# 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 THURSDAY 7 MAY 2026

**Present**: Councillor Nigel Foot (Chairman), Helen Clark (Vice-Chairman), Councillor Patrick Clark, Councillor Heather Codling, Councillor Joanne Stewart, Paul Coe, Clare Lawrence, Gail Muirhead, Dr Matt Pearce, Rachel Peters, Helen Williamson, Mike Fereday (Substitute) (In place of Fiona Worby) and Hannah Hollis (Substitute) (In place of Dr Janet Lippett)

**Also Present:** April Peberdy (Service Director - Communities) and Gordon Oliver (Principal Policy Officer)

**Apologies for inability to attend the meeting:** Councillor David Marsh, AnnMarie Dodds, Dr Janet Lippett, Rebecca Morgan and Fiona Worby

**Absent:** Councillor Jeff Brooks and C/Supt Felicity Parker

## PART I

### 107 Election of Chairman

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Nigel Foot be appointed as Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board for the 2026/27 Municipal Year.

### 108 Election of Vice Chairman

**RESOLVED** that Helen Clark be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

### 109 Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 January 2026 were approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 110 Actions arising from previous meeting(s)

The updates on actions from previous meetings were noted.

### 111 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest received.

### 112 Public Questions

There were no public questions submitted to this meeting.

### 113 Members' Question(s)

A full transcription of the Member question and answer session is available from the following link: **Transcription of Q&As**.

### 114 Petitions

There were no petitions presented to the Board.

## 115 Health and Wellbeing Board Membership

The following changes to the Board's membership were noted:

- Helen Clark added as the Integrated Care Board (ICB) representative.
- Ashley Milum replaced Neil Goddard as a substitute for AnnMarie Dodds

It was noted that the ICB was still in the process of allocating roles, so their representative may change in future.

It was noted that the GP representative for the Board was yet to be confirmed, but Dr Pete Osborne was attending until a permanent representative had been elected.

The Board voted to suspend standing orders for the remainder of the meeting to allow Dr Osborne to speak.

## 116 West Berkshire Best Start Local Strategic Plan 2026-2028

Dave Wraight (Service Lead - Youth Justice, Family Hubs and Partnerships) presented the Best Start in Life Strategic Plan.

The Board recognised that early years were critical to successful outcomes but acknowledged the challenges in addressing hidden inequalities in a relatively affluent area like West Berkshire.

It was agreed that the Board should receive regular updated on progress and that Board Members should hold each other to account on delivery and seek to unblock any issues.

Members asked about the recruitment and retention of skilled practitioners. It was noted that the Strategic Plan would be delivered by a broad range of roles and partners. It was acknowledged that there was a national shortage in some roles (e.g., health visitors), but the Council had attracted a large number of strong applicants when recruiting recently to Family Support Worker roles. Lessons would be learned across sectors and from neighbouring local authorities. It was noted that action was also being taken nationally by central government to respond to recruitment pinch points.

**RESOLVED** to note the report.

## 117 Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan

The Board considered the Health and Wellbeing Board Forward Plan.

It was agreed to add a progress report on the Best Start in Life Delivery Plan to the January agenda.

*(The meeting commenced at 9.30 am and closed at 10.00 am)*

**CHAIRMAN** …….

**Date of Signature** …….