

# Ageing Well Task Group

Update for HWB Steering Group (June 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

- Ongoing work with ASC to support non digital access and greater use of the new West Berkshire Directory – online webinars on how to use the directory are being delivered and work to recruit Directory Champions who will support those who are not digitally enabled to access the directory.
- Alcohol consumption in the over 55's – Via attending next meeting to deliver a presentation on service offer and referrals/ treatment pathways and take Q & A
- Comms for Alcohol Awareness week to be shared through partners and Dementia Friendly West Berkshire Members

## Future Actions

- Explore changing perceptions and stigma around ageing.

- **Develop an Ageing Positively pack that can be shared with partners and the new outreach hubs.**

# Building Communities Together Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group

## **Membership:**

West Berkshire Council  
Thames Valley Police  
BOB ICB  
Probation  
Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue  
Health Watch  
DWP  
Sovereign Network Group  
Volunteer Centre West Berkshire  
Office Police and Crime Commissioner

## **Current Activity:**

### **Building Communities Together Partnership:**

Next meeting 15 July 2025.

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

ASB Case Review invoked, and meeting held 16/06/2025.

Implementation of the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in Pangbourne Meadows is progressing.

### **Channel:**

No current cases in Channel.

Two reviews have been done on closed cases; neither have been re-opened.

### **Domestic Abuse:**

Work has begun to develop a set of tiered training standards – Draft in process with T&F group.

Working with TVP to set an expectation around data to ensure the right and relevant information is communicated and supports change.

Development of a Berkshire Suicide prevention Toolkit for professionals working with DA survivors being developed with partner agencies and professionals. Draft complete, feedback from wider professionals discussed and work is continuing.

MHCLG return in process (accountability for DA Grant spend) – deadline end of June.

As part of the Multi Agency Safeguarding Reforms (Tri-Borough – WBC/Wokingham/Reading), action plans have been drafted to drive improvement through partnership working within the BWSCPA. One of the 5 key priorities is around DA – **‘Safeguarding and Support for Children and**

**Young people from Domestic Abuse'**. DA Lead worked with professionals to further develop objectives and actions for this priority which will support development of the plan.

Recent DA Commissioners Office reports:

[Shifting the scales: Transforming the criminal justice response to domestic abuse](#) January 2025

[Victims in their own right? Babies, children and young people's experiences of domestic abuse](#)

**Prevent:**

Home Office have asked for notification of any community tensions linked to the recent escalation between Israel and Iran.

Prevent Training has been made mandatory for all WBC staff. This will be rolled out once the access and compliance has been worked through; this is in response to the 2024/25 WBC benchmarking assessment by the Home Office.

A Venue Hire Policy is going to the Risk Management Group in July; this is in response to the 2024/25 benchmarking assessment by the Home Office.

Updates and training provided to education partners (Headteachers/DSLs) with a focus on significant changes following recent reviews and 'Martyn's Law'.

**Serious Violence:**

Work continues with a new Chair for the Steering Group to review and update the delivery plan. Next meeting 19<sup>th</sup> June.

Having commissioned training and delivery of a series of Virtual Reality programmes to enhance work with young people, these are now being used in West Berks to tackle issues such as knife crime, exploitation, substance misuse, decision making, influence and healthy relationships. Final training delivery is in early July.

The current focus is the development of Prevention Partnerships and Prevention Panels in line with the anticipated updated stat duty guidance and working with the OPCC to try to identify a way to deliver Diversion Panels which would have the ability to become the Prevention Panels that will be required through the duty. There are currently some challenges with the OPCC proposals that all areas are working to try to overcome.

**Safer Streets Fund 5:**

The Safer Streets Round 5 has now come to an end finishing in April 25, however the CCTV part of the project continues and after suffering criminal damage on the first instalment in October 2024 the second phase will be Mid-June 25 with a joint TVP operation where the CCTV will go live in The Nightingales estate.

There is continued work with Berkshire Youth who have taken over the Community centre on the estate and continue with Youth and community work.

There will be a Community Café opening every Tuesday from Mid-June.

**Substance Misuse:**

Following the success of the Drug Testing on Arrival (DTOA) pilot in Maidenhead custody suite, the process will be implemented force wide. This process aims to consolidate the pathway from custody into treatment. In addition, opiate substitute treatment is now available in police custody, reducing the risk of relapse and increasing continuity of care.

Thames Valley Police, Frontline Officers are now equipped with Naloxone. Currently the rate of deployment by TVP is very low, Via will resupply local West Berkshire Officers upon an overdose. Officers can also seek replacement kits from Mountain Healthcare in Police Custody.

Via - Commissioned Drug & Alcohol Service

- 7 new peer mentors have successfully completed training
- Women & girls accessibility project completed resulting in a tailored action plan to ensure robust support offering for this cohort
- Evidence based Young People ketamine pathway launched
- Opiate specific, evidence based, structured programme launched

**Public Health/BCT Team:**

**Dementia Action Week (DAW):**

A successful Dementia Action Week was held at the end of May across the district. A variety of events were put on to inform and educate the residents of West Berkshire about Dementia, focusing on reducing the stigma and signposting people to support. We had support from businesses, partners and local community groups.

**Future Actions:**

**Anti-Social Behaviour:**

Expiry of Public Spaces Protection Order Thatcham in November 2025.

**Channel:**

New Chair to take lead on Channel Panel meetings (from July)

**Domestic Abuse:**

Delivery Plan priorities – Ongoing

Develop timeline for recommissioning of DA Core Service (from March 2027).

**Modern Slavery:**

Modern Slavery Statement 2025/26 to be completed.

**Prevent:**

Local Risk Assessment to be completed.

**Serious Violence:**

Strategic Needs Assessment to be conducted for 2024/25 which will inform the Serious Violence Action Plan.

**Substance Misuse:**

Following the ban on the sale of disposable vapes on 1<sup>st</sup> June, and potential impact on young people who have been using them resulting in a nicotine dependence, we are exploring model options, costing and budget to provide a young person's quit nicotine service in West Berkshire. The ban may also see an increase in the use of nicotine pouches among children as these are currently not regulated or age restricted.

Partnership working to promote Alcohol Awareness Week (7-11 July 2025).

Partnership working with Ageing Well Task Group and Dementia Friendly West Berkshire to raise alcohol awareness and encourage engagement in community treatment for older people.



Children's Prevention &  
Early Help Partnership

# Children's Prevention & Early Help Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group

## Membership:

Rebecca Wilshire – Service Director, Children and Family Service

Heather Codling – Lead Member, Children's Services

Melissa Fry – Primary Head Teacher

Alex O'Connor – Building Communities Together Manager

Beth Kelly – Service Manager Early Years and Family Hubs

Nerys Probert – Children's Lead for Public Health

Grace Green – CEO Home Start West Berkshire

Sarah Emery – CEO Berkshire Youth

Dave Wraight – YJST and Early Help

Jody Gordon – Emotional Health Academy

Steph Coomber – Early Response Hub

## Current Activity: the subgroup met on 09/06/2025

### Key Discussion Points:

#### Early Help Data

- Updated early help data, now aligned with South East (SE) benchmarks and reported monthly instead of quarterly in datazone.
- The data includes early help contacts and outcomes, with a suggestion to include total contact numbers for better context.
- The new format aims to improve comparability with other local authorities.

#### Update on reforms - Family Help and next steps

- The Department for Education (DfE) has introduced significant reforms to family help and child protection services through the Families First Partnership (FFP) programme
- Key Aims of the Reforms: Transform family support by creating a more seamless, multi-agency system that intervenes earlier and more effectively.
- Keep families together where safe and possible, reducing the need for children to enter care.
- Family Help: A new, integrated model combining Targeted Early Help and Child in Need services.
- Introduction of Family Help Lead Practitioners and multi-disciplinary teams.
- Emphasis on early identification of needs and coordinated support plans.
- Establishment of Multi-agency Child Protection Teams
- Family Group Decision Making Embedded across the system to empower families in planning and decision-making.

#### Early Help Survey Feedback

A co-production piece of work is taking place at the moment gathering feedback and information from partners in the Early Help space. The initial feedback was shared:

#### Strengths

- Multi-agency collaboration is widely praised, especially where managers/staff are approachable and responsive.

- Family Hubs are seen as welcoming, flexible, and trusted by families.
- Positive relationships between Early Help staff and schools, with good communication and responsiveness.

#### Areas for Improvement

- My Family Plans (MFPs) are often seen as duplicative, inflexible, and burdensome for schools and families.
- Gaps in parenting support, especially for early years and neurodivergent children.
- Inconsistent service access, particularly in rural areas and for families not meeting statutory thresholds.

#### Ideas and Suggestions

- Introduce family-led planning models and reduce reliance on school-led MFPs.
- Develop satellite Family Hubs in rural areas and co-locate professionals (e.g., health visitors, youth workers).
- Expand digital access (e.g., apps, online directories) and improve information sharing.

#### Emerging Themes

- Mental health needs are rising, especially among primary-aged children and those with trauma or SEN.
- Service fragmentation and threshold confusion are leading to missed opportunities for early intervention.
- Digital exclusion and venue constraints are limiting access to support.

Workshops will be taking place in June to deepen understanding and plan the next steps.

#### **Youth Survey Feedback**

A survey took place among secondary school aged children in West Berkshire in February, the initial findings of the survey were shared with a full report being written and will be share more widely.

#### **Future of the meeting given changes around Reforms**

- Concerns raised about overlap with other meetings and questioned the necessity and effectiveness of this meeting.
- Noted that the Health and Wellbeing Board is reviewing the structure and purpose of subgroup meetings.
- The group agreed to revisit the terms of reference after clarifying the meeting's future role.

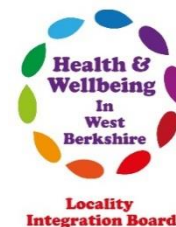
#### **Future Actions**

Ongoing developments of the Family Help reforms

Coproduction work in Universal Early Help and family Hubs

Development of the Youth Survey results

Future of the group following decisions by the Health and Wellbeing Board (Survey to be submitted)



# Locality Integration Board

Update for HWB Steering Group (February 2025)

## Membership

Service Director, Adult Social Care  
Place based Director, Integrated Care Board  
Integration Lead  
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
- Sign-off of 2025-26 BCF Plan (now complete)

## Future Actions

- Oversight of delivery of Community Wellness Outreach Service for 2025-26
- Oversight of completion of Section 75 agreement reflecting 2025/26 BCF plan
- Oversight of BCF metrics for 2025-26
- Oversight of BCF expenditure 2025-26
- Oversight of Carers Strategy delivery
- Development of principles for Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (support NHS 10 Year plan/3 big shifts), linking to BOB and Berkshire West Neighbourhood working programmes and other partners involved in this work.
- Review of any forthcoming guidance relating to future BCF arrangements and development of plan for 2025-26.

- Sharing of key priorities / issues between partners and providing general support for integrated working
- Ensuring link with Berkshire West Urgent Care Programme Board around BCF and other shared areas of work.



# Mental Health Action Group

Update for HWB Steering Group (June 2025)

[N.B. abbreviations used in this report listed at the end of the report]

## Membership

Membership currently includes the following organisations:

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

## Current Activity

In the light of the LGA review of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the subsequent establishment of a working group to take this forward, the MHAG has not embarked on any new work.

- Mental Health Forum. The recently established, and co-produced Mental Health Forum continues to meet and provide valuable feedback. Amongst recent discussions were:
  - Presentation by BHFT's Service User Network (SUN) with agreement to provide mutual support between our two groups
  - Discussion on services for people in mental health crisis, the limitations of current arrangements and potential improvements
  - Experiences at Prospect Park Hospital. One earlier comment had been about the quality of the food and it had been later discovered that in the latest PLACE assessment, ward food at the hospital was 376th out of 391 mental health trusts who had such a score. This has since been taken up with BHFT.
  - Mapping of the range of mental health services in the public and voluntary sectors with a view to making people more aware of the pathways of care available.
- Bereavement. Following earlier work, contact has been with partner organisations to consider how best to take this work forward. Short term outputs being considered include
  - Provision of information to make people more aware of the potential impact of bereavement and the many sources of help available
  - Training or support for front-line staff who may deal with people who are bereaved
  - Initiatives to enhance or strengthen buddying and peer support
- A report was prepared for the Health and Wellbeing Board exploring the modus operandi of the Mental Health Action Group, how it can fulfil its objectives, as a partnership committee, in the context of the HWB's primary goal of developing and implementing a health and

wellbeing strategy. This has not been taken forward, in the light of the continuing review of the HWB.

### **Future Actions**

As noted above, in the light of the current review, the MHAG has paused its development of a future work programme. However, previous discussions had considered the following as possible areas in which to be involved.

- Further work on bereavement
- Feeding in to reviews and developments in supporting people in mental health crisis (already in various plans including the ICB's Joint Forward Plan and work of the BOB Mental Health Provider Collaborative).
- Aligning and working with other HWB sub-groups on overlapping issues such as loneliness, dementia etc.
- Whole-person care and the further development of neighbourhood services

### **Abbreviations**

BHFT – Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (community and mental health provider)

HWB - Health and Wellbeing Board

BOB – Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (the area currently covered by the ICB)

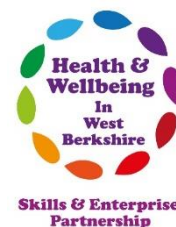
ICB – Integrated Care Board

LGA – Local Government Association

MHAG – Mental Health Action Group

PLACE – Patient Led Assessment of the Care Environment (a national scheme of patient assessments)

SUN – Service User Network (co-produced peer support meetings for people with mental health problems under the aegis of BHFT).



# Skills and Enterprise Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group (June 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 2025/26.

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 (June 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

The last meeting of the partnership took place on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

### Actions Update:

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

It was agreed by colleagues in attendance at the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> that the TOR and update SBHRP Plan be put on hold until decisions have been made by the Health & Wellbeing Board regarding priority areas and which sub-groups if any may be stood down.

Using the Local Stop Smoking Service and Support grant funding a target outreach stop smoking provision for residents employed in routine and manual professions is in the process of being

commissioned through Solutions 4 Health. It is anticipated that the service will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> July subject to a 12 month plus 3-month extension contract.

The universal stop smoking service is due for recommissioning from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2026. An Integrated Healthy Lifestyle Service incorporating smoking and healthy weight is being considered as a jointly commissioned provision between West Berkshire and Reading.

A business case is in the process of being completed for consideration for commissioning a quit vaping/ nicotine service for West Berkshire children to access.

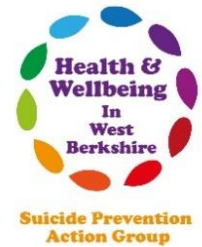
The Community Alcohol Partnership (CAP) has identified West Berkshire to be one of six pilot areas in the country to be part of the development and implementation of an initiative to promote an alcohol-free childhood by reducing the parental supply of alcohol. West Berkshire's CAP Coordinator is attending an initial launch meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

Via noted they are receiving very few hospital referrals and those they have received have not contained patient contact details or when contacted patients have declined support. A meeting is being set up between Via and NHS to look at barriers and strengthening referral pathways.

There have been two recent drug alerts relating to green pills containing nitazenes that have resulted in fatalities in London, Oxfordshire and Bracknell. Both alerts were circulated to all relevant partners including schools, Newbury College and the nighttime economy as recommended by the CDP.

### **Future Actions**

- Update TOR and plan if confirmation received that the sub-group will be continuing
- Drug alert pathway to be further refined to ensure that there is an accurate distribution list with up-to-date contact details and contingency plans are in place in case of distributing officer absences.



# **Suicide Prevention Action Group**

Update for HWB Steering Group

## **Membership**

**The current members are**

**VCWB, West Berkshire Education, West Berkshire Public Health, West Berkshire Highways, Thatcham Town Council, Newbury Samaritans, West Berkshire Action for Refugees, Gamcare, Racing Welfare, lay people, Newbury Soup Kitchen,**

**Current Activity Providing accredited training, campaigning on two current locations, Lambourn Racing Industry and Thatcham Railway station. Ensuring ongoing funding for Amparo The suicide bereavement charity. To consider real time statistics provided by Thames Valley Police, consider new issues as they arise**

**Future Actions. To bring about more suicide first aid training across West Berkshire**