

Minutes of a meeting of the Bradford and Airedale Wellbeing Board held on Tuesday, 28 February 2023 in the Banqueting Hall - City Hall, Bradford

Commenced 10.00 am
Concluded 12.15 pm

PRESENT

Members of the Board –

MEMBER	REPRESENTING
Christopher Kovacs	Bradford District Commander, WYFRS
Foluke Ajayi	Chief Executive of Airedale NHS Foundation Trust
Dr Manoj Joshi	Chair of Economic Partnership
Robert McCoubrey	Chief Superintendant Bradford District, West Yorkshire Police
Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe	Leader of Bradford Metropolitan District Council (Chair)
Councillor Sarah Ferriby	Healthy People and Places Portfolio Holder, Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Councillor Sue Duffy	Children and Families Portfolio Holder, Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Kersten England - CBE	Chief Executive of Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Sarah Muckle	Director of Public Health, Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Dr Sohail Abbas	Deputy Clinical Chair and Strategic Clinical Director of Population Health and Wellbeing, Bradford Districts and Craven Clinical Commissioning Group
Helen Rushworth	Manager, HealthWatch Bradford and District
Prof Mel Pickup	Chief Executive of Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Prof Shirley Congdon	Vice Chancellor, Bradford University
Bishop Toby Haworth	Vice Chair of Stronger Communities Partnership
Humma Nizami	Executive Director, Race Equality Network
Councillor Rebecca Poulsen	Leader of the Conservative Group and Opposition Member
Janey Carey	Incommunities

Also in attendance:

Representatives from the Youth Service and Young People Voice,

James Drury, Jenny Cryer, Ruth Davison, Elaine Appelbee, Holly Hawke, Nial Devlin, Shane Hayward Giles, Richard Cracknell, Graham Brownlee, Rebecca Nykale and Sam Keighley

Apologies: Councillor Abdul Jabar and Therese Patten

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe in the Chair

13. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

No disclosures of interest in matters under consideration were received.

14. MINUTES

Resolved –

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 November 2022 be signed as a correct record subject to a change in the attendance list to indicate that Bishop Toby Haworth is Vice Chair of Stronger Communities Partnership.

ACTION: Director of Legal & Governance

15. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no appeals submitted by the public to review decisions to restrict documents.

16. BRADFORD CITIZENS ALLIANCE

The report of the Bradford Citizens Alliance (**Document “H”**) provided an update on the work of Bradford Citizens young person’s action team and informed Members about the Alliance’s four areas for action. The four areas for action included:

- effects of racism
- mental health experience and support
- effects of disadvantage
- lost opportunities/LGBTQ+

Bradford Citizens is currently an alliance of five School Multi-Academy Trusts (BDAT, Beckfoot, Carlton, Dixons and Exceed), with other Trusts joining. The aim is to broaden this alliance among more schools, the University, faith groups, charities and trade unions.

Representatives from the Youth Service, including those that had been deployed as Young Covid Ambassadors during the pandemic were present at the meeting to give an insight into the work undertaken, and how this and other work could be developed further going forward; the following points were alluded to:

- That payment had helped the Young Covid Ambassadors greatly and was a great addition to their CV’s, enabling them to gain access to other employment, as well as to job opportunities within the Youth Service.
- That intergenerational work had brought young and old together through activities such as sports and singing.

- That work had also been undertaken with those with a learning and other disabilities, as well as work with communities across the district; and this inclusive approach had proved invaluable.
- That the skills gained were transformative and enabled young people to reach out to other young people during a very challenging period in their lives.
- That over 100 young people visited Coventry, the former City of Culture, as well as it being a great cultural experience, the visit had received good media coverage.
- That one of the key components was that the voice of young people was being heard, through the development of opportunities.

The Chair thanked the Youth Service and the Young Covid Ambassadors for their sterling work during the pandemic, and that their work had been a panacea for change throughout the district and had also received national recognition. She stressed that the model used should be adapted and used for other work in the district going forward.

The Chief Executive echoed the above comments and stated that it was important that this work was not lost, but built upon, and that a system of consulting with young people was developed. She added that the effective use of social media was a crucial element in this. In addition, working with our Communications Team on how we better communicate with young people, as well as using accessible language in the day to day work of the Council.

A representative from West Yorkshire Police added that there was also an opportunity here to link in with the work the Police were doing with young people, to provide better synergy in getting out key messages to young people and improve engagement at the same time.

The Shipley Area Coordinator stated that following the end of the Young Covid Ambassadors programme, the Service was actively looking at how the model could be adopted to other areas of work, as their work had been a real game changer.

A number of secondary school students were also present to talk about the impacts of the pandemic and the support available to students suffering mental health issues and how this could be improved. During their presentation, the following points were alluded to:

- That as well as mental health, there was also a focus on the cost of living crisis and tackling racism.
- That many young people suffered from mental health issues and we needed to see action and improved provision.
- That Covid had seen an exponential rise in those suffering mental health issues; which had placed a high demand on services.

- A young person gave an emotional testimony about his mental health journey and how his own experience has led him to despair, until a referral to Roshni Ghar changed things for the better; he stated that no one should suffer in silence and that access to timely therapy was key.
- That the discussion around mental health issues should be normalised to address the stigma that still existed around the subject.
- That schools had to be more proactive in addressing mental health issues, however additional resources were required.

Board Members expressed their sincere thanks to the young people for attending the Board meeting and for their frank and powerful testimonies. The Chair stated that the pandemic had only increased the incidence of mental health issues and education and timely interventions were key to achieving successful outcomes for young people.

The Chief Executive of Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acknowledge the challenges around mental health provision and that these testimonies gave an insight into the amount of work that was required, adding that given the well documented challenges already facing the Health Service, developing a sustainable support model was crucial going forward and how we provide better support services overall.

The Chief Executive acknowledged that there were gaps in the provision of mental health services and that some children were in acute need, and to this end it was important to act now and work with Partners to achieve better outcomes.

A Board Member commented that collaboration with young people was also a crucial element, in ensuring that service provision was centred around the needs of young people. In addition any therapy offered needed to be culturally appropriate so that it met the needs of different communities.

The Chair also stressed that schools should also work together and combine resources in this area, and provide a more uniformed service around mental health provision.

Resolved –

- (1) That the Board notes the contents of Document “H” and the views expressed by the Bradford Citizens Young People’s Action Team and those of Bradford Council’s Youth Service.**
- (2) That the Board takes note of the specific proposals brought by the Young People’s Action Team and Bradford Council’s Youth Service.**
- (3) That the Board commits to working with both groups to take forward/develop the specific proposals on Mental Health and by using the learning from the Young Covid Ambassadors to build skills and experience to secure work to improve services and provision**

across the District for ALL of Bradford's children and young people, in particular the following action points were alluded to:

- **Build on the work undertaken by the Young Covid Ambassadors and consider how the model used can be replicated in the system.**
- **Look at ways of improving communication between young people and partner organisations through the system voice and influence work.**
- **That Healthwatch produce a report in collaboration with schools about the access to mental health services and gaps in support.**

ACTION: Strategic Director Children's Services

17. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S PLAN

The report of the Strategic Director, Children's Services (**Document "I"**) presented the Bradford District Children and Young People's Strategy for board review and approval. It set out how the partnerships that support the health, wellbeing and development of babies, children and young people will work together to improve outcomes for Bradford District's children and their families.

The Chair stressed that additional work was required to finalise the Plan, and it was therefore:

Resolved –

That the Children and Young People's Plan be developed further and presented at a future meeting of the Wellbeing Board.

ACTION: Strategic Director Children's Services

18. CHILD FRIENDLY BRADFORD DISTRICT

The report of the Director, Public Health (**Document "J"**) provided an update on the Child Friendly District initiative and requested the approval of the board on the future naming convention and ongoing focus of the work.

The Lead on the Child Friendly initiative gave a resume of the activities undertaken to date during a PowerPoint presentation and the importance of embedding child friendly policies into day to day practices.

In response to a question on how you echo the voice of young people, it was stated that adopting a consultative model was key, where partners look at their internal practices with a view to changing them, with a particular focus on the needs of young people.

Arranging events for young people was also an important area of activity and ensuring that key messages resonated with young people, as well as looking at improving access to job opportunities.

The Chief Executive stated that she had a real concern around voter ID registration and that non registration amongst the young was particularly high, and therefore there needed to be a concerted effort to address this.

The importance of a joint commissioning role was alluded to as well as linkages to other health related activities and organisations.

Resolved –

- (1) That the naming convention of ‘Child Friendly Bradford District’ be adopted for our local Child Friendly initiative.**
- (2) That the primary focus of Child Friendly Bradford District is coordinating and developing our partnership approaches to giving children and young people more influence over public services in the district.**
- (3) The following action points were also noted:**
 - **Holding planned events such as a youth summit in taking the Child Friendly initiative forward.**
 - **Consider restarting the Ambassadors role**

ACTION: Director of Public Health

19. REFRESH OF THE WEST YORKSHIRE PARTNERSHIPS' FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY

The report of the Director of Strategy and partnerships and the Associate Director of Strategy, NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (**Document “K”**) provided members with a working draft of the West Yorkshire Partnership’s five-year strategy and joint forward plan approach.

It was stated that this was very much a refresh process, as the Strategy was now out of date, and consultation, involving a whole host of organisations, including this Board was key in developing and taking the Strategy forward.

To this end, it was the intention that a draft would be ready by the end of March, with implementation/delivery in June.

The Chief Executive stressed the need to reflect the equalities work and the current focus on children and young people within the Strategy.

The Leader stated that updates on the Strategy should be presented to the Board on a regular basis.

It was also suggested that conversations are had with the business community, particularly in respect of procurement/community processes.

Resolved –

- (1) That the work that has been undertaken across the Partnership as part of the refresh of the Strategy be noted.**
- (2) That Members commented on the current draft of the strategy/plan and requested that updates be presented to the Board on a regular basis, noting the further work would be undertaken and the development of a Joint Forward Plan to enable delivery of the strategy.**

ACTION: Director of Strategy & Partnerships

Chair

Note: These minutes are subject to approval as a correct record at the next meeting of the Bradford and Airedale Wellbeing Board.

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN PRODUCED, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, ON RECYCLED PAPER