

PUBLIC Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 27 July 2023 11.00am-12.00pm

Present: Councillor G Coxshall (Chair)
Councillor Rigby
Ian Wake, Corporate Director for Adults, Housing and Health
Jo Broadbent, Director of Public Health
Margaret Allen, Deputy Thurrock Alliance Director
Rita Thakaria, Partnership Director, Thurrock Council, EPUT and NELFT
Michele Lucas, Assistant Director for Education and Learning
Mark Tebbs, Chief Executive, CVS
Jim Nicolson, Adult Safeguarding Board
Michelle Stapleton, Integrated Care Pathway Director, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust
Robert Thompson, Essex Police
Sharon Hall, Northeast London Foundation Trust (NELFT)

Apologies: Councillor Johnson
Councillor Shinnick
Sheila Murphy, Corporate Director for Children's Services
Michael Dineen, Assistant Director for Counter Fraud and Community Safety
Aleksandra Mekan, Thurrock Alliance Director
Jeff Banks, Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System
Fiona Ryan, Managing Director, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust
Kim James, Chief Operating Officer, Healthwatch Thurrock
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)
Hannah Coffey, Acting Chief Executive, Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust
BJ Harrington, Chief Constable, Essex Police

Guests: Christopher Smith, Thurrock Council

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies

Colleagues were welcomed and apologies were noted. Michele Lucas attended on behalf of Sheila Murphy, Margaret Allen provided representation from the Thurrock Alliance and Sharon Hall attended on behalf of Gill Burns.

2. Minutes / Action Log

The minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 23 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

The action and decision log will be considered at the next meeting (31 August 2023).

3. Urgent Items

There were no urgent items received in advance of the meeting.

4. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

5. Year End Report for the Better Care Fund (BCF)

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

- Thurrock's initial Better Care Fund Plan, and Better Care Fund Section 75 Agreement between the Council and NHS, was approved in 2015. The arrangement has allowed the creation of a pooled fund, which is overseen by the Thurrock Integrated Care Alliance made up of officers from the Council and NHS Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board (NHS MSE ICB).
- The Better Care Fund Policy framework for this year and next, published on 4 April 2023, sets out the Government's priorities for 2023-25, including improving discharge, reducing the pressure on Urgent and Emergency Care and social care, supporting intermediate care, unpaid carers, and housing adaptations.
- The vision for the BCF over 2023-25 is to support people to live healthy, independent, and dignified lives, through joining up health, social care and housing services seamlessly around the person. A detailed breakdown for funding for specific workstreams such as hospital discharge has been provided.
- The Plan has been submitted to meet the timescales outlined by NHS England and at present it is undergoing scrutiny via an assurance process with approval letters anticipated week commencing 8 September 2023.
- A local review of the BCF commenced in July 2023, with the aid of the Better Care Fund Support Programme which is delivered through the LGA.

During discussions, the following points were made:

- Following publication of the Health and Wellbeing Board papers, the legal implications were verified by Daniel Longe, Principal Solicitor as follows:
 - Section 75 of the NHS Act 2006 makes provision for joint partnerships between NHS and Local authorities for the purpose of discharging prescribed functions of both statutory bodies. Particularly s75(2) makes provision for the establishment and maintenance of a fund which can be disbursed for the purposes of those prescribed functions;
 - Pursuant to s75 of the NHS Act 2006, and the Health and Social Care Act 2012 HWBs, one of the functions of the HWB is to set strategic direction to improve health and wellbeing;
 - The report sets out the work undertaken pursuant to the abovementioned legislative framework and is within the powers of the HWB and the Council to approve.
- Members welcomed the two year plan BCF submission and thanked Christopher Smith and partners for their contributions, collective partnership, and ambition in taking this forward.
- The strong narrative of the submission was highlighted and the clear alignment between the BCF and the Better Care Together Thurrock (BCTT): The Case for Further Change.
- Colleagues noted the metrics relating to hospital admission and discharge are positive and recognise the importance of preventing failure demand as part of supporting better outcomes for residents.
- Members recognised that the BCF plan could evolve further following consultation and support by the LGA therefore the Board will be provided with further updates in due course.

Decision: Members of the Board approved the Better Care Fund Plan for 2023 to 2025.

Prior to closing the meeting, the Chair advised colleagues that Jeff Banks (Mid and South Essex Integrated Care System) had received the endorsement letter of the Mid and South Essex Joint Forward Plan and members were thanked for their endorsement.

The meeting finished at 11:15am.

CHAIR.....

DATE.....