

## Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board

**Wednesday 12 March 2025 at 5.32pm  
In the Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House.**

**Present:**

Councillor Jackie Taylor	Chair and Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing
Dr Sommiya Aslam	Vice- Chair and Local Commissioning Clinical Lead – Black Country Integrated Care Board
Councillor Jalal Uddin	Cabinet Member for Children and Families.
Councillor Vicki Smith	Cabinet Member for Housing and Sustainable Development
Councillor Sukhbir Gill	Cabinet Member for Business and Skills
Councillor Elaine Giles	Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board
Councillor Nicky Hinchliff	Chair of Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board
Liann Brookes- Smith	Interim Director of Public Health
Sally Giles	Director of Children and Education Services
Michelle Carolan	Sandwell Managing Director – Black Country Integrated Care Board
Adele Hickman	Head of Primary Care and Place Commissioning – Black Country Integrated Care Board
Amritpal Randhawa	Chair of Healthwatch Sandwell
Chief Superintendent Kim Maddil	West Midlands Police
Sian Thomas	Chief Integration Officer – Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
Ayyat Adigun	Chair of SHAPE Youth Forum

## **Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board 12 March 2025**

### **In attendance**

Chris Anne Guest	Assistant Director – Commissioning (Adult Social Care)
Paul Moseley	Better Care Fund Programme Manager
Samantha Harman	Children’s Commissioning, Partnerships and Improvement Manager
Neesha Patel	SHAPE Programme Manager
Debra Howls	Head of Partnerships – Black Country Integrated Care Board
Rebecca Fisher	National Graduate Development
Rosana Fforde	Public Health Consultant
John Swann	Democratic Services Officer

### **1/25 Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies were received from Rashpal Bishop (Director of Adult Social Care), Alexia Farmer (Healthwatch Sandwell Manager), Marsha Foster (Chief Executive – Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust), Mark Davies (Chief Executive - Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations), Imam Nasir Akhtar (Chair of Sandwell Multi- Faith Network) and Emma Taylor (Chief Executive of Sandwell Children’s Trust).

### **2/25 Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of Interest were received.

### **3/25 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 4 December 2024 are approved as a correct record.

### **4/25 Additional Items of Business**

There were no urgent additional items of business.

5/25

**Sandwell better care Fund Plan 2025/ 26**

Approval was sought for the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan 2025/ 26.

The Sandwell BCF Plan for 2025/26 had been developed in line with national planning requirements set by NHS England. The BCF was a longstanding programme which aimed to integrate health and social care services to improve outcomes for residents, particularly those who were older, frail, or had complex needs.

The plan aimed to support people to live independently for as long as possible, reducing unnecessary hospital admissions and enabling timely and effective hospital discharges. The plan was shaped by the local population need and addressed health inequalities and ensured services were accessible to diverse communities within Sandwell.

The total BCF pooled budget settlement for 2025/ 26 was £72,021,785, which represented an increase of £1,861,954 compared to the 2024/ 25 settlement.

The development of the BCF plan had been a collaborative process, involving key stakeholders from Sandwell Council the Black Country Integrated Care Board, Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Primary Care, and local voluntary and community sector partners.

The full plan was due to be submitted to the national BCF team and regional BCF managers by the 31 March 2025.

From the comments and questions by members of the Board, the following responses were made, and issues highlighted:

- The BCF was designed to address health outcomes for older adults.
- Childhood obesity was not within the remit of the plan, however as part of the shift from treatment to prevention a wider suite of services could be funded by the plan. However, any such additional services would only be able to be funded following an evidence based assessment.

## **Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board 12 March 2025**

- It was acknowledged that whilst winter pressures increased strain on the healthcare infrastructure, the ambulance wait times and infection rates in the West Midlands were better than the national averages.
- It was highlighted that the demand for adult social care was increasing due to an aging population and resource constraints. The Digital and Technology Enabled Care Strategy was due to be approved by cabinet in April 2025 which would set out the plan to integrate digital solutions into care pathways.
- The directorate of Adult Social Care had entered into pilot schemes to trial technology packages to see which digital solutions were best to support people to live independently.
- The role of unpaid carers was highlighted in providing care for vulnerable people across the Borough.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Better Care Fund Plan 2025/ 26 is approved;
- (2) that the Director of Adult Social Care is authorised to sign off Better Care Fund related reports and submissions, as may be required, throughout 2025/ 26;
- (3) that the Health and Wellbeing Board Chair is authorised to sign the Better Care Fund Plan 2025 /26.

(Ayyat Adigun joined the meeting during consideration of this item).

6/25

### **Local Government Association – Leading Healthier Places Programme Update**

Further to Minute No. 19/24 (meeting held on 12 June 2024), the Board received an update in relation to its participation in the Leading Healthier Places programme.

## **Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board 12 March 2025**

Advisors had been appointed by the Local Government Association to support the Board, both of whom had experience within the health and care sector.

One to one meetings had now taken place between the majority of Board Members and the advisors, who were analysing the responses and would present their findings to the Board at its workshop on 7 April 2025.

Board Members were encouraged to attend the workshop and contribute to the ongoing development of the Board.

7/25

### **Child Friendly Sandwell Update**

Further to Minute No. 8/24 (meeting held on 13 March 2023) and 26/24 (meeting held on 11 September 2024), the Board received an update on the Council's participation in the UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities Programme.

Following being accepted as a Candidate Community in September 2024, a Partnership Discovery Day was held in October to launch the Discovery Phase with over 40 partner organisations in attendance.

Training on the Child's Rights Based Approach had been delivered by UNICEF UK reaching 40 partner organisations in the Borough.

The Play Sufficiency Research Project had been undertaken and the findings had been cascaded to council colleagues and wider partnerships.

Children and young people aged 11- 18 in the Borough had been surveyed with 10,632 responses. The emerging themes which had been highlighted via the survey were:

- Crime and Safety;
- Rights, Equality and Democracy;
- Education and Learning;
- Health and Wellbeing.

A Member Working Group comprising of Members of Cabinet, Scrutiny and the Opposition had also been established and met

## **Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board 12 March 2025**

regularly to provide oversight and guidance as the programme progresses.

The Discovery phase was due to last for an estimated period of six- months following which a report would be submitted to UNICEF Child Friendly Cities and Communities ULK. The report was required to set out the priority badge choices and how children, young people, families and communities had influenced these choices.

From the comments and questions by members of the Board, the following responses were made, and issues highlighted:

- It was highlighted that children and young people had consistently ranked crime and safety as their top priority for a number of years.
- Serious youth violence and knife crime was decreasing slightly in the West Midlands, however the area remained one of the most dangerous in the UK.
- Crime data outlined that 80% of those in prison had special educational needs or a disability.
- The contribution from young people, schools and stakeholders had been fantastic and had shaped the direction of the programme.
- The Council had received positive feedback from schools and young people who had participated in World Children's Day celebrations.

8/25

### **Celebrating 10 years of SHAPE Youth Forum**

The Board received an overview of the SHAPE Youth Forum and its development across the ten- year period it had operated.

The SHAPE Youth Forum was established in 2014 and through its activities raised the profile of the child's voice across the Council, schools and other organisations.

Sandwell was leading in best practice in this area, by being currently the only local authority in England to have a dedicated child's voice programme.

To celebrate 10 years of the SHAPE Programme an event was held in January at the WS10 Banqueting Suite. The event

## **Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board 12 March 2025**

celebrated the children and young people which had represented the voice of the child through the SHAPE Youth Forum and showcased talent via the SHAPE Your Talent scheme. Feedback from young people in attendance was overwhelmingly positive.

The Chair of SHAPE outlined how the Youth Forum had given her and other young people a voice and had raised awareness and shaped policies related to issues impacting young people.

9/25

### **Work Programme 2024/ 25**

The Board noted its Work Programme for 2024/ 25. It was highlighted that it was the last meeting of the 2024/ 25 municipal year.

Meeting ended at 7.24pm  
(meeting was adjourned between 5.58- 6.28pm).

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