

**Health and Wellbeing Board - Thursday, 22 November 2018**

Minutes of the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held at Committee Room 5, Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD on Thursday, 22 November 2018 at 3.00 pm.

**Present:** Cllr Richard Watts, Leader of the Council (Chair)  
Cllr Janet Burgess, Executive Member for Health and Care  
Lucy de Groot, Lay Member, Islington CCG  
Julie Billett, Director of Public Health  
Emma Whitby, Chief Executive, Healthwatch Islington  
Katy Porter, Chief Executive, Manor Gardens Welfare Trust  
Mike Clowes, Chief Executive, Islington GP Federation

**Also Present:** Dan Windross, Assistant Director - Integrated Care, Islington CCG  
Jonathan Gardner, Director of Strategy & Corporate Affairs,  
Whittington Health

**Councillor Richard Watts in the Chair**

**1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS - COUNCILLOR RICHARD WATTS (ITEM NO. A1)**

Councillor Watts welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were given.

**2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (ITEM NO. A2)**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Joe Caluori, Dr Jo Sauvage, Tony Hoolaghan (representative: Dan Windross), Sorrel Brookes (substitute: Lucy de Groot), Jennie Williams, Siobhan Harrington (representative: Jonathan Gardner), Carmel Littleton, Angela McNab and Maggie Kufeldt.

**3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (ITEM NO. A3)**

None.

**4 ORDER OF BUSINESS (ITEM NO. A4)**

No changes were proposed to the order of business.

**5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (ITEM NO. A5)**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of meeting held on 18 April 2018 be agreed as a correct record and the Chair be authorised to sign them.

**6 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC (ITEM NO. A6)**

A member of the public had submitted a question in relation to waiting lists for health and care services. As the member of the public was not present, it was advised that a written response would be sent.

**7 APPOINTMENT OF GP FEDERATION OBSERVER (ITEM NO. A7)**

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That Michael Clowes, Chief Executive of Islington GP Federation, be appointed as a non-voting observer to the Health and Wellbeing Board;
- (ii) To request that the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, as detailed in the terms of reference, be amended accordingly.

**8 ISLINGTON HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2019-2023 (ITEM NO. B1)**

Ramesh Logewaren, Head of Housing Needs, introduced the report which summarised the key themes of Islington Council's emerging Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy.

The following main points were noted in the discussion:

- Local authorities were required to adopt a homelessness and rough sleeping strategy under the Homelessness Act 2002.
- The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had set a national objective of halving rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminating rough sleeping by 2027.
- Homelessness was not an issue which could be solved by local authorities in isolation. It would be necessary for the council to work with its partners to prevent and relieve homelessness effectively.
- The strategy was due to be published in Spring 2019. It was commented that an update on the implementation of the strategy could be provided to the Health and Wellbeing Board at a later date if required.
- The Board commented that the strategy should clearly link to the Mayor of London's Homelessness Strategy and make reference to local mental health services.
- The proposed strategy included an objective to 'improve our understanding of the connection between homelessness and health and wellbeing'. It was suggested that this could be revised to better articulate how services should be shaped around the needs of homeless people to improve their health and wellbeing. It was important not only to understand the connection between homelessness and health, but to act on it.

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- It was commented that homelessness was a London-wide issue and many service providers worked across London. The strategy should reflect this; clearly setting out what work was being carried out at borough level, cross-borough level, London-wide, and nationally.
- It was noted that the council had received a small amount of funding from the government to support rough sleepers. Some of this funding was to be spent on mental health services.
- The Board commented on the importance of communicating the strategy. It was important for all relevant staff across the public and voluntary sectors to be aware of how to support homeless people and rough sleepers.
- A member of the Board commented on the importance of advice services being accessible to all. Some BME groups had reported to Healthwatch that it could be difficult to access such services.
- It was reported that local hospitals were reviewing their pathways for homeless patients and it was suggested that NHS services would be keen to engage with the strategy.
- It was suggested that the strategy should draw on best practice from other boroughs, particularly on issues related to engaging with voluntary sector partners.
- The Board noted the appended action plan. It was commented that this should be updated to reference that the 'Housing First' scheme was being mainstreamed and that the council was developing at least 550 genuinely affordable new homes by 2022.
- The Board expressed some caution over the proposal to reallocate general needs properties as temporary accommodation, commenting that a loss of general needs housing could contribute to the borough's housing crisis.
- The Board supported taking strong enforcement action against rogue landlords in the private rented sector.
- A member noted that work to reduce rough sleeping under the Stroud Green Road Bridge had been successful and asked if any lessons from that experience would be incorporated into the strategy. In response, it was commented that services had developed a greater understanding of the needs of rough sleepers, their vulnerabilities, and links between rough sleeping and the local drugs market. These matters would be addressed in the strategy.

### **RESOLVED:**

That the proposed Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy be noted.

9

**SAFEGUARDING ADULTS IN ISLINGTON IN 2017/18 - A REVIEW OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRIORITIES GOING FORWARD (ITEM NO. B2)**

James Reilly, Independent Chair of the Islington Safeguarding Adults Board, introduced the report which summarised the work of the partnership in 2017/18.

The following main points were noted in the discussion:

- The report set out the Safeguarding Adults Board's achievements, as well as current and ongoing concerns about adult safeguarding issues.
- There had been an increase in the reporting of adult safeguarding concerns, however the number of concerns which resulted in enquiries had decreased. It was suggested that this indicated a greater awareness of safeguarding issues, as opposed to an increase in the number of vulnerable adults. However, to provide additional assurance work was underway to ensure that concerns were being processed adequately, and that those reporting concerns were being adequately signposted to appropriate services.
- Mr Reilly was pleased with work in processing Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards applications; noting that Islington was one of the few local authorities which did not have a backlog.
- The Safeguarding Adults Board would collaborate with partners across North Central London when considered appropriate. It was noted that neighbouring boroughs had similar priorities to Islington and it may be beneficial to carry out some work at a cross-borough level.
- The Safeguarding Adults Board was pleased that Islington Council was working well with the borough's care homes. This had previously been a cause for concern, however partnerships with care homes had strengthened over the past year. Mr Reilly emphasised the importance of engaging positively with the residents of care homes and their families.
- A serious case review had been carried out in 2017/18. This had taken longer than expected to conclude and there were lessons to be learned from the review.
- Four training events had been held on domestic violence issues. It was commented that these had been well attended by a range of partners.
- The Safeguarding Adults Board had developed a strong partnership with HM Prison Pentonville; this was a significant improvement as engagement with the prison was previously limited. It was commented that the prison was carrying out significant and complex work to improve their safeguarding practices.
- Although Mr Reilly welcomed the progress made in Islington's safeguarding practices, he also expressed caution about being complacent. Engagement with safeguarding board activities had decreased recently and this was a concern.
- Mr Reilly noted that the Safeguarding Adults Board had sought an £8,000 funding contribution from local NHS trusts however this had been refused. It was commented that this was not sustainable as the

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Board needed funding if it was to be effective. It was known that this was also an issue in other boroughs and the chairs of London Safeguarding Adults Boards were due to discuss this at a future meeting.

- Homelessness was a significant safeguarding concern. A current serious case review related to a homeless person was reviewing the practices of four boroughs, including Islington. This had identified that further work was needed to improve communication and partnership working between health and care services, housing services, council tax and rent collection services, and others.
- It had been suggested that safeguarding boards should be required to review all deaths of homeless people. Although Mr Reilly sympathised with this view, he also expressed caution that safeguarding boards did not have the capacity to carry out this level of work.
- There were some safeguarding concerns related to young adults in the criminal justice system. It was commented that Islington had a strong focus on safeguarding children, however further work was needed to develop services for young adults.
- It was advised that more referrals were received about working age adults than those aged over 65. In response to a question, it was commented that referrals for working age adults typically related to concerns about those with learning disabilities or mental health issues.
- The Board noted the risk of financial exploitation of older people, including through cold calling and distraction burglary. It was commented that financial exploitation was a common concern, particularly in relation to friends and family defrauding older people. The Police were keen to raise awareness of this issue as it was thought that financial exploitation was under reported.
- The Board welcomed the Safeguarding Board's work on modern slavery, noting that this was a complex issue which was not always easily identifiable.
- The Board reiterated its commitment to the safety of both adults and children; safeguarding was the Board's top priority, and all members of the Board needed to champion safeguarding issues in their respective organisations.
- It was suggested that it may be useful for more detailed safeguarding data to be shared with members of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This would provide additional assurance that the borough's safeguarding arrangements were effective and would also allow Board members to identify themes and areas for further partnership working to minimise and prevent safeguarding risks. It was advised that this would be raised with the NHS Clinical Quality Review Group.

### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) To receive the Annual Safeguarding Adults report;
- (ii) To commend adult social services staff for their commitment to preventing abuse where possible and responding to concerns of abuse or neglect of vulnerable Islington residents.

**10**      **HEALTHWATCH ISLINGTON WORK PLAN 2018-19 (ITEM NO. B3)**

Emma Whitby introduced the report which summarised Healthwatch Islington's work plan for 2018-19. Healthwatch Islington would work closely with partner organisations and the local community in delivering its work programme.

The Board considered the progress of the organisation's digital inclusion work, work related to the Camden and Islington Estates Strategy, work to engage with BME communities, and the monitoring of care homes.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Healthwatch Islington Work Plan be noted.

**11**      **BETTER CARE FUND 2018/19 (ITEM NO. B4)**

Dan Windross introduced the report, which provided an update on Islington's Better Care Fund.

It was noted that the Better Care Fund was expected to successfully deliver three of four key targets, however the delayed transfer of care target had not been met. Work was underway to address this, though there was a growing number of hospital patients with complex needs and ongoing care requirements.

The Board noted that it was not yet possible to bring forward plans for 2019/20 as national guidance had not yet been published. It was commented that this was dependent on the NHS 10 Year Plan, which was not yet available. In the meantime, the NHS and Islington Council would continue to work together to develop and improve health and care services in the borough.

The Board requested an update on the Better Care Fund to a future meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) That the update on the Better Care Fund for 2018/19 be noted;
- (ii) That an update on the Better Care Fund be reported to a future meeting.

MEETING CLOSED AT 4.10 pm

Chair