

Agenda Health and Wellbeing Board

**Wednesday, 30 June 2021 at 5.00 pm
At Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street at Oldbury,
B69 3DB**

This agenda gives notice of items to be considered in private as required by Regulations 5 (4) and (5) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

3 Minutes 7 - 18

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2021 as a correct record.

4 Development of the Board

5 Primary Care Update

6 Sandwell Good Mental Health Strategy 19 - 32

7 Joint Carers Strategy - Update on Current Position 33 - 46



Kim Bromley-Derry CBE DL
Interim Chief Executive
Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution

Councillor Hartwell (Chair)
Councillors Ahmed and Simms

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board

Wednesday 31 March 2021 at 3.00pm
This meeting was conducted virtually via MS Teams

Present

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC):

Councillor Maria Crompton	Deputy Leader (Chair);
Councillor Keith Allcock	Cabinet Member for Homes;
David Stevens	Chief Executive;
Katharine Willmette	Interim Director – Adult Social Care;
Lisa McNally	Director – Public Health;
Lesley Hagger	Executive Director – Children's Services;

Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG):

Dr Ian Sykes	Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board (Vice-Chair);
Michelle Carolan	Managing Director Sandwell West Birmingham CCG;

Healthwatch Sandwell:

John Taylor	Chair of Healthwatch Sandwell;
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Sandwell Voluntary Sector Organisation:

Mark Davis	Chief Executive;
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Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust:

Marsha Foster	Director of Partnerships;
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In Attendance:

Chris Guest	Service Manager Adult Social Care;
Clair Norton	Health and Wellbeing Board Project Officer;
Paul Moseley	Sandwell Better Care Fund Programme Manager;

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor Elaine Giles	Chair – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board;
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Councillor Joyce Underhill
Councillor Farut Shaeen
Ian Green
Alexia Farmer

Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life;
Cabinet Member for Living Healthy Lives;
Chief Superintendent, West Midlands Police;
Healthwatch Sandwell

01/21 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

02/21 Covid-19 Sandwell's Position and Updated Plan

The Health and Wellbeing Board received a presentation from the Director of Public Health on the position within Sandwell.

Over the period from January to mid-March 2021 Sandwell had experienced one of the fastest declines in infection rates in the country. The period had also seen a marked decrease in long-term prevalence across the Borough.

The Director of Public Health thanked the voluntary sector leaders and influencers, faith leaders and residents for their contribution to achieving the current position.

The Board also took note of the efforts of officers who staffed the Covid-19 outbreak response cell, which continued to operate round-the-clock service. The cell withstood periods of extreme outbreak pressures, for example dealing with over 3,000 cases a week in January 2021.

The strategy of localising Covid-19 communications and news coverage was mentioned. It was found that residents engaged much more with communications targeted at the electoral ward level than those covering Sandwell Borough as one entity. For example, there was a move away from press coverage of Sandwell generally to articles about situation within specific wards and areas of the borough. Such localisation of news coverage proved highly effective in engaging residents and consequently bringing the case rates under control.

Weekly case rates of Covid-19 in Sandwell care homes had decreased significantly since they peaked at the end of January 2021.

Up to the week ending 12 March 2021, death rate from Covid-19 in Sandwell care homes stood at 31.1 per 100,000 of the population. This rate was significantly lower than that of both the neighbouring local authorities and the England and Wales average (53.1 per 100,000). This

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was in part due to the joint inter-departmental and inter-agency effort involved, including proactive testing effort by partners from the CCG and Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospital (SWBH) Trust.

Weekly case rates reached their lowest level in the week ending 10 March with 87 cases and began to slowly rise from this point – to 97 in the week ending 31 March 2021. The Director of Public Health expressed concern that as the restrictions were being eased further, and more social interaction was occurring, the case rates would rise even more.

It was noted that the rise in weekly case rates from mid-March coincided with the full reopening of schools. The age-specific Covid-19 case rates displayed a marked rise for the 13-17 age group in mid-March when the schools reopened and for the 4-12 age group around the period 20-24 March.

It was explained that whilst this trend could be attributed in large part to the enormous increase in tests it was important to take note of because the rise in infection rates of younger age groups tended to precede the rises in infection rates of older age groups.

Sandwell had a high rate of COVID vaccination uptake, which stood at 93% for people 65 and over. This was contrary to the predictions that vaccination uptake would be lower due to factors such as the historically low uptake of flu jab.

Sandwell's flagship initiative for vaccination awareness work had been the Community Vaccination Leaders Programme. As of end of March, 170 people had been trained as the Community Vaccination Champions to raise awareness about the need for vaccination in the heart of community.

Sandwell Council had been assisting the Community Vaccination Champions with their function not only in terms of training and organised peer support sessions but also through written information in the form of a toolkit, access to funding, and to council services such as printing and graphic design.

03/21

Local Outbreak Management Plan

The Board was advised that each local authority was required to publish the Local Outbreak Management Plan (LOMP) before April 2021.

Sandwell had completed its plan and approval was sought from the Board for the Sandwell COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan before it could be published on the Council website.

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The Director of Public Health explained that the plan covered Sandwell's response to the ongoing COVID-19 threat, including new challenges relating to testing, variants of concern and vaccination uptake.

The Plan included sections on aspects of outbreak management such as governance, the use of data, intelligence and insight, supporting vulnerable groups, testing and contact tracing, communications and engagement, supporting vaccination uptake, enforcement, and resources and funding.

In relation to the Plan's contents, the Director of Public Health noted the success of Sandwell's test and trace and surge testing efforts.

It was explained that the Local Outbreak Management Plan was required to go through a regional assurance process conducted by the Department of Health and Social Care. The Director of Public Health confirmed that Sandwell's COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan passed this assurance process and received positive feedback from the Department of Health and Social Care.

Agreed that the Sandwell COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan 2021 be approved and published by the Council.

04/21

Better Care Fund (BCF) Update and Section 75 Agreement

The BCF Programme Manager presented the update on the BCF and the Section 75 Agreement.

On 30 September 2020, the Board was presented with the overview of Sandwell's BCF Programme. The Programme had continued to support the delivery of national health and adult social care priorities. BCF team colleagues had worked alongside public health colleagues to support Sandwell's care providers during the pandemic as well as to ensure care providers complied with national Covid-19 reporting requirements.

The Board was advised that local BCF Programmes must comply with the following national BCF conditions for the year 2020/21:

- the local BCF plans would be agreed jointly by the local authority and the CCG (the planning requirement was suspended for 2020/21 due to the pandemic);
- the BCF programmes would be managed in line with the most recent BCF policy, published in 2019/20, which set out the following conditions;
 - that BCFs spend at least over 61% of their contribution from the CCG on social care services

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- that BCFs spend at least over 28% of their contribution from the CCG on CCG-commissioned out of hospital services
- that a clear plan was in place for managing delayed transfers of care.

Sandwell Better Care Fund met all national conditions. It had expected to invest £17.6 million, which was over 65% of the contribution from CCG on social care services. It had expected to spend almost £12.9 million on CCG-commissioned services such as intermediate care and GP support to care homes, as opposed to the minimum required of 28% which was just over £7.5 million for Sandwell. This also enabled Sandwell to meet its discharge to assess commitments. Lastly, there was a clear plan for managing delayed transfers of care. It was noted that Sandwell ranked as the number one authority in the country for reporting fewest delays in March 2020.

The Board was reminded of the requirement to establish a formal agreement between Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) to create a pooled budget for the purposes of delivering the Better Care Fund and Covid-19-related hospital discharge services in 2020/21 under powers conferred by Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006. This was a national condition for access to the BCF funding.

The Health and Wellbeing Board was required to approve the BCF plan and Section 75 Agreement each year. In recognition of the extra demands placed on the system by the pandemic, the national BCF leads agreed there would be no requirement for local areas to submit their plans for approval in 2020/21. However, there remained an expectation that local areas would establish S75 Agreements in respect of their local BCF programmes.

It was mandated that the funding to support the delivery of the NHS Covid-19 Discharge Arrangements had to be pooled between the Council and CCG using a new or existing S75 Agreement. The approach agreed by the Joint Partnership Board to achieve this was to establish a variation to the BCF S75 Agreement. This was in line with central and regional advice and most areas were expected to adopt this approach.

Approval was sought from the Health and Wellbeing Board for the proposed Section 75 Agreement for the Sandwell Better Care Fund for 2020-21 and for the proposed Variation to the BCF Section 75 Agreement for the purposes of implementing the NHS Covid-19 Discharge Requirements.

These documents were signed off by the Director of Adult Social Care and the Managing Director of Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG,

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following agreement of the Joint Partnership Board on 18 June 2020. The documents also received the support of the CCG's Sandwell Commissioning Committee on 19 November 2020.

The following was noted in response to comments and questions:

- that Sandwell Better Care Fund was pivotal in delivering the discharge to assess model across Sandwell.

Agreed: -

- (1) that the contents of the Better Care Fund Annual Report 2020/2021 and associated Section 75 documents be noted;
- (2) that the Section 75 Agreement for the Sandwell Better Care Fund for 2020/2021 be approved;
- (3) that the proposed variation to the Section 75 Agreement for the purposes of implementing the NHS COVID-19 Discharge Requirements be acknowledged and supported.

05/21

Healthwatch – Update on Draft Work Priorities 2021

The Chair of Healthwatch provided an update on the status of three priority projects that Healthwatch Sandwell had agreed for 2020/21.

For the project on people's experiences of accessing mental health and wellbeing services as a result of the pandemic, the Healthwatch Board had developed recommendations which were sent out for comment to the Council and the CCG. These were expected to be published by the end of April.

For the project on people's experience of health services becoming digital, particularly around accessing primary care, it was noted that feedback from residents and patients was generally positive. Positive comments were received around the quickness of receiving equipment for example. Issues remained around access to digital services in communities where English is the second language and for people suffering from visual impairment. Full recommendations were expected to be published within the next few weeks.

Regarding the project on young people's experience, it was confirmed that Youth Healthwatch Sandwell was developed in the last year to ensure voices of young people were heard in the development and planning of services. Two online mental health training sessions had been arranged for April for Youth Healthwatch volunteers.

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For 2021/22, Healthwatch Sandwell had made available Community Cash Fund Awards of up to £1,500 for local organisations and groups to improve wellbeing in their community.

Four grants had been awarded to the following groups:

- 4 Community Trust – to work with children and young people gathering views of how they perceive health and social care in Sandwell;
- West Bromwich Dartmouth Cricket Club – to develop a community garden where local people can volunteer and develop the green space;
- Life in Community – to offer low level counselling to people impacted by the pandemic and support around mental health;
- New Baby Network – to offer six workshops to perinatal families focussing on developing wellbeing skills in daily life.

The Chair of Healthwatch explained the process of how new priorities for 2021/22 were determined. Three work priorities emerged from this process as follows:

- Hospital Treatment Pathways;
- The Hidden Impact on Carers;
- Young People's Mental Health.

Discussions were now taking place with individual stakeholders on developing project plans and proceeding with these projects from April 2021.

Healthwatch Sandwell agreed the following commitments for 2021/22:

- To work in partnership with local partners in the Health and Social Care system to feedback the public voice and seek outcomes;
- To have effective escalation routes for sharing cases of concerns with service providers;
- To ensure that the public is fully involved in shaping the Healthwatch agenda and influencing its work.

The following was noted in response to comments and questions:

- that New Baby Network workshops were a welcome development as perinatal care remained an area of concern in Sandwell;
- that it was positive to see young people's mental health being a Healthwatch priority and that Nurturing Young People Strategic Group and Children's Services would offer any support that would be required.

06/21

Update on Knowle Resource Centre

The Service Manager Adult Social Care provided an update on the Sandwell Integrated Social Care and Health Centre (Knowle Resource Centre) capital development in Rowley Regis.

The centre was being designed as an 80-bed intermediate care centre, with both social care and health provision on one site to avoid hospital admissions and to provide reablement support for discharged patients to enable them to return home with no or lower care packages.

It was designed as a centre primarily for older people but where younger adults could be supported as well where their assessed need would recommend such course of action.

The centre would have special arrangements for people with dementia. On the ground floor a separate dementia unit was planned with access to the sensory garden where people with dementia would be able to move around safely.

The centre would be staffed by care staff employed by the local authority and nurses and therapists from the acute trust. This would provide an integrated working model in terms of both systems and staff.

By building this provision, bed capacity that the Council was currently commissioning in the market would be released back into the market for use on long-term placements.

The Service Manager Adult Social Care shared the designer impression photos of the centre to help members visualise what the centre would look like once completed.

It was noted that the centre was currently on track to be completed in time for July 2022. Foundations had now been laid and lift pits were in situ. Steelwork was due to commence by the end of March 2021.

The plan was to commence with the recruitment of the centre's staff was from summer 2021. This would be in parallel with the ordering of specialist equipment, with small joint equipment centre planned on site for access by the community. Care Quality Commission (CQC) registration and the establishment of the centre's service model would follow before the centre opening, planned for July 2022.

07/21

Update on Willow Gardens

The Service Manager Adult Social Care provided an update on the Willow Gardens Extra Care Scheme development.

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Willow Gardens was a development of 90 extra care apartments located at the junction of Harvest Road and Moor Lane in Rowley Regis. Extra care was a way of supporting people with varying levels of need to live in a home of their own by providing professional care and support staff on site, available 24/7.

All residents at Willow Gardens scheme would benefit from fully self-contained accommodation (a lounge, fully fitted kitchen, one or two bedrooms and level access shower room with toilet) and a range of on-site communal facilities within the building.

A range of communal facilities was to be provided on site including a restaurant and a hairdressing salon. These facilities would be available to both the tenants and the local community, and the centre would be promoted as a community resource.

Each flat would have a call button so that the resident could alert care staff on site in case of an emergency 24/7.

The Service Manager Adult Social Care explained the key milestones in the Willow Gardens development.

The scheme was agreed in March 2017. In April 2020, following consultation, the Cabinet took the decision to progress with the closure of two internal Extra Care Schemes - Holly Grange and Manifoldia Grange. Staff and tenants from these centres would be relocated to either Willow Gardens or other options across Sandwell.

Transferring tenants would occupy under half of the Willow Gardens Scheme with remaining spaces opened to other Sandwell residents wishing to move to Extra Care, but particularly from the Rowley Regis area where there was currently limited supply of supported living options.

Tenants and staff scheduled to relocate had been shown a virtual tour of the scheme.

An expression of interest list was currently being held, in line with existing process for Extra Care nomination.

It was noted that completion date was now anticipated to be in September/October 2021.

The Board received a detailed virtual tour of the scheme.

The following was noted in response to comments and questions:

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- It was clarified that the Willow Gardens Scheme was designed primarily as a long-term accommodation. Residents at the scheme would be regarded as council tenants. Options were sought to designate some of the flats for reablement.

08/21

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Updates

The Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board updated members on changes to CCG arrangements. Sandwell and Birmingham CCG would cease to exist as of end of 31 March 2021. The new Black Country and Birmingham CCG was to replace the existing arrangement and would become operational from 1 April 2021.

The Black Country and Birmingham CCG was given an Integrated Care System (ICS) status and would include five areas including Sandwell.

It was expected that this change would not have any adverse impact on Sandwell residents. It was also not expected to lead to any changes in terms of CCG representation on the Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board.

It was hoped the change would provide more opportunities for locally based commissioning with new Sandwell place-based commissioning committee being formed, where each of the eight primary care networks within Sandwell would be represented.

The Vice-Chair provided a brief vaccination programme update. The remarkable progress that was made over the last four months was noted. At present around 120,000 people within Sandwell had received a first dose of vaccination, with around 60% of those delivered from GP practice centres. There was now a mass vaccination site at Tipton Sports Academy and several pharmacies were also offering vaccinations.

The Vice-Chair took the opportunity to thank Dr Ayaz Ahmed who was finishing his term on this Board. The Chair joined in thanking Dr Ahmed for his contribution to this Board.

09/21

Board Forward Plan – Health and Wellbeing Board Project Manager

The Health and Wellbeing Board Project Officer outlined the matters which would be brought to the next meeting of the Board scheduled for June as follows: -

- Sandwell Carers Strategy;
- Suicide Prevention Strategy.

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There was a further item which was not yet allocated a date as follows: -

- Improving Palliative and End of Life Care Workstream.

If anyone has any items for the new municipal year forward plan could these be forwarded to the Board's Project Officer.

10/21

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board would be held at **5pm on 16 June 2021. (Virtual meeting using MS Teams).**

The Chair took the opportunity to thank and offer best wishes to Shane Parkes, Democratic Services Officer, who was retiring. Officers and members present joined the Chair in extending their thanks in appreciation for her years of service supporting this Board.

Meeting ended at 4.11pm

Democratic_Services@Sandwell.gov.uk

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Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board 30th June 2021

Report Topic:	Sandwell Good Mental Health strategy
Contact Officer:	James Cole, Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group
Link to board priorities	<p>Please include in your report how your work links to one or more of our board priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We will help keep people healthier for longer2. We will help keep people safe and support communities3. We will work together to join up services4. We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services
Purpose of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To present the 9 Promises for the Mental Health Strategy• To highlight actions taken to date• To secure the strategic engagement of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To endorse the 9 Promises• To endorse next steps• To present final strategy and action plan to the board before official launch in 2022

Key Discussion points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The 9 promises are the consolidation of public feedback garnered from the State of Sandwell report conducted by Changing Our Lives in 2019/20 and reflect key strategic priorities detailed in the NHS Long Term Plan and West Midland Combined Authority Thrive Programme (1,2)The strategy and plan should be considered as part of a suite of strategies, including Suicide Prevention, Autism, Dementia and Child Mental Health and their interdependencies acknowledged (4)The board is invited to offer feedback on the draft promises and consent to a formal stakeholder and public engagement plan commencement with a view to formal launch by end March 2022.The promises and any subsequent action plan reflect work already commenced and will be a lever for the delivery of effective change (3).
Implications (e.g. Financial, Statutory etc)	
<p>Sandwell MBC is a key strategic partner for both the Black Country STP and the West Midlands Combined Authority. Health services and their commissioning are now aligned across the Black Country following the merger of Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG and the Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.</p> <p>The NHS Long Term Plan sets out an ambitious programme of transformation for mental health services and sets out a number of strategic priorities and a programme of funding to support their delivery.</p> <p>The Good Mental Health strategy will ensure that Sandwell retains a stake in the delivery of these priorities by holding commissioners and providers to account and linking large strategic programmes to local corporate plans (Sandwell 2030)</p>	

Good mental health as an outcome is key to the delivery of an effective suicide prevention plan, better parity of esteem for people of all ages, reasonably adjusted services for people with autism, workforce wellbeing and support for carers.

What engagement has or will take place with people, partners and providers?	<p>Covid-19 has prevented a formal programme of engagement, but through the multi-agency stakeholder group that meets bi-monthly and working with the People's Parliament we have used the available intelligence to construct the draft promises around which the action will be formed. The 'State of Sandwell' report was a formal piece of public engagement specifically commissioned to identify key themes for the Sandwell population when it comes to their mental health.</p> <p>As part of restoration, and with the approval of the board, the group will commence a programme of planned engagement with public and stakeholders, to shape the final version.</p>
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APPENDIX 1

SANDWELL'S GOOD MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGY OUR PROMISES

SANDWELL WILL BE A MENTAL HEALTH AWARE COMMUNITY

- Mental health is a strategic priority
- Communities will be supported to access the means to look out for each other
- We will increase mental health literacy through training opportunities for non-professionals (eg MH First Aid)
- Communities will take a lead in service development

THINK ALL AGE

- Remove barriers to support because of a person's age.
- Ensure children approaching adulthood are supported through those transitions, especially those most vulnerable and in our care.
- Older people shall receive service appropriate to their needs and free from discrimination.
- More older people shall access talking therapies and be considered equal in the planning of services.
- The good mental health strategy will link closely with the SANDWELL DEMENTIA STRATEGY and

AVAILABLE WHEN YOU REALLY NEED IT

Not all services will be open at all times, but when a person requires a response that cannot wait, we will ensure it is available 24/7

ZERO SUICIDE

We will strive to deliver a SUICIDE PREVENTION STRATEGY for Sandwell aimed at ensuring nobody dies from suicide and a delivering high quality depression and crisis care.

RECOVERY

Everyone's needs will be considered based on what is a meaningful recovery means to them and support will always look to help achieve this. Where possible give people access to the means to design their own care and support.

EXPERT RESPONSE

People needing help can expect that whoever they look to for support will be equipped to provide them with the best possible response. People in all sectors, including volunteers, will have access to high quality training and supervision to do their job to the best of their ability. Ensure the workforce is supported to maintain their own good mental health.

TACKLE THE CAUSES OF POOR MENTAL HEALTH

Commitment not only to help those struggling a mental health problem, but support those individuals and services working to prevent difficulties through improving people's lives. Work with local system partners to address LONELINESS & ISOLATION.

SAFE PLACES

We will create spaces where people can go to feel safe and get access to the range of support they may need to give them back control and push for all communities to be able to safe and pleasant recreational places that enable good physical and mental health.



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Sandwell Good Mental Health Strategy

HWBB 30th June 2021

Presented by

Siraaj Nadat, Changing Our Live
&

James Cole, Black Country & West Birmingham CCG

Why now?

- State of Sandwell Public Consultation
- Strategic Drivers
- Local system/organisational changes
- Keep Sandwell on the map

State of Sandwell



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- State of Sandwell is a series of conversations with residents in heart of the community. In these conversations we check out what mental health means to residents and talk to them about how they stay healthy in relation to their mental health.
- This work does not focus on people who have used mental health services. However, some people may have used mental health services, both from statutory and voluntary agencies.
- Recommendations are fed into commissioning.



Main theme and recommendations 2019



Main theme

- People wanted to manage their own mental wellbeing and find their own solutions, some with support, others without:

“People find their own ways of managing their mental health. This includes being active, doing gardening, going outside, getting fresh air. Being active and keeping fit, that’s what keeps me well.”

Main recommendations

- Develop personal health budgets and social prescribing so people can design personalised solutions.
- Making sure there are enough green spaces in Sandwell.
- Enabling people experiencing mental health difficulties to work.



Main theme and recommendations 2020



Target audience – minority ethnic communities and new migrants.

Focus – impact of pandemic.

Main recommendations

- Enabling the community to talk about and normalise mental health.

'There's no word in Somali for mental health'.

- More representation in mental health professions.

'Therapists need to communicate in the mother tongue. People are paying private for own therapists.'

- Ensuring that small organisations with native speakers receive funding as they are front line and communities trust them.
- Making sure all council services e.g. Welfare Rights, Housing, have a real awareness of mental health.
- Easier access to own electronic records.



A commitment to our population

- Promises reflecting what people have told us they want and what we know we have to do
- A delivery plan that will be checked against the commitments to hold us to account
- Ensure that Sandwell's interests are reflecting in large scale change programmes
- A multi-agency and stakeholder Steering Group to dynamic review the action plan to ensure fidelity to the ambition and be ahead of change, feeding into the HWBB
- Linking strategies, outcomes and shared objectives (eg good mental health = better suicide prevention)
- Consistent format with other existing and proposed strategies, Dementia, Autism, Children's Mental Health opportunity to hyperlink in e-format

Good Mental Health Promises

1. Sandwell will be a **MENTAL HEALTH AWARE COMMUNITY**
2. Think **ALL AGE**
3. Available when you really **NEED** it
4. **ZERO SUICIDE**
5. **RECOVERY**
6. **SAFE PLACES**
7. Tackle the **CAUSES** of poor mental health
8. **EXPERT RESPONSE**

The Mental Health Strategy group invite your comments and support to progress this work and enable us to take it to the people of Sandwell



Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board 30th June 2021

Report Topic:	Update on Carers strategy to Health and Wellbeing Board
Contact Officer:	Justin Haywood, Operations Manager, Adult Social Care Commissioning
Link to board priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. We will help keep people healthier for longer2. We will help keep people safe and support communities3. We will work together to join up services4. We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services
Purpose of Report:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To provide an update and presentation on the progress of the joint carers strategy2. To the framework of the strategy based around the 9 Promises3. To update on engagement to date and next steps
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Note the progress of the Joint Carers Strategy and provide any comments it or its members may have to be considered for the final draft2. Endorse the 9 Promises for Carers in Sandwell as a framework for the final strategy document.3. Endorse that the Joint Strategy be presented to Health and Wellbeing Board in August for final sign off.4. Endorse plans to review the Strategy in 12 months to build upon the learning coming out of

	COVID19 in relation to the experiences of carers.
Key Discussion points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of understanding the full impact of COVID19 upon carers from all vulnerable groups in Sandwell in order to support the HWBB priority of helping to keep people safe and support communities • The framework of the strategy based around the 9 Promises which collectively will support carers to live healthier for longer • The collaborative approach taken between the Council, CCG, The Children's Trust and VCS Organisations in development of the Strategy to demonstrate the contribution towards the HWBB priority around working together to join up services • The level of engagement activity in the development of the strategy to date in meeting the HWBB priority of working closely with local people, partners and providers of services
Implications (e.g. Financial, Statutory etc)	<p>There are no statutory requirements to have a Carers Strategy in place however there are statutory requirements set out in the Care Act in relation to the support carers should receive and access to joint or single carers assessments.</p> <p>In relation to financial implications any delivery plan connected to the final strategy needs to be developed in line with available resources or the ability of the Council and its partners including the Voluntary and Community Sector leveraging external funding in order to meet the aims of the Strategy. The Council and where relevant its statutory partners will be responsible for funding the Statutory elements of support to carers.</p> <p>We will also work with local businesses and employers to embrace the responsibility to support employees who may be carers.</p>

What engagement has or will take place with people, partners and providers?

The level of engagement in relation to getting the Carers Strategy to where it is today is set out in the main report.

There may be further work required to engage with carers from communities and groups identified in the research and analysis to follow from COVID19.

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DMT & Health and Wellbeing Board

16th and 30th June 2021

“Better Lives for Carers in Sandwell”

Joint Carers Strategy
and Delivery Plan 2021-2025

Why do we need a new Joint Carers Strategy?

The previous Strategy covered 2012-2015

Carers National Action Plan and NHS Long Term Plan

The previous Census (2011) identified around 30,000 people in Sandwell having an informal caring role

Almost a third of these carers are providing over 50 hours of support per week

The latest Census (2021) is expected to show a 7,000 increase, especially in carers aged over 50s, with 1,600 more

A JOINT Strategy that positively shares the responsibility of supporting Carers amongst the Council, CCG, Health Trusts, Voluntary and Community Sector and local businesses / employers.

COVID19 has not just delayed the publication of our Strategy for Carers

We have some early evidence but need to fully understand the impact of COVID19 on the most vulnerable groups in Sandwell

Instead of delaying the publication of the 2021 -2025 Strategy further, we are proposing to hold a review and refresh 12 months in – We don't want to wait until 2025

Summary of the Sandwell Joint Carers Strategy 2020-2024:

9 promises for Carers in Sandwell



9 Local Promises Based around 5 key themes identified in the Carers National Action Plan

Result of significant engagement with Carers

6,000

Carers views included within the National Consultation and Carers UK State of Caring Report

300

Local carers views represented including Young and Parent Carers, Carers of people with Mental Ill Heath and BME Carers.

200

Carers engaged by Healthwatch

60

By West Bromwich African Caribbean Resource Centre

12

Local Carers Strategy Group Meetings

Awareness and Diversity

All partners will work to raise the profile of Caring within Sandwell and to ensure that under represented carers voices are heard and supported



"We need to know if we are carers and where to get support from"

Key outcome:
Carers identify as carers and all carers voices are heard.

Information, Advice & Assessment

Carers within Sandwell will have quicker and easier access to effective support including crisis and respite support, to meet their needs and prevent their needs increasing



"We need quick assessment and support to prevent our needs escalating"

Key outcome: Carers are identified earlier, and their needs assessed earlier, so they are supported quicker

Workforce

The Council and its other Statutory Partners will continue to train and develop its staff to identify carers and signpost them to appropriate support



"Workers need to be more aware of the individual needs of different carers, and listen to us"

Key outcome: Carers feel well supported by staff in NHS, Social care and Schools

Carers Health & Wellbeing



Carers in Sandwell will be supported to look after their own physical health and mental wellbeing

“We need time for a rest as we are often exhausted and stressed”

Key outcome: Carers are healthy, well and independent for longer

Employment & Financial Wellbeing



Carers within Sandwell will be supported to remain in, and return to, employment education and training and will feel supported to access benefits to prevent hardship

“We need support to live well throughout caring and provide for ourselves in the long term”

Key outcome: Caring families, young carers, young adult carers and parent carers feel supported.

Living Well in the Community



Carers in Sandwell will be supported to access community and support they are entitled to, to address loneliness and bereavement issues

“We can feel trapped and lonely. We need bereavement counselling and more care planning so the person we care for is looked after in future”

Key outcome: Carers access their local community to feel less lonely

Managing & Reducing Risk of Carer Breakdown



Carers will be supported to reduce risk of crises and manage crises

A lot of people rely on carers – if that's taken away it puts more pressure on the NHS”

Key outcome: Carers continue to cope and less risk of illness and deterioration in their own wellbeing.

Supporting Young and Parent Carers

Young carers within Sandwell will be supported to have the same opportunities as other children and young people and in addition the needs of Parent Carers will be identified

“We need to know who to contact and what support is out there – we also need support when we, or our children grow into adults”

Key outcome: Young and Parent Carers feel more supported

Innovation & Best Practice

Support for Carers in Sandwell will be commissioned based on evidence and best practice as well as feedback from Carers as Experts by Experience

“ Carers need to feedback on their support and need good quality services”

Key outcome: Carers feel listened to and more supported

Next Steps & Recommendations

1

Note the progress of the Joint Carers Strategy and provide any comments it or its members may have to be considered for the final draft

2

Endorse the 9 Promises for Carers in Sandwell as a framework for the final strategy document

3

Endorse that the Joint Strategy be presented to Health and Wellbeing Board in August for final sign off.

4

Endorse plans to review the Strategy in 12 months to build upon the learning coming out of COVID19 in relation to the experiences of carers.



.... and to the carers and representatives of all the partner organisations in Sandwell who have contributed to the development of the Strategy. We hope they will be part of ensuring this Strategy brings real improvements in the lives, experiences and support to carers in Sandwell.

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Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board 30th June 2021

Report Topic:	Update on Autism Strategy to Health and Wellbeing Board
Contact Officer:	Vicki Merrick, Commissioning Team Manager – Adult Social Care Commissioning
Link to board priorities	1. We will help keep people healthier for longer 2. We will help keep people safe and support communities 3. We will work together to join up services 4. We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services
Purpose of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To present the 9 Promises for the Autism Strategy• To highlight actions taken to date• To secure the strategic engagement of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To endorse the 9 Promises• To endorse next steps• To present final strategy and action plan to the board before official launch in 2022
Key Discussion points:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Changing Our Lives to continue to facilitate the involvement of autistic adults, carers and professionals to ensure outcomes focus on 'ordinary lives' keeping people healthier for longer, safer and supported in the community.• For the board to offer key stakeholders within their organisation to be involved in the development of the strategy and action plan• The board is invited to offer feedback on the draft promises and next steps.

Implications (e.g. Financial, Statutory etc)

Following the publication of the Autism Act 2009, statutory guidance was published which clearly sets out standards and expectations for local authorities and health services when commissioning services for autistic people. Although work has commenced with achieving these standards it is apparent there are gaps in the market and further work needs to be undertaken.

It is important to note not all the requirements should be met by health services and local authorities but their ability to shape and influence the approach of the voluntary and community sector and local businesses is key to raising awareness and acceptance within the local community.

The strategy and action plan aim to progress and enhance the work to date and ensure all key stakeholders are involved to meet statutory requirements.

What engagement has or will take place with people, partners and providers?

A series of consultation events have been undertaken with autistic people, their families and professionals from health, social care and education to develop the strategy so far.

Further events will be held to ensure that all key partners are involved in the development of the final strategy and the development of a robust action plan which will deliver the promises.

“Better Lives for Autistic people in Sandwell”

HWBB 30th June 2021
Autism Strategy

Why do we need a Autism Strategy?

National policy, guidance and best practice supports the implementation of local autism strategies

The 2018 bi-annual Autism Self Assessment clearly identified gaps in service provision and a lack of Autism awareness within the community

Autistic people and family carers have told us that there are significant barriers to achieving an 'ordinary life'.

49 Adult social care commissioned Changing Our Lives to coproduce a Sandwell Autism Strategy.

Changing Our Lives held a series of consultation events and discussions with a range of key stakeholders in 2019.

The workshops were structured around three broad, key questions:

- What does a good life look like for an autistic person?
- What are the barriers to autistic people living a good life?
- What needs to change so that Sandwell is a great place to live for autistic people?

Discussions focussed on the three themes described in Think Autism (2014):

- An equal part of my local community
- The right support at the right time during my lifetime
- Developing my skills and independence and working to the best of my ability.

Clear priorities emerged from the workshops held with autistic people, their families and professionals which have been converted into promises for action for Sandwell.

An equal part of my local community

Promise 1: Awareness and acceptance

Outcome: I am accepted as who I am within my local community. People and organisations in my community have opportunities to raise their awareness and acceptance of autism.

Promise 2: Friendships and connections

Outcome: I know how to connect with other people. I can access local autism peer groups, family groups and low level support.

Promise 3: Making everyday services accessible

The everyday services that I come into contact with make reasonable adjustments to include me and accept me as I am. The staff who work in them are aware and accepting of autism.

Promise 4: Coproducing a better future for autistic people

Outcome: Autistic people are partners in coproducing a better future for autism in Sandwell. I can access information available that shows how well Sandwell is doing. The needs of autistic people and their families is included in local strategic needs assessments so that person centred local health, care and support services is available for autistic people.

The right support at the right time during my lifetime

Promise 5: Improving access to diagnosis and post diagnostic support

Outcome: People have access to a clear diagnostic pathway as early as possible and to post-diagnostic support that meets NICE guidelines.

Promise 6: A skilled and knowledgeable health and care workforce

Outcome: Staff in health and social care services understand that I have autism and how this affects me.

Promise 7: Autistic people and their families receive the right amount of support at the right time

Outcome: When I need support from health and care services, my needs are met in a person centred way, there is a focus on positive outcomes and I am better able to manage my own life.

The right support at the right time during my lifetime

Promise 8: Transitions throughout life

Outcome: Services and commissioners understand how my autism affects me differently through my life. I am supported through big life changes such as transition from school, getting older or when a person close to me dies.

Developing my skills and independence and working to the best of my ability

Promise 9: Access to employment, increasing skills and learning opportunities

Outcome: I have the support I need to gain and retain employment, access opportunities to make a meaningful contribution to my community and increase my skills and learning.

Next Steps

1

Share the 9 Promises and findings from the consultation with statutory partners, voluntary and community sector and local businesses

2

To co produce a strategy and action plan with key stakeholders which enhances and contributes to interdependent strategies and action plans.

3

Produce a 3 year Autism strategy and action plan in readiness for a 2022 launch.

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