

## Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board

**29 June 2022 at 5.00pm**

**Held at the Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House.**

**Present:**

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC)

Councillor Suzanne Hartwell	Chair and Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care and Health
Councillor Charn Singh Padda	Cabinet Member for Housing
Councillor Elaine Giles	Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board
Rashpal Bishop	Director of Adult Social Care
Dr Lisa McNally	Director of Public Health

Black Country and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Dr Priyanand Hallan	Vice-Chair and Sandwell Locality Commissioning Board Representative
Michelle Carolan	Managing Director Sandwell
Dr Sommiya Aslam	Sandwell Locality Commissioning Board
Dr Sameera Mavi	Sandwell Locality Commissioning Board

Healthwatch Sandwell

Phil Griffin	Chair of Healthwatch Sandwell
Alexia Farmer	Healthwatch Sandwell Manager
Paul Higgitt	Healthwatch Walsall Manager

Multi-Faith Sector Representative

Ragih Muflihi	Yemeni Community Association
---------------	------------------------------

Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)

Mark Davis	Chief Executive
------------	-----------------

Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

Chris Masikane	Deputy Chief Executive
----------------	------------------------



## **Officers and Invitees in attendance**

Jayne Leeson MBE	Chief Executive, Changing Our Lives
Lucy Dunstan	Deputy Chief Executive, Changing Our Lives
Nadia Mughal	Beyond the Stigma Project Participant
Justin Haywood	Operations Manager – Adult Social Care Commissioning
Dr Lina Martino	Consultant in Public Health

## **22/22 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Hackett, Piper and Shackleton; Michael Jarrett (Director of Children's Services and Education) and Marsha Foster (Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust).

## **23/22 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

## **24/22 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 April 2022 are approved as a correct record.

## **25/22 Urgent Additional Items of Business**

There were no additional items of business.

## **26/22 Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025**

Further to Minute No. 36/21 (of the meeting held on 15 December 2021), approval was sought for the publication of Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025, subject to approval by the Cabinet.

The Strategy and Action Plan had been developed through the Suicide Prevention Partnership, which included representation from across services and sectors that contributed to improving population mental wellbeing and preventing suicide. The Strategy and Action Plan had a much wider focus than mental health services, recognising the complex relationship between the various factors associated with risk of suicide.

The Strategy had been updated with feedback received from the public consultation and would be presented to the Cabinet for approval in July 2022 prior to publication. It would be available in a variety of formats to ensure accessibility and in the four main languages spoken by Sandwell residents, as well as in a large font version.

The Strategy would be a living document and work on it and the accompanying Action Plan would continue.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that approval is given to publication and promotion of the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, subject to approval by the Cabinet;
- (2) that the ongoing work of the Suicide Prevention Partnership in delivering the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Action Plan is endorsed.

**27/22 Sandwell Joint Carers Strategy 2022-2026**

Further to Minute No. 16/22 (of the meeting held on 13 April 2022), approval was sought from the Board for the final version of the Sandwell Joint Carers Strategy 2022-26 and its publication.

It was noted that a considerable amount of feedback had been received from engagement exercises carried out with carers, carer organisations, and partners, and this was reflected in the final strategy.

The following was noted in response to questions and comments:-

- Carers would be involved in reviewing the Strategy.
- A key aspect in the implementation of the Strategy was for the Council and health partners to reach out to underrepresented carers in the community, particularly from cultural groups where people caring for relatives had not traditionally considered themselves carers – raising awareness of the support and respite opportunities.
- It was recognised that conversations with families needed to be tailored to their circumstances.
- Carers would be encouraged to register their carer status with their GPs to enable signposting of services
- Health professionals, council officers and elected members were all responsible for raising awareness in their communities to ensure that carers were able to access the support they needed.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Joint Carers Strategy 2022-2026 is approved and published;
- (2) that the Health and Wellbeing Board is updated on the implementation of the Strategy on a six-monthly basis.

**28/22 Beyond the Stigma Project**

The Board received a presentation on the Beyond the Stigma project from Changing Our Lives, a right base organisation bringing together South Asian women from across Sandwell to share their stories about the stigma that surrounded mental health within their communities.

The key finding emerging from the project was that women from South Asian communities experienced poor mental health in the same way as the rest of society; however, there was a stigma within their communities preventing open discussion of the issue.

The project had identified a range of issues faced by South Asian women asking for help with poor mental health, including reluctance of some GPs from the same background to acknowledge a patient's mental health problems, and a failure by some GPs to maintain patient confidentiality. This meant that women did not receive the support they needed, and this had an impact on their own families.

Mental health difficulties were considered a source of shame in South Asian communities and this was reflected in the language used around the topic of mental health. An oft-used term in Urdu and Hindi - *Lok Ki Kehnge* - translated to 'What will people say?'.

The project promoted arts as a medium of tackling mental health problems and a way to challenge myths surrounding mental health creatively. A digital notebook had been developed collating and documenting women's stories, however, only five women had contributed so far, and it was hoped that more women would be encouraged to come forward and share their stories having seen other share theirs.

The following was noted in response to questions and comments:-

- Data showed that twice as many people from white British communities access mental health services, however this did not mean that their mental health was worse than people from Asian communities.
- A *one size fits all* approach was not effective and services needed to be culturally sensitive, including having regard to treating people with dignity around pronouncing their names correctly.
- The importance and value of community-based support, as opposed to medical interventions was acknowledged and this needed to be built upon.

The Board congratulated the project leads on their positive work so far. The Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust extended an invitation to the project leads to talk to teams within the organisation to promote and strengthen the approach.

## **29/22 Update on Development of Autism Strategy**

The Board received an update on progress in the development of an Autism Strategy for the borough.

A series of engagement events had taken place with autistic people, their families and professionals from health, social care and education sectors to help shape the Strategy. Further engagement was planned to facilitate input from all key partners into the final Strategy and to ensure a robust action plan, understood by all key stakeholders, would be in place.

The Board heard examples of initiatives by West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service, Job Centre Plus and West Bromwich Albion FC that expanded the range of opportunities that were becoming available to people with autism.

It was noted that there were inconsistencies in the levels of specific autism support within health sector across the Black Country, which had been highlighted with the four trusts and was being addressed.

The following was noted in response to questions and comments:-

- No formal consultation had taken place to date, however, there was ongoing engagement with people with autism.
- Lack of an autism diagnosis was not a barrier to contributing to the consultation or accessing support services.
- Links would be made with the work of Healthwatch Sandwell to ensure that the impact of comorbidities such as diabetes and heart conditions in people with autism was acknowledged and addressed in the Strategy.
- The transition from children's services into adult social care needed to be a key area of focus too.
- Whilst some organisations had resources available to support people with autism visiting their buildings – e.g. Marks and Spencer's Stores and Birmingham Airport, this was not yet embedded across the whole of society.

The draft Strategy and Action Plan would be presented to the various partner agencies making up the Board for consultation and it was anticipated that the final Strategy and Action Plan would be launched in November 2022.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that the 9 Promises of the Sandwell Autism Strategy are endorsed;
- (2) that the proposed next steps and timelines for the development and publication of the Sandwell Autism Strategy are endorsed.

**30/22**

**Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy Update**

The Board noted an update on the development of the updated Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Strategy and was consulted on ways to shape the Strategy so that it contained effective solutions in terms of encouraging partner involvement and meeting the health needs of the Borough.

The Strategy would promote a set of shared outcomes to support integrated working across all health partners and reflected imminent system changes which were outlined by the Director of Public Health. New arrangements were due to come into effect on 1 July 2022, which would see the current Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) replaced with a regional Black Country Integrated Care Board (ICB). Partners from across the Black Country would work together under the Black Country Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) to bring agencies together in co-designing health services and initiatives. The Board would play a role in showcasing the ICP's work and would also be a platform for sharing service user stories and sharing ideas to inform the design of services.

The three key messages the Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Strategy would strive to deliver:-

- health and wellbeing initiatives and actions that were co-designed and done WITH, rather than TO, the community;

## Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board 29 June 2022

- the taking on board of residents' ideas and views by the Council and health agencies;
- the Council's ambition that '*no one gets left behind*' by tackling health inequalities and barriers to health and wellbeing.

The Board Members concurred with the need for a single, shared outcomes framework for all health partners in Sandwell, and ideally across the Black Country, which would focus on place-based priorities.

Meeting ended at 7.16pm, following an adjournment between 5.42 and 5.45pm.

[democratic\\_services@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk)