

# Health and Wellbeing Board

**Thursday 7 March 2024**

## **PRESENT:**

Councillor Aspinall, in the Chair.  
Councillor Dr Mahony, Vice Chair.  
Councillors Murphy (Substitute for Councillor Laing).

Co-opted Representatives: Tony Gravett (Healthwatch), Chris Morley (NHS Devon ICB), Ruth Harrell (Director of Public Health), and Rob Smith (Wellbeing Hubs Rep).

Also in attendance: David Bearman (Devon Local Pharmaceutical Committee), Victoria Mitchell (NHS Devon ICB), Kamal Patel (Public Health Specialty Registrar), Jane Marley (Public Health Specialist), Jon Taylor (NHS Devon ICB), and Elliot Wearne-Gould (Democratic Advisor).

Apologies for absence: Councillors Carlyle and Laing. Gary Walbridge (Interim Strategic Director for People), and Matt Garrett (Service Director for Community Connections).

The meeting started at 10.04 am and finished at 12.10 pm.

*Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.*

## 69. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made in accordance with the code of conduct.

## 70. **Chairs urgent business**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

## 71. **Minutes**

The Board agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 24 January 2024 as a correct record.

## 72. **Questions from the public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

## 73. **Devon Community Pharmacy Strategy Development**

David Bearman (Devon Local Pharmaceutical Committee) and Victoria Mitchell (NHS Devon ICB) presented the Devon Community Pharmacy Strategy Development and Healthcare Survey to the Board, and discussed:

- a) The purpose of the Pharmacy Strategy and ambitions for future pharmacy provision;
- b) Interconnected links between the Plymouth Pharmaceutical Assessment, and the Pharmacy Strategy;
- c) The importance of feedback and consultation in developing a Pharmacy Strategy for future sustainability;
- d) A target for completion of the strategy by May 2024;
- e) The opening of the Plymouth School of Pharmacy in September 2024, and potential benefits for workforce resource;
- f) Trends in Pharmacy reductions and retractions across Devon and Plymouth, and resulting risks;
- g) Flat funding for Pharmacy provision which did not take into account of, or mitigate inflation;
- h) The demand for Pharmacists in Primary Care settings contributing to vacancies in community pharmacy. General workforce shortages across the sector, with limited training placements;
- i) Digital modernisation and integration with Primary Care systems;
- j) Significant opportunities and successes of community pharmacy, despite obvious pressures;
- k) Topics featured in the survey, and discussed by the Committee included:
  - i. the role of Community Pharmacy;
  - ii. what 'good' Community Pharmacy should look like;
  - iii. what additional services Community Pharmacy should provide;
  - iv. future sustainable models of Community Pharmacy;
  - v. adequacy of current Pharmacy provision;
  - vi. funding, workforce, capacity, and other barriers;
  - vii. integration of Pharmacy with Primary Care.

In response to questions, the Board discussed:

- l) The importance of Community Pharmacy in reducing health inequalities;
- m) Potential integration of Pharmacy services with Wellbeing Hubs, as well as Primary Care;

- n) The impact and cause of medication shortages and delays;
- o) The importance of clear and effective communication following the publication of the new Pharmacy Strategy;
- p) The importance of Pharmacy accessibility;
- q) The benefit of the Pharmacy Strategy in informing the production of the Plymouth Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment.

The Board agreed to:

- 1. Request a breakdown of the reasons for medication shortages and delays;
- 2. Delegate to the Chair of the Plymouth Health and Wellbeing Board, authority to submit the final response to the Devon Community Pharmacy Strategy, healthcare professional survey, on behalf of the Plymouth H&WB.

#### 74. **Suicide Prevention in Plymouth**

Kamal Patel (Public Health Specialty Registrar) and Jane Marley (Public Health Specialist) delivered the Suicide Prevention in Plymouth report to the Board and discussed:

- a) The new national strategy for Suicide Prevention 2023-2028;
- b) The risk factors contributing to suicide, and the effect on individuals and communities;
- c) The complexity and broad nature of Suicide Prevention;
- d) The benefits of openly talking about suicide;
- e) Nationally, suicide rates were not falling, and remained the largest killer of people under 35, and a leading cause of death for men under 50;
- f) Self harm and suicide rates for people under 25 had been increasing;
- g) Historic patterns in suicide data;
- h) Priority groups, common risk factors, and resulting actions identified in the national strategy;
- i) Plymouth experienced around 24 deaths by suicide each year;
- j) Delays in the reporting and recording of suicide deaths due to the Coroner's Inquest process. These delays were exacerbated during the Covid-19 Pandemic;

- k) Plymouth's suicide rates were currently marginally below the South West and National average;
- l) The role of the Plymouth Suicide Prevention Strategic Partnership in developing and delivering the Suicide Prevention Strategic Action Plan;
- m) The availability and activity of suicide bereavement support services;
- n) The importance of city-wide suicide prevention and awareness training.

In response to questions, the Board discussed:

- o) The importance of support and clear communication for those affected by a suicide bereavement, particularly during the Coroner's process. Data had shown that those affected by suicide bereavements were more likely to also die by suicide;
- p) Nationally, service personnel were not considered a 'priority group' in the Suicide Prevention strategy however, Plymouth had included service personnel in the action plan locally.

The Board agreed:

1. To recommend that Councillors were provided suicide prevention and awareness training, as well as emergency support contact details;
2. To note and accept the latest Suicide Audit report;
3. To review, feedback and comment on the Suicide Prevention Action Plan for 2024-25;
4. To delegate to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, authority to sign off the Suicide Prevention Action Plan for 2024-25, following amendments;
5. To add Suicide Prevention as a standing item on this Board's work programme.

#### 75. **NHS Devon Joint Forward Plan Refresh**

Jon Taylor (NHS Devon ICB) delivered the NHS Devon Joint Forward Plan refresh to the Board, and discussed:

- a) Integrated Care Boards and partners were required to publish a refreshed Joint Forward Plan at the beginning of each financial year;
- b) The final version of the JFP would be presented to the NHS Devon Board for approval later in the month, following consultations;

- c) There were no significant material changes to the version of the plan before the Board today, and the original plan published in 2023;
- d) There had been changes to the structure and presentation of the plan, in response to feedback received over the past 12 months;
- e) The refreshed plan was structured around three themes:
  - i. Healthy people
  - ii. Healthy and safe communities;
  - iii. Healthy system;
- f) An evaluation section had been included in the revised plan, incorporating the key achievements from 2023;
- g) More detail had also been included around delivery of the plan, in response to feedback.

In response to questions, the Board discussed:

- h) The plan set out the vision and direction of ambitions for the system however, there remained challenges for the practical delivery of all ambitions.

The Board agreed:

1. To endorse the plan and assure that it takes into account the current health and wellbeing strategy for Plymouth;
2. To delegate to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board authority to provide comment and feedback to the ICB to support the plan's ongoing development.

#### 76. **Tracking Decisions**

The Board agreed to note the progress of the Tracking Decisions Log.

#### 77. **Work Programme**

The Board agreed to add the following items to the Work Programme for consideration at the next meeting:

1. NHS Long Term Plan;
2. NHS Recovery Plan;
3. LCP Priorities.

