

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

Commenced 10.05 am  
Concluded 12.06 pm

### PRESENT

#### Members of the Board -

<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>REPRESENTING</b>
Dr Manoj Joshi	Chair of Economic Partnership
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
Sarah Muckle	Director of Public Health, Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Iain MacBeath	Strategic Director Health and Wellbeing, Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Dr Sohail Abbas	Deputy Medical Director - NHS West Yorkshire Integrated and Strategic Clinical Director of Reducing Inequalities Alliance, Bradford Districts and Craven Health and Care Partnership and Deputy Medical Director NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board.
Prof Mel Pickup	Chief Executive of Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Prof Shirley Congdon	Vice Chancellor, Bradford University
Councillor Rebecca Poulsen	Leader of the Conservative Group and Opposition Member
Marium Haque	Strategic Director, Children's Services
Sam Keighley	Bradford Assembly Representing the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector
Dr Stewart Davies	Chair of Sustainable Development Partnership

Also in attendance: Philippa Hubbard, Richard Padwell, Fiona Philips, James Drury

Observers:

Apologies: Robert McCoubrey, Humma Nizami, Foluke Ajayi, Therese Pattern

### **Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe in the Chair**

#### **1. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

No disclosures of interest were received.

#### **2. INSPECTION OF REPORTS AND BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No requests to inspect reports or background papers were received.

#### **3. DISTRICT DIGITAL STRATEGY**

The report of Digital Strategy for Bradford District was presented to the Board.

A PowerPoint presentation was provided giving details on the digital strategy for the district. It was reported that the district has 90.86% of its premises with access to Gigabit capable connectivity leaving 9.14% still to gain this level of access. 62.71% (up from 40% 2022) of premises across the district have Fibre enabled broadband to the Premise (FTTP) leaving 37.29% premises still to receive FTTP.

It was reported that the programme aimed to target those urban and rural “low spots/not spots” and to work with with BDUK, Bradford was chosen as 1 of 4 pilot areas to engage with the Market to understand reasons for these underdeveloped areas. Work is being undertaken to address this issue.

The officer reported that there was much work currently being done in the City Centre to ensure businesses and communities had adequate connectivity. There are some difficulties around this: Based on recent figures there could potentially be over 1 million Urban premises that were “sub superfast” with no current plans to upgrade either through commercial build or public intervention.

The Board was provided with details on council actions and interventions to accelerate fibre and mobile connectivity. Details of some digital inclusion highlights were provided, such as Digital Inclusion Index, Digital Inclusion Programme Branding, Digital Unite Platform etc, these programmes aim to address inequalities in digital access.

A short video was presented on virtual Bradford digital twin which was developed alongside the University of Bradford highlighting benefits of a digital twin. Digital twins could help an organisation simulate real situations and their outcomes, ultimately allowing it to make better decisions.

It was reported that the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council and the University of Bradford seek to establish an AI partnership within the Bradford district as a catalyst for establishing an innovation ecosystem for business in the region and drive knowledge exchange. An ecosystem that would help establish maturity in the processes, better target inward investment for the District, identify cases and collaborative opportunities that addressed societal challenges and

boost business growth. This work is under development with workshops for businesses being run.

Following the presentation, Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and comment, the details of which and the responses given are as below.

Members of the Board were concerned regarding connectivity in the city centre and wanted to know if there were any additional steps that could be taken to improve connectivity. In response to this, the officer reported that a lot was being done to address this issue however, the market was very volatile. If all the initiatives were successfully implemented, it could prove positive and improve connectivity in the city centre. It was agreed that the Board would collectively work together to lobby on behalf of the District.

Another Board member raised concerns regarding the lack of connectivity in the rural areas and young people from these areas not being able to access the internet because of this. In response to this, the officer reported that they were engaging with partners to come to a solution and improve internet access in rural areas, but this would also require government intervention. This issue is not isolated to the Bradford District and is an issue experienced by rural areas across the Country.

A member of the Board asked if work around ducting had been carried out. In response, the Digital Lead reported that the Council owns a lot of its own ducting and there is new ducting being put in as part of the new TCFL. Work is being done to consider how this can be used as an incentive to attract investment into mobile technology in the District.

**Resolved -**

**That the Strategic Lead for the Digital Strategy be requested to provide a narrative for Board Members to support them to advocate for the case of digital investment in Bradford District.**

***To be actioned by: Strategic Lead for the Digital Strategy***

#### **4. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS STRATEGY**

The report of the Community Safety Partnership (**Document “N**) was submitted to the Board, which provided Members with an overview of the District’s strategic approach to addressing issues relating to the ‘Safety of Women and Girls’ (SOWG).

The presentation focused on the national, regional and local agenda, data and good practice in response to SOWG and recognised the need to think holistically and differently across the ‘system thinking’ approach to meet the challenge. The report presenters suggested that, by addressing the issues collectively, we could create a positive shift in outcomes for women and girls across the District.

It was reported that there work has been done to increase awareness on issues affecting women. Consultations have been taking place to understand the

experiences of women and girls and these are summarised in the paper. Primary/secondary schools, colleges, and Youth Services were engaging in tailor made consultations that were aligned to the Ofsted Framework specifically to RSHE, and Citizenship to ensure the voices of children and young people were heard and embedded within the local strategy. To date a total of 868 responses had been received with key findings and recommendations, details of which were provided in the report.

It was reported that to ensure a long-term effective response to reduce violence against women and girls, there needed to be more engagement with men and boys. The commissioned early intervention navigator pilot project evidenced the importance of holding perpetrators to account while using trauma-informed engagement as a successful tool for long-term change. In addition to the perpetrator programmes, there needed to be an increase in education of men and boys and support to the education sector to lead on some of these conversations. The plan was to develop a cross system group that supported each partnership through their equality lens to contribute to SOWG in their respective work areas which would provide the “golden thread” response needed for Bradford to achieve sustainable changes in outcomes.

It was reported that workshops were planned to identify how well the current resources were being used, identify how well work was coordinated to see what was being done collectively to add value and to also identify any gaps in delivery. The aim is to bring all the different initiatives and projects together.

Following the presentation, Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and comment, the details of which and the responses given are as below.

The Chair and members of the Board were supportive of the Strategy and were keen to tackle this issue at all levels.

A Board member asked if there was any further information of data breakdown around problematic areas. In response to this, the presenting officer reported that the hotspots would be in places of higher deprivation.

A member of the Board commented that the Strategy aligned with the West Yorkshire Police Framework and that the work around the safety of girls and women had increased significantly including incidents taking place online which also contributed to an increase in demand and a different dimension to addressing the issue.,

A Board member wanted to know if a strategy could be developed which focused on issues in each area. In response to this, Officers agreed that some focused work will be required in areas where specific issues were identified.

A member of the Board raised concerns around the safety of girls and women on public transport. Addressing the members concern, the officer reported that this will form part of the programme of work and that is currently being developed. An information page had been created that provides information on hundreds of free resources that girls and women could access to feel safe.

Many members of the Board felt that early intervention in schools would have the

impact to bring about the change that is required for a safer society.

**Resolved –**

- (1) That The Wellbeing Board is asked to support the Safety of Women Girls programme and individual Partnerships are asked to consider what actions can be taken to support the culture shift required to ensure the safety of Women and Girls across the District.**
- (2) That further work will take place through the Wellbeing Executive and Partnerships to address any potential gaps in the response to the delivery of the SOWG strategy.**
- (3) That as part of the ongoing consultation process to form a SOWG strategy, the Wellbeing board considers and offers direction that will further support the development of the strategy.**

***To be actioned by: Strategic Director for Place***

**5. CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL**

The report of the Director of Public Health (**Document “O”**) was submitted and presented the Bradford Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) and gave an overview of all deaths reviewed by the CDOP in the years 2021-22 and 2022-23, describes some of the actions undertaken by the partnership to reduce the risk of future deaths, and made recommendations for further action.

The report covered an introduction to CDOP and the processes followed, outline of the demographics of children and young people in the District, demographics of children and young people reviewed by Bradford CDOP in the reporting period, causes of death, risk factors, and modifiable factors related to child deaths in the District, local actions over the past year to reduce the risk of child death, and recommendations for the future.

Following the presentation, Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and comment, the details of which and the responses given are as below.

The Chair of the Board thanked the presenting officer for the report and offered condolences to all the families who had lost children.

One of the risk factors was cosleeping which has resulted in cot deaths, so the importance of parents being able to provide safe sleeping arrangements were emphasised. Initiatives are in place to provide safe sleeping resources to communities through the Sure start grant and Work continues to be done to raise awareness and access to these initiatives through the Better Health Better Lives programme. it was reported that information on the service is made available every pregnant woman that was booked. Work had been carried out to raise awareness of vouchers and benefits that were available to families and to provide important information around health and safety and warm homes including providing 3000 room thermometers to help families to keep their homes at the correct temperature. It was reported that the genetics project that was provided

raised awareness and understanding among communities and among anyone who was at a higher risk of genetic issues as this is also a contributing factor to child deaths.

Another member of the Board suggested that there should be free transportation for pregnant women to allow them to attend appointments and more should be invested on interpreters to allow parity in access to services. In response to this, the presenting officer advised that the maternity transport had been raised at the Health Overview and Scrutiny Board and work relating to this was still ongoing.

A member of the Board asked if the service engaged with religious communities- particularly where there are issues around loss to provide support for families. In response to this,

The presenting officer reported that the cultural competency training was on offer to everyone in the maternity and children's services. There were 6 individuals from across place from different organisations that were identified to do the train the trainer. Further work will take place to work with faith settings to understand if there are additional actions that can be taken to support families.

#### **Resolved –**

**That Board members be invited to review the recommendations and to reflect on how they may be able to contribute to their delivery.**

#### **Environmental risk factors:**

- (1) Services and planners of services should work together to ensure that families with children have opportunities to access all the financial assistance they are eligible for.**
- (2) Ensure that women have good access to pre-conception health advice. This should not be limited to women seeking medical advice, but should be available to all women, regardless of pregnancy status.**

#### **Service provision:**

- (3) Ensure that children and families in more socioeconomically deprived parts of Bradford have good access to services including maternity, health visiting, school nursing, social care, and education. This may include considerations of timing, location and transport to services, and of the language, both written and spoken, used to communicate messages and information to families.**
- (4) Continue, learn from, and expand on the current work to increase cultural competency of the maternity and children & young people's workforce, with the aim to ensure that children and families from ethnic minority backgrounds have equitable access to culturally competent services.**
- (5) Services and organisations must work to identify needs of children**

and families, and to refer to appropriate services as needed. Strong partnership working and referral pathways between services will be key to this.

- (6) CDOP must ensure strong partnerships with the Bradford Children's Trust and with the Safeguarding Partnership, and that the bodies are sighted on the findings and recommendations set out in this report.

**Individual risk factors:**

- (7) Work through schools, colleges and communities to educate children and young people on safety messages should be undertaken. This may include information on swimming safely, road safety, drug and alcohol messaging, and general hazard awareness.
- (8) Links should be strengthened between the suicide prevention board and the CDOP panel.
- (9) Continue the work on genetic literacy and culturally competent service provision through the Every Baby Matters steering group.
- (10) Promote universal messaging for all new parents on safe sleep. This should be consistent across services and professionals to ensure that advice is the same, whoever is delivering it.
- (11) Provide advice for parents on safety in and outside of the home.

**Process:**

- (12) The terms of reference and operation of CDOP should be regularly reviewed to guarantee continual quality improvement of the process, and to ensure that the meeting continues to model best practice.

***To be actioned by: Director of Public Health***

**6. BETTER CARE FUND 2023-24 QUARTER 2 REPORT**

The report of the Better Care Fund (**Document "P"**) was submitted to the Board in order to:

1. Inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the Quarter 2 position for the Better Care Fund 2023-24.
2. Provide assurance that the Better Care Fund Plan is meeting the national requirements and policies.

**Resolved –**

**That the report (Document "P) be noted.**

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