.

- Via hosted a very successful open day on 30<sup>th</sup> attendance is by registration through Eventbrite.

### **Community Forums**

- 10/09/2025 Community Forum on Planning was held at Thatcham Rugby Club and online.
- 19/11/2025 Community Forum took place on line and covered Winter preparedness, cost of Living and a couple of presentations on local initiatives.
- 25/02/2025 Community Forum will take place at Bucklebury Village Hall and online and will focus on the work of Highways. Comms went out 06/02/2025.

### **Members' Community Bids**

- Members Bid Panel will meet 11/02/2025 to discuss the applications submitted for the 2024/25 round.

### **Future Actions**

- Needs Analysis and refresh of the BCT Partnership Plan.
- Year-end reports for the OPCC, Serious Violence and Safer Streets.



Children's Early Help & Prevention Partnership

# Children's Early Help & Prevention Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group (February 2025)

## Membership

- The Advocacy People
- Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Brighter Futures for Children
- Children and Young People Voice
- Healthwatch West Berkshire
- Home Start West Berkshire
- Pangbourne Primary School
- Parent Carer Forum Representative
- Thames Valley Police
- Thatcham Park Primary School
- WBC Building Communities Together Team Manager
- WBC Emotional Health Academy Manager
- WBC Exclusion Reintegration Team Leader
- WBC Housing Manager
- WBC Operational Manager CFS
- WBC Senior Public Health Programme Officer
- WBC Service Director – Children's Social Care
- WBC Service Director - Communities & Wellbeing
- WBC Service Manager CFS
- WBC Team Manager CFS

## Current Activity

Our last Children's Prevention and Early Help Partnership was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December and our next is on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

### Early Help Dashboard (Early Response Hub)

At each quarterly meeting, the Early Help Dashboard is reviewed, this reflects the work mainly of the Early Response Hub (ERH) aside from early help contacts which are completed across CAAS Triage and ERH.

Q3: 972 early response forms were completed in Q3 (a decrease of 15% from Q2). We are going to continue to monitor this to understand the reasons for this decrease as this is unusual.

Timescales for completion remain similar to Q2 however a change in process within Q3 should impact positively on timescales as early help contacts are now completed within CAAS Triage,

at the very front door of Children's Services. Families come into ERH when further work is required (a home visit, intervention or Family First assessment).

Of the 972 early response forms:

- 159 were received via the digital referral form, the highest users of the form were schools who submitted 81 forms in the quarter (51%) – this is nearly 3 times as many as in Q2 (279% increase). This increase is primarily as a result of CAAS Triage redirecting referrers to complete the early help digital referral form when their telephoned concerns do not require a statutory response. It is hoped that this advice and signposting to the digital referral will eventually lead to direct referrals to the ERH digital referral form, when partner agencies feel confident in their determination of the level 2 threshold.
- Self-referrals via the online form were 38 (24%)
- Health colleagues utilised the form on 24 occasions (15%) – this is an increase from 8% in Q2.
- The remaining forms and percentages were made up of CAMHS (3%), EHA (2%), Internal (3%) or Other Agency (3%).

The most frequently occurring risk factor for this quarter was children's mental health, which is consistently the most frequently occurring risk factor across all quarters. In response to this ongoing concern, ERH are 'witnesses' to the Children's Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing Task Group, hearing evidence from a variety of agencies/services to then make recommendations for future service delivery for children's mental health.

Mirroring Q1 and Q2, 'Advice and Consultation' was the most frequent outcome of early help contacts followed by 'Referrals to Other Services' (which includes recommendations for Family First Assessments from CAAS Triage), 'My Family Plan' and 'Statutory Assessment'. 7 children were referred for a Young Carers Assessment.

77 interventions were completed this quarter. This is a significant increase from previous quarters and this is due to a change in measure for this data. Interventions now include partner agencies within ERH for example a domestic abuse consultation, involvement and intervention from the family hub worker based in ERH or an emotional health consultation.

The Child in Need pilot, previously linked with ERH, has now been aligned within the statutory element of CAAS. However, there remains close working and within the Family Achievement Model, there is scope for families to receive Early Help support when their needs no longer require statutory services.

221 Children had a Family First (FF) assessments in this quarter. This is compared to total number completed 149 in Q2, an increase of 32.5%. In regards to outcomes, 30 (13.5%) progressed for a statutory assessment, and 47 (21.2%) progressed for a My Family Plan. The majority ended with no additional action. Family First assessments were launched in April 2023 in response to data evidencing that a large proportion of s17 statutory assessments concluded with no further action, indicating that it was the assessment process itself which reduced the worries and concerns. However, the number of recommended s17 assessments has remained consistently high which may indicate that the children recommended for Family First

assessment would not have been recommended for s17 prior to the launch of FF assessments. This may indicate that further work to explore this and better understand the purpose of FF assessments is needed, within CAAS Triage.

There was 2 less referrals for Triple P 'Reducing Parental Conflict', including a reduction in parent engagement with Triple P sessions. However, there was an increase of professionals trained. From the 31 referred, 11 (35%) engaged with the programme, and 14 are waiting for the next group. This aligns more with Q1 (33%) compared to Q2 which was 60%.

Whilst there was a decrease in early response forms completed and Triple P engagement, overall, we see an increase in activity within ERH in Q3. There has been an increase in recommendations for community based My Family Plans (earlier help), and a 62% increase in referrals for Family Group Conference (27) compared to Q2 (17). There was also an increase of referrals to Young Carers (19) compared to Q2 (13) – an increase of 46%.

### **Supporting Families**

The current funding linked to Supporting Families ceases in March 2025. The specific projects that are funded through this grant are concluding their work by March 2025. Some of the work being delivered has been mainstreamed and will continue to be delivered by existing staff, however some projects will draw to a close due to this change in funding arrangements. These include

Family Hub link worker

Sovereign link worker (Housing)

Bounce Back For Kids

Youth Workers in Schools

Building Resilience project – currently delivered by Swings and Smiles, providing intervention and support to families with a child aged 3-11 pre or post diagnosis of an additional need.

Swings and Smiles have provided feedback on the outcomes of the project as we near the conclusion of the project. Out of the 62 families who have engaged with Swings and Smiles through the Building Resilience Programme, 29 have continued to access their services. This ongoing support is made possible through the partnership with the Early Response Hub, which ensures that families receive the right support at the right time. Since the role has been based at both the West Berkshire Council Office and Swings & Smiles, the staff member has been able to offer more consistent and accessible support to families, fostering increased engagement with the centre and helping to build a stronger sense of community.

### **Family Hubs – update from Beth Kelly Head of Early Years**

All Family Hubs have reviewed and updated referral, allocation, recording and closing processes – a new system is now aligned across all Hubs with recording sessions completed with Interim Head of Early Years by all Family Hub staff. Central and Calcot Family Hubs will commence recording on Care Director from 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Victoria Park and Hungerford Family Hubs will follow when IT challenges have been overcome (schools IT system creates delay), however they are commencing the new recording system from the same start date.

Exploration of how Family Hubs and ERH teams can co deliver Time Out For Parents courses to create further alignment across service areas this quarter. This will commence via observation of the courses and planning across service areas thereafter.

### **Future Developments**

We have recently introduced Right Support at the Right Time meetings within early help, which includes participation from statutory teams. The purpose of these reflective meetings is to ensure that the family are receiving the least intervention possible and are further aligned to ensure families have further access to the right help, at the right time, from the right person. These meetings are new within Q3, however 60 were held.

In the current quarter 4, the Early Response Hub have also started to attend library sessions across the district including the more rural locations, in order to promote the service to parents attending sessions at the library, as well as to the library staff. This is a pilot scheme for 4 weeks and engagement/progress/benefits of the drop-in sessions will be reviewed. Staff are advertising the service and providing families with a link to the online ERH referral form via a QR code.

### **New Case Management System**

A new case management system (Mosaic) will be implemented in October 2025, and work is in progress to ensure this system works across the Early Help areas.

Part of the future developments within the new case management system will be consideration of how early help referrals can be made directly to the Early Response Hub (whilst also ensuring that appropriate threshold decisions are applied), thus reducing the volume and demand of contacts into Children and Families front door as currently all contacts/referrals are responded to by social workers within CAAS Triage regardless of the nature of the enquiry (early help or safeguarding).

### **Future Actions**

ERH remains in high demand and future actions include:

- Continuing working with agencies and the voluntary sector to share knowledge and collaborate to promote a whole system approach in expanding the 'Family Help' agenda.
- The service response to the Family Help agenda is the continued use and development of the Family Help and Achievement model of practice.
- Further expansion and uptake of earlier help (My Family Plans) by community based professionals.
- Continuing to explore and analyse data to ensure all interventions and responses are timely.

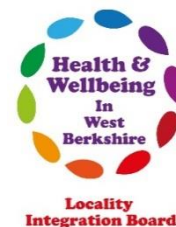




# Homelessness Strategy Group

Update for HWB Steering Group (February 2025)

The last meeting of the Homelessness Strategy Group was cancelled, and the next one is not due to take place until March.



# Locality Integration Board

Update for HWB Steering Group (February 2025)

## Membership

Service Director, Adult Social Care  
Place based Director, Integrated Care Board  
Public Health  
Primary Care – Clinical Directors  
Community Pharmacy, Thames Valley  
Healthwatch  
Portfolio Holder, Adult Social Care  
Berkshire Foundation Healthcare Trust  
Royal Berkshire Hospital  
Volunteer Centre

## Current Activity

- Oversight of BCF Metrics for 2024-25
- Oversight of BCF Expenditure for 2024-25
- Oversight of Community Wellness Outreach Service for 2024-25

## Future Actions

- BCF 2025-26 Narrative Plan, Planning Template and Demand and Capacity Plan for Intermediate Care
- Community Wellness Outreach Service for 2025-26 (Health and Inequalities in West Berkshire)
- Carers Strategy



# Mental Health Action Group

Update for HWB Steering Group (February 2025)

## Membership

We are currently reviewing the membership, but it currently includes the following organisations:

- West Berkshire Council – Public Health and Wellbeing
- West Berkshire Council – Adult Social Care
- West Berkshire Council – Elected Members
- Integrated care board
- Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust, Community Mental Health Team
- Eight Bells for Mental Health
- Recovery in Mind
- Healthwatch
- Community United

## Current Activity

- The MHAG has been reviewing its role and modus operandi. This has highlighted the importance of working with and through partner bodies (their commitment therefore being a prerequisite for success). It also recognises the requirement to actively engage with the strategic and operational processes emanating from the ICB, and a paper on the role of the MHAG was taken to the ICB Berkshire West Mental Health Programme Board. A paper outlining some of these issues and a proposal to amend the terms of reference of the MHAG, is due to be brought to a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board
- We have produced some resources signposting the many sources of help and support following a bereavement, including a new webpage promoted during Grief Awareness Week 2024 - <https://www.westberks.gov.uk/bereavement-advice>
- We continue to try to improve the communications and awareness of bodies helping members of the public (and especially those with mental health challenges) fill in long, complicated forms, with a view to making it easier for people to get the help they need.
- The new Mental Health Forum, co-produced with service users, that had its first meeting in October 2024, continues to meet monthly, and is providing valuable feedback on service users' experiences and concerns

## Future Actions

Future actions include:

- Continuing to support the development of the Mental Health Forum and facilitating forum meetings
- Supporting the Dying Matters Awareness Week (5th-11th May)

- Continuing the development of proposals to provide support to help people fill in forms.
- Reviewing and revising the health and wellbeing strategy delivery plan and identifying appropriate future actions
- Planning for Mental Health Awareness Week 2025 (12<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> May)
- Reviewing the membership, including inviting additional representatives from the voluntary sector
- Exploring the scope to align with other health and wellbeing subgroups (e.g. Ageing Well) where there is cross over.



# Skills and Enterprise Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group (February 2025)

## Membership

**EBP, West Berkshire Council, Groundwork, The Advocacy People, DWP, Healthwatch West Berks, Parkway Shopping, Newbury Weekly News, NHS, AWE**

## Current Activity

The Connect to Work initiative is aimed at targeting the hidden economically inactive community, which is a DWP initiative, linked to the Get Britain Working White paper.

This is at the planning stage and will be driven by Wokingham.

It was agreed we need to wait for more details on this scheme before we can decide how/if the SEP can best fit into this.

Adult and Community Learning will be continuing in West Berks for this academic year and they are awaiting confirmation of funding for 25/26.

In terms of a full action plan it was agreed we needed to wait for more guidance from the HWBB as to the future structure/ priorities before we could formulate a more detailed plan.

## Future Actions

Destinations Expo 2025 has been confirmed as taking place on 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2025 at Newbury College.

EBP continues to seek funding to expand the delivery of the DLS programme.

Groundwork are set to deliver 3 more projects in Reading over the coming 9 months and are also looking to potentially expand to Newbury.



Substance Behaviour Harm  
Reduction Partnership

# Substance Behaviour Harm Reduction Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group (February 2025)

## Membership

- West Berkshire Council - Public Health and Wellbeing (Chair)
- West Berkshire Council – Building Communities Together Team
- West Berkshire Council – Housing
- West Berkshire Council - Health in Schools Co-ordinator
- West Berkshire Council – Adult Social Care
- West Berkshire Council – Children’s Services
- Public Protection Partnership
- Thames Valley Police
- National Probation Service
- Education
- Combatting Drugs Partnership
- Berkshire West Tobacco Control Alliance
- BOB ICB
- Community Alcohol Partnership
- Solutions 4 Health
- Health Watch West Berkshire
- Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
- VIA
- Soup Kitchen
- Berkshire Women’s Aid
- Two Saints
- Sovereign Housing
- South Central Ambulance Service
- Community Wellness Outreach

## Current Activity

### Actions Update:

- Continue to support Lambourn Junction CIC and report outcomes back to H&W Borad

There have been no further Lambourn Junction CIC meetings, however Jason Kew provided a drugs information session to Lambourn racehorse trainers. Moreover, consistent polices on how to address issues of drugs use within the workplace are being drafted, which it is anticipated Via will support with.

- Ensure drug alert pathway is clear, consistent and reaches required partners

A formal drug alert pathway has been developed and agreed by the Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP). West Berkshire’s pathway has been circulated across Berkshire by the CDP as a best practice example.

- Parental supply of alcohol campaign to be delivered

A parents guide to preventing underage drinking over Christmas and New year was developed and sent to West Berkshire secondary schools for wider circulation in the run up to Christmas.

The last meeting of the partnership took place on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2025.

Change Grow Live attended to provide an overview of the Individual Placement and Support (IPS) programme they deliver to adult individuals in recovery treatment to find and maintain suitable paid employment. An employment specialist will be starting with Via imminently to deliver the IPS programme to eligible residents across West Berkshire.

Furthermore, Via informed that they commenced a Family and Friends structured support programme in January for those supporting individuals in treatment.

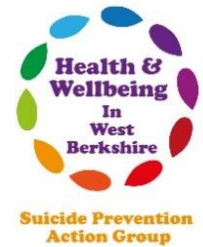
At the beginning of October, West Berkshire's Community Wellness Outreach provision contract variation to include Tobacco Dependency Advisors was signed by all parties. This variation is being funded using the Local Stop Smoking Service and Support grant. Solutions 4 Health have reported that since October over 100 clients have set a smoking quit date. Figures for achieving a four and 12 week quit are yet to have been provided.

West Berkshire's Public Health have received confirmation from the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) that the LA have been allocated a further £181,377 funding through the Local Stop Smoking Service and Support grant, to be spent in year 2025/26 on enhancing local stop smoking services and support. An additional 252 residents are expected to set a smoking quit date during 2025/26. The effective spending of this grant is being considered.

The SBHRP Plan has been reviewed. Of the 18 actions captured within the plan, 17 have been completed. The one action not completed, update and relaunch the Smokefree Home campaign across the LA, is in progress, however owing to resource capacity is yet to have been completed.

### **Future Actions**

- Update the SBHRP Plan to incorporate more partners and increase the breadth as current plan is more child/ young person and smoking centric.



# Suicide Prevention Action Group

Update for HWB Steering Group (February 2025)

## Membership

The West Berkshire Suicide Prevention Action Group (SPAG) is a fluid multi agency working group currently comprising representatives of the following organisations:

- Volunteer Centre West Berkshire who chair and lead the work with a volunteer, Garry Poulson (who established the group in May 2017)
- Newbury Samaritans – Jerry Dixon who serves as vice-chair of SPAG
- West Berkshire Council – Cllr Heather Codling
- The Suicide prevention outreach worker/trainer Sue Bennett
- Dingley Support – Michaela
- Thames Valley Police - Sgt Darren Little
- Newbury Weekly News - Andy Murrill
- Thatcham Town Council - Cllr Susanne Adamantos
- West Berks Public Health - Paul Graham and Catherine Greaves
- A layperson - Karen Swaffield
- West Berks Action for Refugees - Karen Reeve and Chandni Vazquez
- Citizens Advice West Berkshire - Isabel Esperança
- Berkshire Youth - Kelly Leach
- Network Rail

## Current Activity

Provision of accredited first aid Suicide Prevention courses (half-day).

Provision of accredited Suicide Prevention Courses full day for those that work with young people.

The group has created a QR code with the wording 'Feeling Low?' on its border, which has been recently printed and is being applied to the rear of toilet doors within public houses, coffee shops etc. These QR codes when photographed take the person directly to the SPAG website which provides sources of immediate and non-immediate emotional support.

It has been reported that the currently funded post suicide family support charity may not be funded for Berkshire West. The chair has sought continued funding and he has been in contact with senior commissioners at BOB



**Future Actions.**

Recent suspected suicides within the immediate vicinity of Thatcham Railway station have prompted the chair to establish a meeting with Network Rail and colleagues in Reading and Slough. The chair has asked what resources are available in terms of video surveillance together with the ability to communicate with people who are on or near the railway platforms. This question has been put, but there is no answer at this stage. The chair seeks the support of colleagues within Public Health to add pressure to Network Rail with a view to establishing more preventative measures both physical barriers and tech-based solutions.

***Garry Poulson - Chairman***