

**PUBLIC Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 29 February 2024 11.00am-1.00pm**

**Present:** Councillor G Coxshall (Chair)  
Councillor Rigby

Ian Wake, Executive Director for Adults, Housing and Health  
Sheila Murphy, Executive Director for Children's Services  
Andrea Clement, Assistant Director for Public Health  
Margaret Allen, Deputy Thurrock Alliance Director  
Rita Thakaria, Partnership Director, Thurrock Council, EPUT and NELFT  
Sharon Hall, Northeast London Foundation Trust (NELFT)  
Kim James, Chief Operating Officer, Healthwatch Thurrock

**Apologies:** Councillor Johnson  
Councillor Morris-Cook  
Jim Nicolson, Adult Safeguarding Board  
Mark Tebbs, Chief Executive, CVS  
Jo Broadbent, Director of Public Health  
Aleksandra Mekan, Thurrock Alliance Director  
Michael Dineen, Assistant Director for Counter Fraud and Community Safety  
Michelle Stapleton, Integrated Care Pathway Director, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust  
Fiona Ryan, Managing Director, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust  
Gill Burns, Director of Children's Services, Northeast London Foundation Trust (NELFT)  
Alex Green, Executive Director of Community Services and Partnerships, Essex Partnership University Trust (EPUT)  
BJ Harrington, Chief Constable, Essex Police  
Jenny Barnett, Chief Superintendent, Essex Police

**Guests:** Emily Lawrence, Delivery and Engagement Manager, Thurrock Alliance.

**1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies**

Colleagues were welcomed and apologies were noted. Margaret Allen provided representation from the Thurrock Alliance and Andrea Clement attended on behalf of Jo Broadbent.

## 2. Minutes / Action Log

The minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 14 December 2023 were approved as a correct record.

The action and decision log were considered and updated accordingly.

## 3. Urgent Items

There were no items received in advance of the Board.

## 4. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

## 5. Virtual items for consideration

Following December's meeting there were no comments or feedback received for the Thurrock CORE20Plus5 Health Inequalities Data Pack.

The Board agreed to virtually consider the Domestic Abuse Services across Southend Essex and Thurrock which will be circulated after the meeting.

**Action: Members to provide comments on the Domestic Abuse Services across Southend Essex and Thurrock to the Board's secretariat within two weeks of the paper being circulated.**

## 6. Early Years Oral Health Programme

This item was introduced by Margaret Allen, Deputy Thurrock Alliance Director. Key points included:

- The Thurrock Alliance were first made aware of the challenges of dental health in Thurrock in 2022 where there was a 19% increase in the number of children attending hospital for dental extractions.
- A bid was made for NHS funding to help tackle the programme, working with children and their families, £211,000 granted.
- Thurrock is lower than the national average for child patients aged 0-8 receiving NHS dental care from July 2021-June 2022:
  - England – 36.7%
  - Thurrock – 26.1%
- Poor oral health can have a significant impact on children's and young people wellbeing and development.
- Hospital admissions in Thurrock is huge compared to other areas.
- Programme workstreams:
  - Development of supervised toothbrushing programmes in areas of high deprivation.
  - Delivery of oral health education sessions via the Family Hubs Network.
  - Delivery of oral health training to volunteers and other professionals working with children and families.
  - Provision of toothbrush packs and educational resources.

- This will be a 2-year programme which will be audited.

During discussions, the following points were made:

- Members recognised the importance of the programme, with hope to see a legacy after the funding for the programme has ceased. Other professionals are being trained through the train the trainer programme this includes social workers, health visitors, midwives, and anyone else who has a link with young families.
- Members raised concerns on the increase in hospital admissions, this is due to low numbers of routine check-ups. There are less than 10% attending for routine check-ups. Children are only attending when there is a problem.
- Members expressed the importance of collaborating with the families to prevent these issues and not wait for a crisis.
- It was highlighted that there are dental practices in Thurrock who are keen to sign up to the programme.
- Members raised concerns that some dental practices are not accepting children unless the parents are registered with the dental practice.

**Decision: Members welcomed the 2-year programme Thurrock Early Years Oral Health Programme.**

## 7. **Health and Wellbeing Strategy in focus – Domain 2 Building Strong and cohesive Communities.**

This item was introduced by Natalie Smith, Thurrock Council. Key points included:

- This domain was first brought to the board over a year ago which was part way through year 1. The report provides a complete report for year 1 as well progress for year 2 and some of the indicators for year 3.
- This domain has 3 areas of focus:
  - Community engagement
    - This year, there has been a significant focus on community engagement, where attempting to establish a single approach to community engagement.
    - There has been 14 Your Place Your Voice face to face events around the borough this year.
  - Empowerment
    - This focus is to help residents to have skills and confidence to influence decisions on where they live and how they get involved with influencing the priorities and how this will help influence the commissioning in the long term.
    - Funding has been secured through the Health Inequalities funding through Mid South Essex NHS. The work carried out with the funding has been successful. Circa £30,000 was awarded to 36 communities who came forward with a vast range of initiatives for their areas.
    - The funding was allocated within the PCN areas to gather local understanding of place. Tilbury and Chadwell PCN was awarded an additional funding of £42,000 to invite larger scale expression of interested.
    - A learning programme to support the voluntary sector has been developed by the CVS and TACC for delivery in 2023.
  - Equalities
    - There has been progress across the work internally. The decisions and impact on life chances especially around protected characteristics.

- Discussions and work have been underway with the voluntary sector.
- CVS has led on the interfaith week work this year. They will continue to develop the network to enhance the faith network within the borough.

During discussions, the following points were made:

- Members inquired what activities were provided with the allocated funding. It was noted that Thurrock Council provide the activities only the funding, these were led by the communities themselves (some examples):
  - Healthy eating – food bags for families to affordably purchase which includes recipes cards.
  - Warm hubs – funding was provided for a Christmas event for a hub that continued to meet throughout the year.
  - 9 projects funded by the participatory budgeting: Social inclusion, Thurrock Foodbank, Micro Enterprise – meals on wheels.
- The report was welcomed, this is an ongoing project for the last 10 years which is a huge success. This along with the activities in the family hubs shows Thurrock's commitment to community engagement and development by providing bespoke services.
- Members agreed that this is an excellent work, creating the community empowerment and building relationships with the communities and allowing them to feel included in the decisions made for them.

**Decision: Members welcomed the contents of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy in focus – Domain 2 Building Strong and cohesive Communities presentation.**

## 8. SEND Joint strategic needs Assessment (JSNA)

This item was introduced by Andrea Clement, Thurrock Council. Key points included:

- This is a request for the Health and Wellbeing Board to approve for publication.
- The Children and Families Act (2014) definition was used in the report which covers a range of different needs.
- A full JSNA was produced for Children with SEND in 2018. There is a need to refresh the data analysis to identify any changes.
- Aims of the JSNA update:
  - To understand if a how the current picture needs of children with SEND has changed since the publication.
  - To increase the understanding of the current demand for services and inform projections of future need for services where possible.
  - To provide a refreshed up to date evidence base to inform service planning and commissioning processes, and to be a source of information for the SEND team.
  - To review where the 2018 recommendations are still current and where required develop further recommendations based on the updated data.
- Findings – scale of the issue
  - The number of children with SEND, and proportion of CYP on the school roll in Thurrock has increased since 2018-19.
  - The reason for the increases is complex and cannot be identified solely from this data, it appears that this trend is set to continue.
  - Waiting time to diagnosis is likely to be an issue affecting children with EHCP.
- Findings – picture of SEND needs:

- Types of need in different school settings differ and this has not changed significantly since 2018.
- Three key differences with CIPFA/England
  - More children who have been classified as receiving SEN support but no specialist assessment of type of need.
  - Lower diagnoses of ASD and specific learning difficulty and higher levels of moderate learning difficulty and social, emotional, and mental health needs.
  - Fewer Secondary needs identified.
- Findings – who are our children with SEND:
  - Similar picture to 2018
    - Higher prevalence of SEND in males than females (21%-11%).
    - Varies by ethnicity group.
    - Higher prevalence in children living in deprived areas.
- Findings – what outcomes of SEND children achieve.
  - GCSE and KS2 attainment improved.
  - ELG and KS4 has worsened for children with EHCP.
  - ELG attainment has improved for children without an EHCP.
- Progress against 2018 recommendations
  - Majority of recommendations have been achieved including:
    - Publication of the Brighter Futures strategy
    - Development of a SEND strategy
    - All statement converted to EHCP with timescales.
    - EHCNA's are improved.

During discussions, the following points were made:

- Members raised concerns on the early learning goals which has fallen for children with EHCP. This is a national issue that may be linked to the pandemic.
- Members agreed that continued work around identify a child who has additional needs. Working with the family hubs, healthy families services. To continue to conduct mandatory and statutory reviews.
- Members welcomed the report and the ongoing work with Children services.
- It was acknowledged that there is a national issue with EHCP timescales, Members asked if there were any plans once the data has been received on how to work through the process.

**Decision: Members agreed the publication of the SEND JSNA update 2024 on the Council website.**

The meeting finished at 12:24pm.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....