

Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board

Wednesday, 13 September 2023 at 5.30 pm
at Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street at Oldbury,
B69 3DB

Present:

Councillor Suzanne Hartwell	Chair and Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care
Councillor Simon Hackett	Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education
Councillor Laura Rollins	Cabinet Member for Housing and Built Environment
Councillor Elaine Giles	Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board
Councillor Nicky Hinchliff	Chair of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board
Michael Jarrett	Director of Children and Education
Dr Sommiya Aslam	Sandwell Locality Commissioning Board Representative
Alexia Farmer	Healthwatch Sandwell Manager (substitute member)
Reverend David Gould	Chair of Public Health Faith Sector Working Group
Chief Superintendent Kim Madill	West Midlands Police
Richard Beeken	Chief Executive Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
Mark Davies	Chief Executive - Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations
Emma Taylor	Chief Executive - Sandwell Children's Trust
Kuli Kaur- Wilson	Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

In attendance



Louise Kilbride
Dr Lina Martino
Ellen Blakeley
Diane Millichamp
Cathren Armstrong
Stephnie Hancock
John Swann

Chief Executive – Sandwell Consortium
Consultant in Public Health
Speciality Registrar in Public Health
Vulnerable Adults Project Manager
Health Protection Specialist, Public Health
Deputy Democratic Services Manager
Democratic Services Officer

17/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Syeda Khatun, Liann Brookes- Smith (Interim Director Public Health), Michelle Carolan (Black Country Integrated Care Board), Marsha Foster (Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust) and Phil Griffin (Healthwatch Sandwell).

18/23 Declarations of Interest

Councillors Simon Hackett and Suzanne Hartwell declared a pecuniary interest in the matter referred to at 25/23 (Sandwell Language Network), in that they were employees of organisations that were members of the Sandwell Consortium.

19/23 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21 June 2023 are approved as a correct record.

20/23 Additional Items of Business

There were no urgent additional items of business.

21/23 Midland Metropolitan University Hospital Update

The Board received an overview of progress that had been made with the build and delivery progression of the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital (MMUH).

The hospital was currently the biggest capital development in the English health service. Upon completion, the hospital would

include an emergency department, a dedicated children's emergency department and a midwife led birth unit. Under the acute care model for the hospital, consultants would be on site seven days a week and state of the art equipment would enhance diagnostics to support the provision of same day emergency care, preventing unnecessary admissions, ensuring that the length of stay was no longer than medically required and that patients were discharged to the most appropriate place and readmission was prevented.

Members watched a video providing an overview of the site, and highlighting that it was #MoreThanAHospital and would provide places for the wider public and local community to use, such as a community garden, a café/restaurant and a Winter Garden on the fifth floor of the building, which would also house an art gallery.

The design of the hospital centred on patient wellbeing with all rooms having an external view onto one of the courtyards or surrounding areas of the hospital. 50% of the beds were in single ensuite rooms, which would enhance infection control. Colour coded wards, with the same layout throughout the hospital, would also provide a dementia friendly environment.

Most outpatient care, day-case surgery and routine diagnostics would remain at the Sandwell (Hallam Street) and City Hospital sites. This included:-

- A 24/7 urgent treatment centre at Sandwell Hospital.
- Birmingham Treatment Centre and Birmingham and Midland Eye Centre (BMEC) at City Hospital.
- Provision for step down / rehab facilities.

Significant changes continued to take place in community and primary care services so that even more care could be provided in people's own homes. It was anticipated that the occupation of beds would reduce from the current 97% to 85-90%, which would allow for better management in peak periods. Members noted the crucial work also being undertaken across 12 service areas to transform services to support the acute care model. Excellent multi-agency relationships in Sandwell supported this programme of transformation.

The Benefits Case predicted that the hospital building would have a useable efficient lifespan of 58years and would bring benefits to patients equating to around £796m; benefits to employees

equating to around £982m and to the wider population equating to around £241m.

In terms of employment, 484 new staff were required to make the business case work, with a target of 35% being from the local population. A Learning Campus on the site would host 1280 learners a year, with a focus on addressing skills shortages and providing pathways into long term employment. A partnership between the hospital, Sandwell College and Aston and Wolverhampton universities had been established to support recruitment efforts.

Work had been undertaken to incorporate the hospital into the local transport network, 1,600 car parking spaces and an onsite bus stop had been incorporated within the site proposals. The transport plan was being finalised and would be publicly available from January 2024.

Community engagement activities with local groups had taken place to boost awareness of how healthcare provision would be changing in the Borough. A 'Midland Met Mobile' van would be used for 'roadshow' type events at libraries, shopping centres, and the heart of the community, sparking conversations about the hospital and the transformations to healthcare.

The projected opening date for the hospital was Autumn 2024, following a six- month process of testing and a familiarisation process for staff members.

From the comments and questions by members of the Board, the following responses were made, and issues highlighted:-

- The Trust would be engaging with the Council to determine an approach that would ensure that employment opportunities were available for care leavers, and other young people.
- Public consultation on the closure of the A&E department at Sandwell Hospital had taken place in 2016.
- An Urgent Treatment Centre would remain at Sandwell Hospital for mild to moderate conditions.
- There would also be an Urgent Treatment Centre at MMUH, to cater for the West Birmingham population, which anticipated demand of around 300 patients a day.
- The Trust's Estates Strategy would be published in late 2023 and would set out its community focus and the commitment

to the development of integrated teams across Sandwell's six towns.

- Conversations were also taking place with the Council to identify a space for a Care Navigation Centre, which would house around 160 staff.
- Births would once again be registered in the borough of Sandwell once the MMUH had opened.
- Vacancies still remained for non-clinical staff and private sector competition with salaries made recruitment challenging. Work was ongoing with partner organisations to address this.
- A series of New Neighbours consultation events would be taking place in early 2024, which would include discussions around transport plans.

22/23 Right Care, Right Person

The Board received an overview of the Right Care, Right Person (RCCP) approach. RCRP was a national approach agreed between the Home Office and health partners to ensure that the right person and agency, with the right skills, training, and experience responded to calls relating to mental health or other concerns for welfare. Analyses showed that West Midlands Police Officers currently attended around 4,000 incidents per month that were not police matters, resulting in many hours of police time spent waiting in A&E departments, reducing the time available for the Police to focus on its core responsibilities to prevent and investigate crime and keep the King's peace.

The RCRP approach had been designed following consultation with partner agencies including Integrated Care Boards and NHS Trusts to ensure that the most appropriate professionals responded to an incident. RCRP would complement services, such as the proposed 'NHS 112 – Option 2' mental health crisis telephone line, which when operational would have dedicated resources including mental health ambulances.

The police were trained to refer individuals with vulnerabilities to appropriate supports via the established referral pathway. In addition, a 'Vulnerabilities Hub' was due to be established which would enable call handlers to refer individuals with specific needs to mental health tactical advisors within the force contact centre.

40% of West Midlands Police force contact officers had received training to act as 'decision makers' and identify if police were required to be despatched, with plans to train all call handlers by October 2023. Training would include trauma informed practice to gain consent for appropriate referrals. Work would be undertaken with West Midlands Ambulance Service and West Midlands Fire Service on their powers of entry.

Having appropriate referral pathways in place would support the new approach and Social Prescribing would be a key factor in this.

It was hoped that, by ensuring police officers were present for criminal matters only, trust and confidence in the Police would improve.

From the comments and questions by members of the Board, the following responses were made, and issues highlighted:-

- The RCRP approach would be aligned with the Better Mental Health Strategy and a Police representative was on the Better Mental Health Strategy Partnership.
- Further discussion was needed with the Safeguarding Children's Partnership.
- Clear communication was crucial to ensure that physicians and clinicians were aware that welfare checks was not a police duty, and vulnerable people were signposted to the right support.
- The safeguarding functions of the police would not be impacted.
- There was currently not a standardised approach to social prescribing in Sandwell and work was underway to address this.

The Police would be invited to a briefing with all councillors on the RCRP approach.

(Reverend David Gould and Emma Taylor left the meeting during the consideration of this item).

23/23 Sandwell Better Mental Health Strategy 2023- 2026

Further to Minute No. 7/22 (23 February 2022) the Board noted an update on the development of the Better Mental Health Strategy 2023- 2026, which had co- produced with stakeholders throughout 2022 and 2023.

A rapid needs assessment had identified factors which contributed to mental health, such as access to employment and suitable accommodation. The draft Strategy had also been updated to reflect feedback from stakeholders in relation to the impact of Covid-19, which was now better understood.

A 60-day public consultation would commence from 26 September 2023. To ensure a high response rate, the consultation would be widely publicised across all partnership networks and communication channels and community organisations would be offered grant funding to host focus groups. A video would also be produced explaining the priorities and key drivers of the strategy.

The final Strategy would be published in January 2024 and the Better Mental Health Partnership would be accountable for ensuring that the action plan was delivered, and the nine priorities and principles (previously referred to as promises) were achieved.

(In reference to Minute No. 18/23 (above), Councillors Hackett and Hartwell left the Council Chamber).

24/23 Election of Chair

Resolved that Councillor Rollins is elected Chair for the consideration of the matter referred to at Minute No. 25/23 (Sandwell Language Network).

25/23 Sandwell Language Network

The Board received an overview of the Sandwell Language Network programme, which had been co-produced in 2019 with funding from the Government's Controlling Migration Fund and aimed to tackle health and economic inequalities, reduce isolation, and promote community cohesion through language learning.

The 2021 Census had identified the challenges facing new migrant communities and established ethnic communities with 88% of Sandwell residents who spoke English as their main language compared to 92.3% nationally. Of those residents who did not have English as their main language, 24.8% could not speak English well and 5.5% could not speak English at all. In five of Sandwell's wards less than 80% of residents spoke English as their main language.

Sandwell Language Network was co-ordinated by Sandwell Consortium and delivered via 17 partner organisations. Courses were community based in nature, which enabled learners to improve their understanding of English via an informal medium. English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) was the most popular course, however over 20 courses ran per year to ensure individuals could access the relevant educational modules.

The cohort for the 2022/ 23 programme was made up of over 350 learners and incorporated IT skills to better support those in need of support. 88% of learners reached additional services and education through the network with a focus on promoting a sense of place within Sandwell.

The programme collated quantitative and qualitative feedback from participants, wider community, and community delivery partners on an ongoing basis to inform the project deliverables to ensure it continually met the changing needs of its service users.

Sandwell Council was a finalist in the 2023 Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards for SLN as an outstanding Public Health and community project.

(Dr Sommiya Aslam left the meeting during consideration of this item).
(Councillors Hackett and Hartwell returned to Council Chamber and Councillor Hartwell resumed the Chair).

The meeting became inquorate and therefore the remaining agenda items were deferred until the meeting on 18 October 2023.

Meeting ended at 8.07pm.

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