

READING HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD MINUTES - 20 JANUARY 2023

Present:

Councillor Ruth McEwan (Chair)	Lead Councillor for Education and Public Health, Reading Borough Council (RBC)
Tehmeena Ajmal	Chief Operating Officer, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT)
Councillor Jason Brock	Leader of the Council, RBC
Andy Ciecierski (Vice-Chair)	Clinical Director for Caversham Primary Care Network
Tracy Daszkiewicz	Director of Public Health for Berkshire West
Councillor John Ennis	Lead Councillor for Adult Social Care, RBC
Brian Grady	Interim Executive Director of Children's Services (& Director of Education), Brighter Futures for Children (BFfC)
Councillor Graeme Hoskin	Lead Councillor for Children, RBC
Alice Kunjappy-Clifton	Lead Officer, Healthwatch Reading
Gail Muirhead	Prevention Manager, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service (RBFRS)
Steve Raffield	LPA Commander for Reading, Thames Valley Police
Rachel Spencer	Chief Executive, Reading Voluntary Action
Eamonn Sullivan	Chief Nurse, RBFT
Sarah Webster	Executive Director for Berkshire West ICB
Melissa Wise	Acting Executive Director of Adult Social Care & Health

Also in attendance:

Esther Blake	Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership Manager
Keith Brown	Independent Chair, West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board
Dan Devitt	Senior Public Health Strategist, RBC
Alison Foster	Programme Director, Building Berkshire Together, RBFT
Chris Greenway	Assistant Director for Commissioning and Transformation, RBC
Deborah Hunter	Principal Educational Psychologist, BFfC
Lajla Johansson	Assistant Director of Joint Commissioning, Berkshire West, BOB ICB
Kathryn MacDermott	Director of Strategic Planning, BHFT
Jill Marston	Senior Policy Officer, RBC
Sunny Mehmi	Assistant Director for Operations, Adult Social Care, RBC
Jo Middlemass	Community Partnerships Service Manager, RBC
Bev Nicholson	Integration Programme Manager, RBC
Amanda Nyeke	Public Health & Wellbeing Manager, RBC
Councillor Simon Robinson	Conservative Group Observer
Martin White	Consultant in Public Health, RBC
Helen Williamson	Divisional Director, Mental Health, BHFT

Apologies:

Paul Illman	Royal Berkshire Fire & Rescue Service
Theresa Wyles	Urgent & Unscheduled Care Manager, BHFT
Jackie Yates	Chief Executive, RBC

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Brock declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 34 as the Chair of the BOB ICP.

33. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

34. DEVELOPING THE BOB INTEGRATED CARE STRATEGY

Sarah Webster gave a presentation updating the Board on the development of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care Strategy. A copy of the draft Integrated Care Strategy (Appendix 1) and a briefing note setting out Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WB) members' feedback to the draft strategy consultation (Appendix 2) had been provided with the agenda papers. A copy of the presentation slides had also been circulated with the agenda papers.

The presentation explained that the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) were responsible for developing the Integrated Care Strategy which would set a clear direction for the system and promote joint working to meet the local population's health, care and social needs. The purpose of the strategy was to:

- Help to improve the public's health and wellbeing
- Reduce health inequalities in access, experience and outcomes across the system;
- Bring learning from across places and the system to drive improvement and innovation;
- Address problems that would benefit from a system response and multiple partners.

The draft strategy outlined the vision and principles that would help to guide the work of the ICP. The five core principles were:

- Preventing ill-health;
- Tackling health inequalities;
- Providing person centred care;
- Supporting local delivery;
- Improving join up between our services.

The draft strategy set out the ICP's priorities. A total of 18 priorities had been proposed. The 18 priorities could be divided in the following categories:

- Promoting and protecting health;
- Start Well;
- Live Well;
- Age Well;
- Improving quality of and access to services.

A public consultation on the draft strategy had commenced on 13 December 2022 and would run until 29 January 2023. Feedback from the consultation would inform the final version of the strategy which was due to be published at the end of February 2023.

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It was noted that members of the Health and Wellbeing Board had met on 9 January 2023 to discuss and provide feedback on the content of the draft strategy. Following the meeting a briefing note containing the Board's feedback had been produced (see Appendix 2). Feedback from the group fell into the following three categories:

- How the ICP strategy would sit alongside the Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy;
- Representation of the community;
- Acknowledging wider influences on health (such as health inequalities).

At the meeting it was agreed that the Acting Executive Director of Adult Social Care & Health, in consultation with the Chair, would take the content of the briefing note and submit a formal response to the draft strategy consultation on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

Resolved -

- (1) That the presentation be noted;**
- (2) That the Acting Executive Director of Adult Social Care & Health, in consultation with the Chair, submit a formal response to the draft strategy consultation on behalf of the Health & Wellbeing Board.**

(Cllr Brock declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 34 as the Chair of the BOB ICP)

35. WEST OF BERKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULTS BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021-2022

Professor Keith Brown submitted a report presenting the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) Annual Report for 2021-22. A copy of the SAB's Annual Report was attached at Appendix 1.

The report outlined the role of the SAB, listed the priorities that the SAB had set for the previous 2021/22 year and detailed the priorities that the SAB had set for the forthcoming 2022/23 year. The SAB's Annual Report 2021-22 outlined the achievements of the SAB during 2021/22 across the Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham areas and included:

- statistics on the number of safeguarding concerns recorded;
- trends identified across the West Berkshire area;
- details of the risks identified and the actions taken to mitigate them;
- details of the progress made towards the 2021/22 priorities;
- summaries of the Adult Safeguarding Reviews conducted by the SAB; and
- further details of the key priorities set by the SAB for 2022/23.

The Board discussed the content of the report and adult safeguarding matters in the Reading area, noting in particular that the number of safeguarding concerns recorded in the Reading area in 2021/22 had increased significantly but that these reports had not resulted in a rise in the number of safeguarding enquiries then taken forward. It was suggested that this rise could partially be attributed to the work done to increase the profile of adult safeguarding as an area of concern, which had resulted in a noticeable rise in the number of safeguarding concerns recorded nationally. In Reading a considerable amount of work had been done to create and improve reporting mechanisms to allow professionals and members of the public to submit safeguarding

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concerns with ease and without barriers. In many instances, safeguarding did not meet the threshold required to generate a safeguarding enquiry but it was felt that an open-door approach with suitable triage and assessment would help to ensure that genuine safeguarding concerns were captured and were acted upon appropriately.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

36. READING'S COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY 2023-2026 AND READING'S DOMESTIC ABUSE AND SAFE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY 2023-2026

Jo Middlemass and Steve Raffield gave a presentation introducing the Reading Community Safety Partnership's Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy 2023-2026 and Reading's Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategy 2023-2026, which had been also been endorsed and adopted by the Housing, Neighbourhoods & Leisure Committee on 4 January 2023 (Minutes 28 & 29 refer). Copies of the presentation slides and both strategies had been circulated with the agenda papers.

The presentation explained the role and composition of Reading's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) and highlighted the need to work in partnership and to develop wider links with bodies such as the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The presentation noted that CSPs were required to produce a strategy for the reduction of crime and disorder following the completion of a comprehensive strategic assessment to understand the levels and patterns of crime and disorder in the local area. Additionally, the introduction of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Court Act 2022 had placed further requirements on CSPs in the form of a 'Serious Violence Duty' which required partnerships formulate an evidence-based analysis of the problems associated with serious violence in their local area and produce and implement a strategy detailing how they would respond to those issues identified.

Reading's CSP had opted to produce a combined Community Safety and Serious Violence Strategy for 2023-2026 (see Appendix 1). The presentation identified the priorities set out within the Strategy and outlined the approach that the CSP would take to implement the strategy, including the adoption of a Public Health Approach to reducing violence. The presentation explained that the Strategy would be accompanied by a Community Safety & Serious Violence Action Plan which would be developed and implemented by a number of partnership delivery groups.

The second part of the presentation outlined Reading's Domestic Abuse and Safe Accommodation Strategy 2023-2026 (see Appendix 2). The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 had placed new statutory requirements on local authorities to assess the need for domestic abuse support in their area for all victims who resided in relevant safe accommodation, including those from outside their area. Local authorities were also required to prepare and publish a strategy for the provision of domestic abuse support to cover their area having regard to the needs assessment.

The presentation explained that Reading's existing Domestic Abuse Steering Group had been formally renamed to become Reading's Domestic Abuse Partnership Board and new terms of reference had been introduced to ensure compliance with the Act. A comprehensive needs assessment had been undertaken in the spring of 2022 which had identified priorities for the Strategy which were listed in the presentation. The

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Domestic Abuse Partnership Board had been writing an action plan to accompany the strategy, which would be overseen by the Community Safety Partnership.

Resolved - That the presentation be noted.

37. UPDATE ON THE PAN-BERKSHIRE SUICIDE PREVENTION AGENDA

Tracy Daszkiewicz and Dan Devitt submitted a report on the development of the Pan Berkshire Suicide Prevention Strategy. The report provided assurance that work had been progressing to develop and refresh the Strategy and to support local action planning and delivery. The report also updated on the changes, challenges and opportunities flowing from the national Suicide Prevention Agenda and detailed the regional and local works under way to address them. The reported had appended:

- Appendix A - Summary of outputs from the Suicide Prevention Summit;
- Appendix B - Consultation draft of the Pan Berkshire Strategy;
- Appendix C - Summary of the Cube resource;
- Appendix D - Outline of potential member and executive officer facing briefing materials;
- Appendix E - Summary of the NPSA membership advantages and potential local benefits.

A Suicide Prevention Strategy had been presented to and endorsed by the Board on 8 October 2021 (Minute 25 refers). However, since adoption, new data profiles and a new policy landscape had led to the strategy needing to be refreshed. A briefing had been delivered to the Board at the meeting on 15 July 2022 (Minute 5 refers) and the Board had endorsed the recommendation to refresh the strategy and to hold a Suicide Prevention Summit to launch a consultation that would inform the refreshed strategy.

The report provided an update to the July 2022 briefing and explained the updated context for suicide prevention at national, regional and local levels. It included a summary of the latest suicide-related data for Berkshire and for the Reading area, outlined the implications of the Health and Care Act 2022 and the formation of the BOB ICS, set out learning from the pandemic and the current economic context and noted the publication of NICE's guidance on self-harm (Nice Guidance 225).

The report also provided an update following the Pan Berkshire Suicide Prevention Summit on 12 December 2022. A summary of the various outputs of summit was set out in Appendix A. Following the summit, a refreshed version of draft strategy had been shared online and discussed with attendees. A copy of the consultation draft strategy that had been developed to incorporate the input and learning from the summit was in Appendix B.

At the meeting it was noted that a consultation with professionals on the draft strategy would take place; it was hoped that this would occur in March and April of 2023. There would also be a wider public consultation which would take a broader more generalised approach to ensure that a wide range of communities and groups could feed into the suicide prevention agenda.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted;

- (2) That, subject to the engagement timetable, a further update be provided to the Board in March 2023.

38. BERKSHIRE WEST SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN PARTNERSHIP (BWSCP) ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

Esther Blake submitted a report presenting the Berkshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership (BWSCP) Annual Report for 2021/22, a copy of which was appended to the report. It was noted that this was the third annual report providing an account of the work undertaken by the multi-agency partnership to promote the safeguarding and wellbeing of children in Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham.

The report provided information on the work and progress made against the BWSCP priorities, case review activity, plus updates from various sub-groups. The annual report focussed on the work undertaken by the BWSCP as a partnership organisation and the covering report highlighted some of the key areas of work with particular relevance to Reading. Examples included:

- Work to align Reading's threshold guidance with Wokingham and West Berkshire to create consistency across the three BWSCP areas;
- Work carried out following the increase in notifications of serious child safeguarding incidents and Rapid Reviews in the 18-month period from March 2020;
- The learning achieved following the independent review of the Rapid Review reports and process;
- Work carried out with partners to ensure the safeguarding of adolescents at Reading Festival;
- Work carried out to address the issue of serious youth violence.

It was also noted that the partnership had recruited into its Independent Scrutineer post. The Independent Scrutineer would provide support to the BWSCP by chairing the Safeguarding Executive and the three localised Independent Scrutiny and Impact Groups and would help to improve partnership working across the three Berkshire West areas.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

39. REFRESH OF THE BERKSHIRE WEST LOCAL TRANSFORMATION PLAN 22/23 AND 23/24

Lajla Johansson and Deborah Hunter submitted a report on the refresh of the Berkshire West Local Transformation Plan (LTP) for 2022/23 and 2023/24. A copy of the presentation slides had been circulated with the agenda papers.

The LTP set out how local services would invest resources to promote, protect and improve children and young people's (CYP) mental health and wellbeing across the Berkshire West (Reading, West Berkshire, and Wokingham) area for 2022/23 and for 2023/24. The presentation explained that the LTP's priorities had been developed to reflect 12 Key Lines of Enquiry which had been identified by NHS England for the forthcoming year and took into consideration NHS England's Long Term Plan Priorities for Children's Mental Health. The presentation outlined the ambition of the LTP, detailed the key themes that had emerged following engagement with stakeholders during development of the plan and noted the current barriers and challenges that the plan needed to overcome.

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The report summarised the proposed priorities for the refreshed LTP. Ten priorities had been put forward, divided into three categories (Strategic, Operational and Co-production). The proposed priorities were:

Strategic

1. Partnership and Integration (A clear joined-up approach in Berkshire West - an integrated, partnership approach to defining and meeting CYP needs)
2. Complex Young People
3. Suicide Prevention

Operational

4. Reducing waiting times for Core/Specialist CAMHS
5. Children and Young People's Eating Disorders
6. Improving access for our inequality groups (LD and/or ASD/LGBTQ+, BAME) and improve Health Inequalities
7. Transitioning - Strengthening our adolescent to young adulthood offer (16-25)
8. Mental Health Support Teams
9. Data and Digital

Co-production

10. Strengthening communications and engagement with stakeholders and embedding Co-production with stakeholders.

The report explained that the priorities would sit behind a comprehensive planning document due to be published later in the year. As the LTP was a living document, it would be subject to further amendments as part of the ongoing development and planning process. The report also set out the timetable for sign-off and the publication of information.

At the meeting it was suggested that if organisations represented on the Board were planning to arrange any public engagement events, it would be beneficial if they could invite other partner organisations to attend to promote their respective programmes of work.

Resolved:

- (1) That the report be noted;
- (2) That an annual update on the LTP be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

40. READING'S ALL AGE AUTISM STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN 2022-26

Sunny Mehmi submitted a report on the outcome of the public consultation on Reading's All Age Autism Strategy 2022-2026 and on plans to implement the strategy and action plan across Reading. The report had appended:

- Appendix 1 - Reading's All Age Autism Strategy 2022-2026;
- Appendix 2 - Reading's All-Age Autism Action Plan Year 1 2022/23;
- Appendix 3 - Equality Impact Assessment.

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Having set out the national and local context, the report explained that public and partner engagement had been a core element whilst developing Reading's Autism All Age Strategy and had involved from the start: autistic people, their families and carers; third sector and voluntary organisations; and various professionals from across Reading. Engagement and co-production had taken place via interviews, workshops, surveys, forums and feedback sessions and had involved existing local groups and targeted outreach to groups. The insight gathered had been used to inform and shape the strategy, and to test emerging findings, recommendations, priorities, and vision development.

Overall, the Council had received views and contributions from 257 people. Contributions from 227 people had been received during the initial development of the Strategy with a further 30 people providing feedback following the public consultation. The findings following the public consultation were detailed in section 7 of the report. As a result of the engagement and feedback, seven priorities had been developed which were used as the basis for the Strategy. The priorities were:

1. Improving awareness, understanding and acceptance of autism;
2. Improving support and access to early years, education and supporting positive transitions and preparing for adulthood;
3. Increasing employment, vocation and training opportunities autistic people;
4. Better lives for autistic people - tackling health and care inequalities and building the right support in the community and supporting people in inpatient care;
5. Housing and supporting independent living;
6. Keeping safe and the criminal justice system;
7. Supporting families and carers of autistic people.

The report explained that the Strategy and Action Plan, which had been adopted and endorsed by the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee on 18 January 2023 (Minute 24 refers), would be delivered through the Autism Partnership Board (APB), which would report to the Health & Wellbeing Board to ensure that the Strategy remained a priority and was owned by all partner agencies. Each of the seven priority areas would have a responsible partner agency to lead for that particular element of the Action Plan to make sure that actions were achievable and made a difference to Reading's autistic residents.

The report noted that the Autism Partnership Board would be expected to submit an annual report to the Health and Wellbeing Board each spring or summer on the progress made towards implementation of the Strategy and its Action Plan, including successes and any issues encountered during the year.

Resolved:

- (1) That the findings of the public consultation for the Reading's All Age Autism Strategy be noted;**
- (2) That the content of Reading's All Age Autism Strategy and Action Plan be noted;**
- (3) That the Autism Partnership Board's responsibility for delivery and oversight of the Strategy and Action Plan by the APB be noted;**

- (4) That annual reports on the delivery of the Strategy be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

41. DEVELOPMENT OF NEW BHFT MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY

Kathryn MacDermott gave a presentation on the development of the BHFT's new Mental Health Strategy which was currently being drafted. A copy of the presentation slides had been circulated with the agenda papers.

The presentation set out the vision for the new Strategy which would be drafted to include detail on the following key areas:

- Personalised care, an all-age pathway;
- Clinical leadership development (including non-medical, nurse consultants working differently, working with communities);
- Provision for medical workforce development;
- Approach to partnership working;
- Cultural shift personalised, co-produced, social asset-based approach;
- Collaborative working with VCSE;
- Urgent care close to home;
- One team approach;
- Patient-centred - shared care, co-produced;
- Responsive and flexible, adaptable and accessible;
- Community.

The presentation, which had been updated since the publication of the agenda, outlined the current pressures faced by the BHFT in relation to mental health issues. These current pressures would be included in the next version of the draft Strategy to provide additional context and to better help explain the challenges that the Strategy needed to address. The current pressures were noted as follows:

- Demand and capacity within the acute Pathway;
- Reducing and eliminating inappropriate out of area placements;
- Reducing the number of people who were medically fit for discharge within mental health acute hospitals;
- A lack of sustainable crisis alternatives to avoid admission and support people close to home, including home treatment, Safe Havens and mental health ambulances;
- Demand and capacity within mental health services - the need to continue to embed the Community Mental Health Transformation Programme for people with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) - (including Mental Health Integrated Community Service (MHICS), secondary care transformation, SMI health checks, Individual Placement Support, Early Intervention in Psychosis);
- The prevalence of dementia - the need to ensure that dementia diagnostic rates were met and to have a viable support offer to avoid admission/accelerate appropriate discharge from hospital;
- Rich but fragmented NHS, Local Authority and Community Sector services;
- Growing demand and capacity pressures within children and young person's services, including access and wait times, crisis response and eating disorders;
- Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) access targets not being met;
- Lack of appropriate and accessible services to support people with autism;

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- Insufficient take-up of early intervention service offers.

The presentation also explained the Strategy's vision, listed the key problems that the Strategy aimed to address and summarised the main priority areas that had been identified whilst the Strategy was being developed. The presentation set out the outcomes that the Strategy hoped to achieve and the next steps, including a series of engagement events to be held in 2023/24, and details of operational planning. It was explained that an implementation plan would also be developed.

Resolved:

- (1) That the presentation be noted;
- (2) That a further update on progress be provided to a future meeting of the Board.

42. ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT - BUILDING BERKSHIRE TOGETHER - UPDATE

Alison Foster gave a presentation on the Building Berkshire Together (BBT) project and the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust's (RBFT) plans for redevelopment of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. A copy of the presentation slides had been circulated with the agenda papers.

It was noted that a public survey was currently under way to gather opinions on the redevelopment or relocation of the Royal Berkshire Hospital. The results of the public survey would help to gauge public opinion and would inform the shortlisting process that would take place to decide the type of new hospital that would be built.

The presentation provided some general background information and key figures relating to the operational activity of the RBFT at present. It was noted that RBFT currently operated seven sites across Berkshire which the BBT project would seek to fully utilise. RBFT formed part of the new BOB Integrated Care System and part of the BBT project would look at how the various estates and facilities located across the BOB ICS area could collaborate with one another to deliver services more efficiently across the wider ICS area.

The presentation noted the reasons why a new hospital was needed, which included that:

- the existing hospital buildings were in poor condition, resulting in poor patient experience, poor working conditions for staff, high maintenance costs and safety risks;
- the hospital was operating beyond its current capacity and expected local population growth would mean greater health needs and rising demand for services;
- the existing buildings were designed to support a 19th and 20th century model of clinical care. The buildings limited the capability of staff to provide high quality modern healthcare for local communities;
- the existing buildings were a poor environment for patients and staff, and they contributed to the climate emergency. A green low-carbon hospital was needed;
- developing a healthcare campus for Berkshire would generate jobs and economic growth and act as a catalyst for the local economy for years to come.

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It was noted that the Strategic Outline Case for a new hospital had been put forward two years previously. Since then, ministerial approval had been granted and the RBFT had been accepted into the New Hospital Programme in Cohort 4. The Strategic Outline Case had included seven graded options that ranged from doing nothing but essential maintenance (Option 1) through to building a brand-new hospital on a new site (Option 7). Each option had been costed, with Option 7 (a brand-new hospital) estimated to cost £1.3 billion.

The presentation detailed some of the timescales relating to the New Hospital Programme (NHP) which aimed to deliver 40 new hospitals across the country by 2030. A funding allocation announcement for the NHP was expected in February 2023. The funding announcement would determine which options RBFT would be able to take forward. The presentation also noted some of the engagement activities that had been carried out to date. The views gathered from engagement activities, combined with the funding envelope announcement, would inform the shortlisting process which to decide which option was put forward.

The presentation outlined some of the challenges that the BBT project still faced. Challenges included resolving issues around planning and transport, options development, uncertainty around funding, managing current risk and achieving Net Zero Carbon. The project had also created a number of opportunities, for example health improvements, economic development and innovation and partnership.

The presentation provided an update on the progress made since the previous update. It was noted that to secure HM Treasury funding, a three-stage business case process needed to be completed. The first stage, the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) had been completed and approved. Work had started on the second stage, the Outline Business Case (OBC), which would set out RBFT's preferred option. Once the preferred option had been decided, work on the third stage, the Full Business Case, could start. It was noted that work had been taking place to develop various different options that fed into the New Hospital Programme. The presentation noted the staff, patient and public engagement that had taken place, including an online survey which was currently under way and which would feed into the shortlisting process.

Resolved:

- (1) That the presentation be noted;
- (2) That it be noted that an update would be provided to the Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Education Committee on 22 March 2023.

43. COVID-19 AND READING VACCINATION UPDATE

Martin White gave an update on the latest Covid-19 data and vaccination uptake in Reading. The presentation slides had been included in the agenda papers.

The presentation provided statistics, including national, regional and sub-regional figures, for the number of infections, hospital admissions and Intensive Care Unit (ICU)/High Dependency Unit (HDU) admissions. The presentation also included statistics for the uptake of the Covid-19 Autumn Booster and for flu immunisation.

At the meeting Martin White provided a verbal update which included the following headline statistics:

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- Based on ONS survey estimates, 2.61% of people in England (1/40) had tested positive for COVID-19 - 10 January 2023;
- 84 cases of COVID-19 (27.4 per 100,000) had been recorded in Reading, - 10 January 2023;
- Hospital admissions had continued to decrease to 6.69 per 100,000 (week ending 15 January 2023);
- Admissions to ICUs and HDUs had decreased slightly to 0.23 per 100,000;
- There had been 9 admissions to the RBFT as at 2 January 2023;
- Deaths in England had increased from 367 in the week ending 30 December 2022 to 839 the week ending 6 January 2023.

It was noted that, with the exception of deaths, the general trend in relation to Covid-19 had been downwards. The downward trend had also been reflected in the latest national flu and Covid-19 surveillance report (dated 19 January 2022) which also showed a downward trend in the number of influenza and influenza-like illness in the first week of the year.

In summary the following points were made:

- Vaccinations had proven to be effective in reducing the impact of infections on hospitalisations and deaths;
- Emerging variants of Covid-19 had proven to be much more transmissible;
- Hospital admission rates and the number of deaths relating to Covid-19 were now much lower than earlier in the pandemic, despite similar or sometimes higher infection levels. This could partially be attributed to the efficacy of the vaccination programme;
- The number of Covid-19 infections had continued to decrease;
- The number of hospital admissions and ICU/HDU admissions had continued to decrease;
- In December 2022 Long Covid was affecting 2.1 million people (1/30 people) in the UK;
- It remained important to encourage the uptake of the Covid-19 booster and of flu immunisations, particularly in underserved communities, to protect vulnerable people and communities and to reduce the demand on the health and social care workforce.

Resolved - That the presentation and position be noted.

44. READING COMMUNITY VACCINE CHAMPIONS PROGRAMME UPDATE

Martin White gave a presentation on the Reading Community Vaccine Champions Programme, including an update on work relating to the CVC Programme Evaluation and on the progress made towards a possible Phase 3. An updated version of the presentation slides to those circulated with the agenda papers was used at the meeting.

The presentation explained that Phase 2 of the CVC programme had closed as planned on 31 October 2022. Work had since taken place to evaluate the programme. The final evaluation report was in the final stages of editing and design. Initial findings and data in the report had shown that:

- 50 Champions had been recruited;

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- 33 pop-up vaccination opportunities had been delivered;
- 250 individuals had been transported to vaccination sites;
- 10 Community Grants had been awarded;
- 3 priority groups had been identified and engaged with.

The Programme Evaluation would evaluate the delivery and outcomes of the six key workstreams, and the overall management of the CVC programme through qualitative and quantitative methods. The evaluation aimed to capture insights and lessons learnt unique to Reading which could be used to inform the delivery of future programmes and practice. It was expected that the evaluation report would be completed and published in February 2023.

The presentation provided an update on the Sustainability and Partnership role. The purpose of the role was to maintain the partnerships that had been created with stakeholders during the programme and to build on the capacity and ownership of existing outreach initiatives, existing stakeholders and existing champions. It was hoped that this would create a lasting legacy and value for money once the programme had ended on 31 March 2023. The role would adopt a planning and analytical approach to identify potential sources of future funding to look for opportunities to align the champions network with other areas of work across the system in Reading. The presentation listed the deliverables for the Sustainability and Partnership role.

The presentation gave an update on the progress made towards a possible Phase 3 of the programme. Phase 3 would see the network expanded and the Community Vaccine Champions renamed to become Community Health Champions. Phase 3 would provide ongoing coordination and support for Champions network meetings, develop the training offered to Champions to include Trauma-Informed as well as wider Health Information sessions, develop an online toolkit for the Champions network and look to link the Champions network to participate in and support other community events and aligned locality projects.

The presentation concluded with a finance update. Some of the Phase 2 underspend had been reallocated to fund the Sustainability and Partnership role. The Sustainability and Partnership Lead would work to identify future sources of funding and would develop a small programme of activities to prepare for a potential Phase 3. Current priorities included developing the training offer for the Champions network and arranging a celebration event with partners and stakeholders to consolidate and develop the network.

Resolved - That the presentation be noted.

45. READING ARMED FORCES COVENANT AND ACTION PLAN

Jill Marston submitted a report on the progress made against the actions listed in the Reading Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan. A copy of the Reading Armed Forces Covenant Community Action Plan was attached to the report at Appendix A. The report also provided updates on:

- The development of the pan-Berkshire Civil Military Partnership which had officially launched in July 2022;
- The work nationally of the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust.

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The report highlighted the progress made against the actions set out in the Health and Wellbeing section of the Action Plan (see Appendix A). In relation to GPs recording a patient's veteran status, it was noted that there were currently 395 registered veterans, an increase on the previous year from 386. The report also summarised the work and various projects relating to the armed forces and veterans carried out by the Royal Berkshire Hospital Foundation Trust, which had achieved Veteran Aware status.

Resolved:

- (1) That the development of the pan-Berks Civil Military Partnership be noted;
- (2) That the progress made against the actions set out in the Reading Armed Forces Covenant Community Action Plan (Appendix A), in particular the section on Health and Wellbeing, be noted.

46. BERKSHIRE WEST PLACE-BASED PARTNERSHIP UNIFIED EXECUTIVE CHAIR'S QUARTERLY REPORT

Andy Ciecierski presented a report from the Berkshire West Unified Executive which detailed key issues discussed at meetings of the Berkshire West Unified Executive held between October and December 2022. The report covered the following topics:

- Neuro Rehab Update
- Virtual Wards
- GP Representation
- Public Health Commissioning of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) services in Primary Care
- Adult Social Care Discharge Fund
- Unified Executive Priorities
- The ICP Strategy
- Place Based Partnership Development
- Delivery Group

Resolved - That the report be noted.

47. INTEGRATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

Bev Nicholson submitted a report giving an update on the Integration Programme and the performance of Reading against the national Better Care Fund (BCF) targets for July to September 2022 (Quarter 2) and outlining the plan for additional funds provided by NHS England to be used to support hospital discharge over the winter period, the Adult Social Care (ASC) Discharge Fund.

The BCF metrics had been updated in the planning guidance for 2022/23 and the targets for each of the revised metrics had been agreed with system partners during the BCF Planning process. The Length of Stay target, related to length of stay in an acute hospital bed, had been removed for 2022/23, although this was still being monitored at a local level. Outcomes, recorded at the end of September 2022 (Quarter 2), were:

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- The number of avoidable admissions (unplanned hospitalisation for chronic ambulatory care) (Met);
- An increase in the proportion of people discharged home using data on discharge to their usual place of residence (Met);
- The number of older adults whose long-term care needs are met by admission to residential or nursing care per 100,000 population (Met);
- The effectiveness of reablement (proportion of older people still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation) (Not Met).

Further details of the delivery against the targets for each metric were set out in the report which also included several performance indicators for local schemes funded through the BCF which demonstrated the effectiveness of collaborative work with system partners.

The report also outlined the plan for spending additional funds provided by NHS England which would be used to support hospital discharge over the winter period, known as the Adult Social Care (ASC) Discharge Fund. The report explained that the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health, in consultation with the Lead Member for Education and Public Health, had approved the submission of the Adult Social Care (ASC) Discharge Fund Plan and Narrative for 2022/23 by the due date of 16 December 2022 in order to comply with national deadlines outside of the Board meeting cycle. A copy of the plan and narrative was attached at Appendix 1.

Resolved -

- (1) That the Quarter 2 (2022/23) performance and progress made in respect of the Better Care Fund (BCF) schemes be noted;
- (2) That it be noted that the Adult Social Care (ASC) Discharge Fund Plan and Narrative for the 2022/23 return had been formally signed off and submitted by the deadline of 16 December 2022.

48. HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY QUARTERLY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN NARRATIVE AND DASHBOARD REPORT

Amanda Nyeke presented a report which gave an overview of the implementation of the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2030 in Reading and provided detailed information on performance and progress towards achieving the local goals and actions set out in the both the overarching strategy and in the locally agreed implementation plans.

The Health and Wellbeing Implementation Plans and Dashboard Update was attached at Appendix A and contained detailed narrative updates on the actions agreed for each of the implementation plans and included the most recent update of key information in each of the following five priority areas:

- Priority 1 - Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people;
- Priority 2 - Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives.
- Priority 3 - Help families and children in early years;
- Priority 4 - Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people;

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- Priority 5 - Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults.

Paragraph 2.1 of the report set out details of updates to the data and performance indicators which had been included in the Health and Wellbeing Dashboard since the last report.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

49. HEALTHWATCH READING WORK PROGRAMME JULY 2022 TO MARCH 2023

Alice Kunjappy-Clifton submitted a report outlining Healthwatch Reading's work programme from July 2022 to March 2023. It was noted that Healthwatch Reading was now hosted by The Advocacy People. The report included an explanation of Healthwatch's five core objectives and set out the key priorities for the year up until 31 March 2023. The key priorities included:

- Recruiting volunteers;
- Developing relationships with key stakeholders - NHS, local authorities and voluntary sector organisations;
- Raising public awareness of Healthwatch;
- Localising and promoting the maternal mental health survey run by Healthwatch England;
- Working with relevant authorities to raise awareness of asylum seekers' physical and mental health;
- Working with Building Berkshire Together to engage the public in their consultation on the hospital development;
- Working with the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board to deliver a session on self-neglect for the voluntary sector;
- A review of reports undertaken by the previous provider and to plan follow-up.

The report also set out Healthwatch's local 'watchlist' which identified potential priority areas for the coming twelve to fifteen months. It was noted that the list was not exhaustive and could include other new themes that might emerge at a later date. The issues of interest currently on the local watchlist were:

- Access to GP-led services;
- Access to NHS dentistry;
- Quality and inequality in maternity services;
- Cost of living crisis;
- Continuing Health Care funding;
- Support for carers;
- Mental health support for children and young people.

Resolved - That the report be noted.

50. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved - That the next meeting be held at 2.00 pm on Friday, 17 March 2023.

(The meeting started at 2.00 pm and closed at 6.02 pm)