

Medway Council
Meeting of Health and Wellbeing Board
Thursday, 5 September 2024
2.00pm to 3.56pm

Record of the meeting

Subject to approval as an accurate record at the next meeting of this committee

- Present:** Councillor Teresa Murray, Deputy Leader of the Council (Chairperson)
Councillor Tracy Coombs, Portfolio Holder for Education
Councillor Mark Jones
Councillor Eddie Peake, Group Whip
Tass Alder, Healthwatch Medway
Jayne Black, Chief Executive, Medway NHS Foundation Trust (Vice-Chairperson)
Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People and Deputy Chief Executive
Dr David Whiting, Acting Director of Public Health
- Substitutes:** Councillor Habib Tejan (Substitute for Councillor Andrew Lawrence)
- In Attendance:** Kelly Cogger, Head of First Response and Targeted Services
Stephanie Davis, Democratic Services Officer
James Harman, Head of Children's Services Commissioning
Dr Jack Jacobs, Kent Local Medical Committee
Professor Jane Perry, Canterbury Christ Church University
Dr Ash Peshen, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, NHS Kent and Medway
Sukh Singh, Director of Primary and Community (Out of Hospital) Care NHS Kent and Medway

269 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Curry, Councillor Lawrence, Councillor Price, Jackie Brown and Martin Riley.

Apologies for absence was received from the following invited guest: Jane Howard MVA.

270 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 27 June 2024 was agreed and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

271 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

272 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

There were none.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

273 Regulatory Update and Impact of Children being placed in Medway by other Local Authorities

Discussion:

The Board received an update report on the impact and challenges faced through placement of Looked After Children by other local authorities in Medway. The volume of children placed in Medway continued to increase and this had a notable impact on many services including Schools, GPs and Dentists. Officers highlighted concerns and a need for a more robust system and partnership working to ensure safety of the placements.

Members raised the following comments and questions:

There was concern regarding the placement of children in Medway and it was evident that there was a need for improved partnership working and communication by placing authorities, to address the needs of the children in their care.

Discussions took place regarding the need for leaders of Local Authorities to come together to discuss organisation of a protocol to ensure high standards of provisions as some of the provision being used by placing authorities may not be suitable for the needs of the young person. Regulation of supported accommodation remained a challenge and the changes to national regulations, which would come into effect in October 2024, were welcomed.

Despite this, there would be a backlog of Ofsted inspections which would take time to process, and, in the meantime, an agreement was needed to communicate unsuitability of supported accommodations between local authorities.

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In response to a question on the National Transfer Scheme and the impact on Medway, the Board was advised that since the commencement of the scheme, Medway had accepted 38 children. Medway continued to take note of actions by comparative authorities such as Blackpool who had drawn up regulations to prevent increased allocation of numbers of children through the scheme.

In response to a question on monitoring of the placements, the officer said that Medway monitored the placements of all its children placed in and out of Medway, similarly, placing authorities held statutory responsibility for the monitoring of their children placed in Medway.

It was suggested and agreed that the Board write to leaders of placing authorities expressing concerns and the need to foster strong partnership working and improve communication and engagement on this matter.

Decision:

- a) The Board noted the report.
- b) The Board agreed to write to Local Authorities to express a need to strengthen partnership, communication and engagement regarding the safety of children placed in supported accommodation in Medway.

274 Pharmacy and Dental Services

Discussion:

The Board received a presentation which provided an update on the Primary Care Strategy 2024 and Sustainable Local Care Five Year Plan and proposals for Community Pharmacy and Dental Services.

Members then raised a number of questions and comments, which included:

Concern was raised regarding the closure of pharmacies in areas of Medway where there were small numbers of pharmacies and lack of late night services in growing population areas.

Residents continued to highlight issues with the ability to access National Health Service (NHS) dental services. The public health team worked extensively on raising awareness on the need to access dental services from a young age, but this was an issue that had to be addressed collectively. Increased focus was needed on improving engagement and raising awareness of eligibility for free service.

There was increased need for support for pharmacies to join the pharmacy first programme and support to address limitations such as training and availability of technology. Maritime Health Partnership had been used as a case study to highlight what could be achieved through the extensive use of technology. Other services needed the support and ability to be able to fund technology to

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achieve the same outcomes. This could be a barrier for pharmacies, who had to fund their own technology infrastructure, to join the pharmacies first programme. It was confirmed that 49 pharmacies had signed up to the programme.

In response to a question on what strategy was in place for public engagement, the Board was informed that all work undertaken to date was centred around patients' abilities to access services in accordance with their needs.

It was commented that there was apparent an over reliance on the NHS and it would be beneficial in the longer term to explore alternative measures that decreased the reliance on the NHS, as not exploring other means of service provision was limiting.

It was commented that roles of services had changed and evolved over the last 10 years. and from a training and educational perspective of higher educational institutions, it was vital to determine local need in order to assist institutions in recruiting onto programmes. This could then assist to address issues with future maintenance of a sustainable workforce.

The officer agreed that it would be prudent to build on knowledge of needs and utilising that to drive measures to grow a sustainable workforce.

Members of the Board from various partnerships and invited guests extended opportunities to work with officers through various aspects of the work of their organisations, in order to foster and strengthen relationships to help drive forward the aspirations of the strategy.

It was added that the Pharmacy First programme was a sizeable change on delivery of health care and there must be some level of caution erred. There was also a challenge to ensure appropriate training for all pharmacies involved in the programme.

In response to a comment that GPs were trusted in the community, and it was vital that they felt comfortable with pharmacies providing services for smaller conditions, officers agreed that there was a need to work on building confidence.

Decision:

The Board agreed that:

- a) Officers look into working with Charities and how the Voluntary Sector can support the work of the strategy.
- b) Officers to work with Healthwatch to promote the work of the Pharmacies First programme
- c) Further engagement and consultation with the community in dentistry needs by the ICB was needed.
- d) Officers to work with Canterbury University on training and programme needs.

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- e) Officers to work with the public health team on their offer on needs analysis using data and intelligence gathered by the team.

275 Women's Health Update

Discussion:

The Board received an update on some of the actions to date following the meeting on 27 June 2024 on Women's Health.

A meeting had taken place at Clover Street Clinic to discuss some of the issues presented. The Board was informed that a bid had now been resubmitted for a Medway Women's Health Hub.

Discussions took place regarding the impact that the Hub would have on services such as GP's and the sexual health clinic. Concerns were raised regarding non recurrent funding and sustainability of the hubs and it was agreed that this needed to be made clear to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) due to destabilisation that would occur on what was available to women.

Decision:

- a) The Board noted the update
- b) The Chairperson to write to the ICB on behalf of the Board regarding concerns with tariffs for Long Acting Reversible Contraception and non-recurrent funding of the Women's Health Hubs.

276 Work Programme

Discussion:

Members considered a report regarding the Board's work programme.

The Democratic Services Officer requested that suggestions be sent to her on what Board Members would like covered in the Local Plan report that was due to be presented at the next meeting.

Decision:

The Board agreed the work programme as set out in Appendix A to the report.

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Chairperson

Date:

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