

Medway Council
Meeting of Health and Wellbeing Board
Thursday, 21 November 2024
2.00pm to 4.00pm

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 Simon Curry, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Strategic Regeneration
Councillor Mark Jones
Councillor Andrew Lawrence
Councillor Adam Price, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (including statutory responsibility)
Tass Alder, Healthwatch Medway
Jackie Brown, Assistant Director Adult Social Care
Dr David Whiting, Acting Director of Public Health
- Substitutes:** Councillor Lauren Edwards (Substitute for Councillor Eddie Peake)
- In Attendance:** Anna Batty, Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership Business Manager
Celia Buxton, Assistant Director, Education and SEND
Matt Capper, Director of Strategy and Partnerships, Medway NHS Foundation Trust
Scott Elliott, Head of Health and Wellbeing Services
Rachel Hewett, Director of System Strategy, NHS Kent and Medway
Jane Howard, Chief Executive Officer, Medway Voluntary Action
Joanna Sagers, Carers First
Teresa Salamioru, Interim Deputy Director Public Health
Rupa Sen, Medway Diversity Forum
Catherine Smith, Head of Planning Policy
David Stokes, CEO Nucleus Arts
Julia Thomas, Head of Health Improvement

432 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from the following Board Members: Paul Bentley, Integrated Care Board (ICB) Representative, Kelly Cogger, Acting Assistant Director Children's Social Care, Lee-Anne Farach, Director of People

Health and Wellbeing Board, 21 November 2024

and Deputy Chief Executive, Councillor Peake, Martin Riley, Managing Director, Medway Community Healthcare, Andrew Stradling Medical Director (interim) Medway & Swale Health & Care Partnership.

Apologies for absence were received from the following invited guests: Adrian Richardson, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, and Dr Caroline Rickard, Kent and Medway LMC.

433 Record of meeting

The record of the meeting held on 5 September 2024 was agreed and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

434 Urgent matters by reason of special circumstances

There were none.

435 Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Other Significant Interests

Disclosable pecuniary interests

Councillor Lawrence declared that his wife works for East Kent Hospital Trust and would withdraw from the meeting when/if the interest was closely aligned to any of the business on the agenda for this meeting.

Other significant interests (OSIs)

There were none.

Other interests

There were none.

436 Medway Safeguarding Children Partnership (MSCP) Annual Report 2023-24

Discussion:

The Board received a report which detailed the work undertaken by the MSCP in the last year and sets out the progress made by the partnership against key priorities.

Members then raised the following comments and questions

In response to a comment on how the views of young people were captured and acted upon, the Board was informed that there had been extensive engagement undertaken through Child Friendly Medway as well as good level of participation in the 'Make your Mark' consultation which evidenced that young people had their own views and wanted to be heard and taken seriously.

The voice of children and young people, their experiences and impact of services to their lives must remain a focus, and this should be reflected in future reports.

The report was well written and highlighted the work that was being undertaken by partners, but it was important that future reports evidenced clearly the impact of the work undertaken.

It was asked if the grant received from the Department for Education would be ongoing and it was explained that it had been a one off grant to support the work of the partnership.

It was commented that Trauma Informed Practice was not consistent across schools in Medway and the Board was informed that a high proportion of schools had signed up, with 70 schools enrolled on the training programme.

Decision:

The Board noted the report.

437 Medway Local Plan

Discussion:

The Board received a report on the new Medway Local Plan, including reflection following the consultation that took place in the summer of 2024. The Voluntary Sector and the Public Health Team were thanked for all their support and work during the consultation process. It was important to ensure that the Plan played a role in improvements to air quality, access to open spaces and contribute to securing a good health infrastructure for residents of Medway.

Members then raised the following comments and question:

The Local Plan was not just about housing targets but about the infrastructure targets and with growth in Medway's population, ensuring that health and wellbeing played a firm role in the Local Plan.

The wider determinants of health were important, the third sector were stretched, needed facilities and infrastructure to deliver services for the communities they served. They had lost use of the community space where they supported charities and had nowhere to run and engage in activities. The third sector was not considered public sector which meant they did not receive certain funding and as a result were unable to deliver services without space or funding to run programmes.

Healthwatch undertook some work on the wider determinants of health, with information gathered and distributed on a monthly basis, reporting highlighted what people valued. This would be shared with officers working on the Local Plan.

The development of the Local Plan had been a priority for the Council in the last year and was on track to be finalised by 2026. There was anticipated growth in Medway of approximately 50 thousand more people by 2041 and it was vital to ensure the right infrastructure would be in place to manage the predicted growth.

There was a multifaceted approach to health infrastructure and all services were working collaboratively, with the interlinking of themes and strategies. The health service continued to ensure that resources were steered by all plans and fed back into the integrated care system. A pragmatic approach was being taken on change and tools had been developed in conjunction with the Integrated Care Board where proposals were run through the systems on the hospital to identify what may be needed financially to meet needs as well as what may be needed in terms of bed uplifts in order to meet future demands.

In response to a question on what the health plan would be for the projected growth, the Board was informed of the ICB's strategic estates planning, in particular, feeding into the 10 year planning on how the budget increase would be utilised. The NHS capital position was likely to remain strained but there were different areas to explore as part of transformation of the health service, including changes to the estate to meet future needs. Utilisation of existing centres and other alternative sources of funding which could be used alongside the NHS funding to support what was needed in the future and embedding good foundations of partnership working.

It was further commented that the hospital was already a very good site, and work was being undertaken on how to repurpose parts of the site to meet future changing needs including the provision of some services in community based locations. It was envisaged that the hospital would be working in different way in 10 years and there was a need to prioritise and ensure that the infrastructure would be fit for purpose. There was ongoing exploration of the way people access the hospital which continued to evolve through increased use of virtual wards.

It was commented that due to the possible expected growth it would be prudent to look at the entire health provision with the view of development of a modernisation plan.

The quality of new build housing was variable, and quality of housing was an important aspect of health outcomes. It was also important to ensure that an expectation of a reasonable percentage of social housing would be built into the plan. The Board was informed that a meeting had taken place with developers where it was made clear the standards expected and considerations for building of life time housing and need for more social housing.

In relation to comments on the loss of agricultural land to development, the officer said that when consultation documents were published with sites identified on farmland, Medway had a difficult decision to make with regards to meeting the level of development that has been identified for Medway, on

previously developed land without degrading the quality of the environment, amenity and the quality of places in Medway. This would call for a mix of Greenfield site release and Brownfield Land. Brownfield would come first in terms of the strategy and understanding what could be achieved on this land would inform what quantum of land would need to be found on Greenfield sites.

In response to comments on density and what that meant for Medway, the officer said that the drive for density had been a long standing national policy, with expectation to make the best use of land and help to safeguard green spaces. There were reviews undertaken on what was appropriate density, including the wider environment, what facilities were in an area to support good quality of life, i.e. good air quality, and joining objectives together to prevent overdevelopment whilst giving consideration to the quality of development.

Decisions:

- a) The Board noted the report.
- b) To ensure that the workshop being delivered by the Integrated Care Board on health and housing aligns with the aspirations of JLHWS.
- c) To Lobby government for more support for the voluntary sector who were stretched to capacity.

438 Medway Food Strategy

Discussion:

The Board received a report on the Medway Food Strategy which aspired to create an environment that supports sustainable access to healthy food.

Members then raised the following comments and questions:

The community garden was an innovative idea that provided residents with the opportunities to grow and share food

There was concern that data showed that there was a decline in healthy weight of 4/5 year olds;

Alongside the development of the Local Plan, it would be beneficial for consideration to be given to making more community spaces available to enable people to have access to fresh produce.

It was asked whether there were any developments on a proposal for a social supermarket model and the Board was informed that there was a small community supermarket called Second Chance Medway.

The Voluntary Sector worked with very disadvantaged people in the community and highlighted that stigma was attached to some communities in attending food banks and more work needed to be undertaken in supporting these communities and breaking the stigma.

Healthy weight training continued to be delivered by the Voluntary Sector, with sessions running for a twelve week period. Feedback from participants was that they would like to have the opportunity during sessions to practice what they had learned at the centre where the training took place.

It was highlighted that many people that attended food banks or were provided with food vouchers were very educated on food and their issues were with the cost and lack affordability of nutritional food which affected the food choices they made.

The message of healthy eating being targeted at young children from Early Years stage was welcomed and it was encouraging that we were concentrating on educating young children, however it was just as important to educate the older generation, in particular grandparents who may be stuck in their ways or view poor food choices as just a harmless treat.

It was vital to note that residents in some parts of Medway were not able to access supermarkets or local markets due to lack of good transportation infrastructure which made them reliant on buying food from their local convenience stores.

Consideration to be given to whether schools and teachers were adequately equipped with the knowledge and confidence to engage in difficult conversations with parents.

Schools and establishments such as hospitals to actively explore whether the food provided was healthy and of good nutritional value.

Decision:

- a) The Board noted the report.
- b) Partners and Board Members to encourage schools, food businesses and any stakeholders involved in food to sign up to the Medway Food Partnership.
- c) Consideration to be given to building in provision for community spaces to enable residents to have more access to fresh produce by being able to grow it themselves.

439 Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025-2028

Discussion:

The Interim Deputy Director Public Health presented the report which set out the approach to deliver an updated Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, with a draft to be brought to the 13 February Board meeting and a final version to be signed off by the Board at its September 2025 meeting. Agreement was also sought for the establishment of a steering group to oversee the sought agreement from the Board on the establishments of a steering group to oversee delivery of the PNA.

Decision:

The Board agreed:

- a) To establish the PNA Steering Group, (as set out at section 3 of the report) to oversee the production and completion of the Medway PNA, 2025-2028, on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- b) To receive an early draft of the PNA in February 2025 and sign off the updated final version following consultation and requested amendments in September 2025.

440 Work Programme

Discussion:

Members considered a report regarding the Board's work programme and the proposals presented on an implementation approach to enable the JLHWS to guide the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and support the Board to exercise its co-ordination function.

Decision:

- a) The Board agreed the work programme as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- b) The Board agreed the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Proposal as set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

Chairperson

Date:

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