

Minutes of Health and Wellbeing Board

29 July 2025 at 6.15pm at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present:

Councillor Jackie Taylor	Chair and Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing
Dr Sommiya Aslam	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
Dr Frances Howie	Interim Director of Public Health
Sally Giles	Executive Director of Children and Education Services
Rashpal Bishop	Executive Director of Adult Social Care
Michelle Carolan	Sandwell Managing Director – Black Country Integrated Care Board
Adele Hickman	Head of Primary Care and Place Commissioning – Black Country Integrated Care Board
Sian Thomas	Chief Integration Officer – Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
Amritpal Randhawa	Chair Healthwatch Sandwell
Alexia Farmer	Manager Healthwatch Sandwell
Andrew Shakespeare	West Midlands Fire Service
Ayyat Adigun	Chair of SHAPE Youth Forum

In attendance:

Councillor E Giles	Chair Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board
Chief Inspector Richard Bolton	West Midlands Police
Kat Rose	Chief Integration Officer – Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust
Sophie Pagett	Service Manager Health Protection, Public Health
Lina Martino	Consultant, Public Health
Jason Copp	Principal Research and Intelligence Specialist, Public Health
Ellen Blakeley	Public Health Registrar
Rebecca Fisher	Graduate, Public Health

10/25 **Chair's Announcement**

The Board welcomed Dr Frances Howie, Interim Director of Public Health to her first meeting.

The Board was informed that Sandwell had now achieved 16 Green Flag awards which was a new record for Sandwell. Green spaces promoted healthy and active lifestyles by providing spaces to exercise and wind down. The Green Flag awards ceremony had also been held in Sandwell which was the first time it had ever been held in West Midlands.

11/25 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

12/25 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March are approved as a correct record.

13/25 **Urgent Additional Items of Business**

There were no urgent additional items of business.

14/25 **Vice- Chair and Work Programme of the Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Board considered its work programme for 2025/26 and was asked to appoint a Vice-Chair from among its membership.

Dr Sommiya Aslam, Local Commissioning Clinical Lead at the Black Country Integrated Care Board was been proposed for the role of Vice-Chair.

Resolved:-

- 1) that Dr Sommiya Aslam, Local Commissioning Clinical Lead at the Black Country Integrated Care Board is elected to the role of Vice-Chair for 2025/26;
- 2) that the Health and Wellbeing Board work programme for 2025/26 is approved.

LGA Review – Follow up and Next Steps

Further to Minute No. 6/25 (of 12 March 2025) the Board received a report summarising the activities undertaken as part of the LGA's Leading Healthier Places review and considered next steps.

The LGA representatives had met with Board members and other key stakeholders in early 2025 and had presented their findings to a workshop with Board members on 7 April 2025.

The review had identified a range of experiences and feedback and highlighted several areas for further consideration, noting that:-

- there was a strong and shared appetite for change;
- there was a clear ambition to provide clarity in leading through complexity and change;
- there was a common vision to drive change by setting a small number of priorities in a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWBS) underpinned by a comprehensive Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which would effectively drive evidence-based priority setting;
- there was a common commitment to build robust action plans and outcome indicators to enable the Board to progress and measure the impact of the JHWBS.

The review and follow-up work had identified three key themes for the Board to focus on.

Theme 1: New Ways of working - Development sessions would be held by the Board to progress findings from the review and ensure that the function of the Board remained in line with its statutory duties. Consultation work would be further developed, to ensure that a comprehensive approach was taken to strategy development which included open and wide consultation.

Theme 2: Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) - The Review had highlighted a desire to review the production and accessibility of the JSNA. Producing a JSNA was a joint responsibility of health and local authorities, and the health duty now fell to the local Integrated Care Board (ICB). They were assessments of the current and future health and social needs of the local community and should underpin evidence-set. The review had highlighted that partners including the voluntary and community sector (VCS) had a wealth of data, information and insights that were not included. It also found that full use was not yet made of the resource available within the JSNA.

At task and finish stakeholder group would be established to review the process for on-going production of the JSNA, ensuring that there was joint working between Health, Local Authority and VCS partners. A short JSNA summary would be presented to the Board in September 2025 to enable full understanding and discussion of current content. A revised

JSNA structure and production process for would then be presented to the December meeting for consideration.

Theme 3: Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy - The production of the JHWBS was a statutory duty of the Local Authority and the ICB. Government guidance made clear that the Strategy was about setting a small number of key strategic priorities for action, that would make a real impact on people's lives.

The existing Sandwell JHWBS was published in 2022 and due for review in 2025. The review had found mixed responses about its impact and identified consensus about the need for action plans and performance indicators to be an integral part of future strategies. There was agreement by Board members that a new strategy should be developed at pace, with wider consultation across stakeholders and residents, and an associated programme of delivery, and that consultation should be on matters including the principles and vision of the JHWBS; criteria for selecting a long list of priorities; a long list of priorities drawing on the existing JSNA; and examples of performance indicators and delivery mechanisms.

A report would be submitted to the Board in September 2025 outlining the proposed consultation process. Consultation would then take place in October and November and a draft Strategy presented to the Board in December 2025, which would include delivery mechanisms. The final Strategy would be presented to the Board in March 2026.

The Board welcomed the findings of the review and proposed next steps.

Resolved:-

- 1) that the findings and conclusions from the LGA Leading Healthier Places review are received and the Board concurs with the three key themes identified - New Ways of Working; Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- 2) that the proposed actions to address the findings are approved, including the process for the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

16/25

Sandwell Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2025

The Board considered proposals for the development of the new Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. Health and Wellbeing Boards had a statutory duty to produce a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) for their area every three years. The last PNA for Sandwell had been published in 2022.

Three different levels of pharmaceutical services were provided by pharmacies:-

- Essential services - mandatory services, provided by all pharmacy contractors, and commissioned by NHS England.
- Advanced services - which could be provided by pharmacy contractors, only if accreditations requirements had been met, which were commissioned by NHS England
- Enhanced or locally commissioned services - which were optional services, developed to meet the needs of the local population, and commissioned by NHS England or the Black Country Integrated Care Board respectively.

Regulations required the Health and Wellbeing Boards to include a statement of those services that it defined as being 'necessary' to meet the need for the pharmaceutical services within the pharmaceutical needs assessment. There was no definition of 'necessary' services within the regulations, and the Board therefore had complete freedom in this matter. Consensus from the PNA Steering Group, which included members from Public Health, Community Pharmacy Black Country, Black Country Integrated Care Board, and Healthwatch Sandwell, was that all essential services should be considered as 'necessary' as they were required to be provided by all pharmacies and advanced services that supported the delivery plan for recovering access to primary care should be included in the definition of 'necessary services.'

The Board noted the draft PNA, which set out the conclusions and recommendations arising from engagement to date. A 60 day statutory consultation would follow, The Board was asked to approve an extension to timescales to allow opportunity to increase the response rate from contractors; accommodate good translation of the materials into key languages; and extend community engagement activity. The final PNA would be presented to the Board for decision in December 2025.

From the comments and questions from members of the Board, the following was noted:-

- the PNA needed to reflect the ambitions set out in the NHS 10 Year Plan;
- engagement would take place with the SHAPE Forum to ensure that young people's voices were captured;
- a directory of services provided by each pharmacy would be considered as a piece of work that the health and care partnership could take forward.

Resolved:-

- 1) that the draft Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) now presented is approved as a basis for consultation,

following successful completion of contractor and resident surveys;

- 2) that the definition of 'necessary services' the purpose of assessing current service provision is approved;
- 3) that an extension to timescales for finalisation of the PNA is approved, to allow opportunity to increase the response rate from contractors; accommodate good translation of the materials into our key languages; and extend community engagement activity.

17/25

NHS 10 Year Plan

The Board noted a presentation on the content of the NHS 10 year Plan.

The Plan set out a bold vision to transform England's health service in response to growing demand, workforce challenges, and declining outcomes. It proposed three major shifts: moving care from hospitals to community-based services, transitioning from analogue to digital systems, and focusing on prevention rather than just treatment.

A new NHS Operating Model would be developed to deliver the Plan.

The Board welcomed the strengthened narrative on prevention.

Updates on the delivery of the Plan would be brought to future meetings.

18/25

Healthwatch Sandwell Closure Update

Following the Government's recent announcement of its plans to close the network of Healthwatch organisations as part of plans set out in the NHS 10 Year Plan, the Board noted an update from Healthwatch Sandwell.

Under the plans Healthwatch England's functions would be transferred to the Department of Health and Social Care and local Healthwatch functions would be split between integrated care boards and local authorities. Legislation was required to implement the changes however, so Healthwatch would continue its work in the meantime.

Concern had been expressed that without a statutory body there was a risk of reduced independent oversight, fewer formal opportunities for local communities to influence decision making, and potential gaps in intelligence that informed service improvement.

The Board noted the update and expressed its support for proactive engagement with the local authority, Integrated Care Board and voluntary sector partners to identify alternative mechanisms for maintaining strong patient and public involvement.

The Board would be kept updated on the issue as new guidance was released by government.

19/25

Chair of SHAPE Youth Forum Update

The Board received a presentation from the outgoing Chair of the SHAPE Youth Forum, Ayyat Adigun, on the work she had done during her two years as Chair and key activities of SHAPE as it celebrated its 10 year anniversary.

Key achievements highlighted were:-

- two nominations for the Inspirational Youth Awards;
- recognition as an Anti-Violence Champion;
- campaigned against racism, speaking on national television;
- elected as Youth Police and Crime Commissioner;
- elected as a member of the UK Youth Parliament;
- spoke at the House of Commons about transport poverty and campaigned for free public transport for young people;
- led a campaign on online harm;

Key activities of SHAPE were:-

- SHAPE takeovers where young people are actively involved in decision making in relation to healthcare, policing and education;
- SHAPE Youth Survey provided an insight into young people's views on decisions that shaped their lives.
- Contributed to the Sandwell Story.
- Engaging young people to encourage the use of green spaces and take responsibility for their local environment with SHAPE Youth Summerfest, and the Eco Warrior programme.

The SHAPE Forum continued to evolve to encourage young people to lead.

The Board welcomed the presentation and congratulated Ayyat on her achievements, wishing her well for her future studies in the USA.

20/25

Vote of Thanks

The Board noted that this was Sian Thomas's last meeting of the Board and thanked her for her contributions to the work of the Board and wished her well for the future.

Meeting ended at 7.19pm.