

Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2023

Self Assessment and Public Consultation

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City of Wolverhampton

Health & Wellbeing Together

Public Consultation Findings



Priority One: Growing Well: Early Years

What happens during the early years (starting in the womb) has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and wellbeing - from obesity, heart disease and mental health, to educational achievement and economic status

Outcomes from HWT 'Self –Assessment'

Good degree of progress has been made in recognising and responding to the need to improve outcomes across the early years agenda. However, spread of member votes suggests further work required to ensure this is reflected across all partnership domains.

Board felt greater level of engagement with the 'Early Years Strategy' would help to strengthen a mutual understanding of priority goals at a system level.

Continuing role to play in improving public understanding of the importance of the early years agenda across local communities.

Outcomes from Public Consultation

When asked where they would seek advice from as a new parent, responses included family, health care staff/ settings (GP's, Nurses, Health Visitors, Midwives), local support groups /charities, social media, or CWC.

Only a small number of people said that they had heard about, or understood the function of parental peer support programmes (such as the parent's champion scheme).

Need to ensure people across the City are aware of health benefits of breastfeeding. Need for more supportive environments that are breastfeeding friendly.

Future Focus for Health and Wellbeing Together

Health and Wellbeing Together will:

- Have oversight (via Children & Families Together Board) of progress made against the 'Early Years Strategy' delivery plan. Strategy to come to future HWT meeting to review how well agenda is embedded across HWT partners. Safeguarding Annual report will continue to provide reassurance in relation to early help and support for young people and families at risk.
- Have sight of refreshed 'Parenting Programme Strategy' from Strengthening Families Board (including proposals for how this is supported by the parent champion scheme). This could include promoting awareness of peer support programmes to enhance parental resilience.
- Receive progress updates against the Infant Mortality Groups 'Infant Feeding Strategy' (includes increasing uptake of breastfeeding).

Priority Two: Children and young people's mental wellbeing and resilience

Ensuring early access to support for young people and their families to help them through a difficult point in their lives, and reduce mental health problems at an early stage

Outcomes from HWT 'Self –Assessment'

Priority goals are generally well reflected across all organisation levels.

Board was clear in relation to the goals within the priority area over the coming years.

All children, including children and young people in care should form a key role in shaping future planning.

More emotional health services are available to young people than in recent years. Resource and capacity allocation required further consideration. This may include reviewing existing services to ensure value for money.

Further public and patient involvement can help to assess progress.

Outcomes from Public Consultation

When asked what we can do to help young people deal with difficult situations/ pressures, respondents suggested a need to:

Listen more to C&YP concerns, reduce the level of stress they encounter.

Provide quick access to effective counselling and support interventions, as well as ensuring access to social activities such as clubs.

Safety of young people was a cause of parental concern (Relevant to priority One and Two)

Need to ensure availability of school-based interventions to strengthen young people's mental wellbeing.

Future Focus for Health and Wellbeing Together

Health and Wellbeing Together will:

- Receive progress reports from 'Emotional Health & Wellbeing Board' on implementation of the Joint Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-2021 (includes the vision for 'mental wellbeing promotion across a range of settings', ensuring access to 'the right support, at the right level, and at the right time' and 'supporting young people with mental health difficulties transition to adulthood'.).
- Have sight of the new 'Positive Engagement Strategy' being developed by Strengthening Families Team.
- Receive progress reports on action to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of young people aged 10 to 16 from the 'HeadStart Programme'.
- Receive reassurance from Children & Families Together (C&FT) Board of young people's involvement in service/ strategy development via the refreshed 'Young Persons Participation Strategy'. This should include reference to direct engagement activities with young people via various forums (including the Wolverhampton City Youth Council).
- Receive updates from Community Safety on existing workstreams to tackle youth violence. Review of Health Related Behaviour (HRB) survey data may provide useful insight into young people's perceptions/ concerns in relation to safety.

Priority Three: Living Well: Workforce

It is our ambition to develop, attract, and retain high quality staff and support them to stay healthy and well throughout their working lives, across all sectors

Outcomes from HWT 'Self –Assessment'

Progress made in 'recognising' and 'responding' to the need to improve workforce health. More work to be done to ensure this is reflected across all Board domains.

Consensus on the long term goals of workplace wellbeing initiatives needs to be strengthened. Further public engagement and involvement can help underpin goal orientation and provide awareness of the scope of resource and capacity required.

Evaluation framework would be helpful to measure progress against system wide developments to improve workforce wellness.

Outcomes from Public Consultation

Employers to have a greater awareness of how mental health issues effect employees and offer more support to staff who experience mental health problems.

Employers to develop healthy working environments that promote staff health and wellbeing. This could possibly help to attract and retain more local people into health and social care jobs.

Need for greater availability of rewarding, well paid work, with good progression opportunities in the City.

Future Focus for Health and Wellbeing Together

Health and Wellbeing Together will:

- Drive a culture of inclusion to ensure employment opportunities are available for people experiencing a wide range of physical and mental health problems
- Undertake further engagement strategies to reduce stigma surrounding mental health problems and increase employers awareness of how mental health and physical health are linked.
- Receive updates on workforce issues relating to the support of people with disabilities into employment and developments in the workforce across health and care within the City
- Receive updates from programmes such as 'Mental Health Pledge', 'Thrive at Work', and 'Thrive into Work' to reassure the Board that local employers have a good level of mental health awareness, and access to information to help support the design of healthy working environments that promote positive physical and mental health.

Priority Four: Living Well: City Centre

The City Vision for 2030 describes a buzzing, vibrant City centre, with good transport links and a strong night time economy

Outcomes from HWT 'Self –Assessment'

The long-term goal for a vibrant City Centre is relatively well established. However, the spread of member ratings indicates more work is required to fully embedded agenda across all partnership workstreams.

Currently, the City Vision looks as far ahead as 2030, and greater focus is required on specific actions required in the immediate future.

Development of a medium to long-term outcomes frame work based on 'what good looks like', may help to ensure the vision for a vibrant City Centre transcends across all partner organisations.

Outcomes from Public Consultation

Improving the perception of safety in the City Centre was a priority, particularly in relation to the amount of alcohol being openly consumed. Suggestions to improve safety included more frequent police and security patrols.

The high number of empty retail premises was a concern amongst respondents who suggested reducing business rates as a way of attracting retailers and creating jobs. Better use of empty retail premises included suggestions to converted to affordable housing for local people.

High levels of City Centre homelessness was a concern.

Improving accessibility, and navigation of City Centre was also highlighted including, reducing the amount of traffic and ensuring the design of the City Centre take into consideration the perception of older people

A healthy City Centre could include better cycling routes, making the City Centre 'smoke free', reducing fast food outlets and gambling venues.

Future Focus for Health and Wellbeing Together

Health and Wellbeing Together will:

- Work in partnership with the City Board to oversee development of a 'medium to long-term' outcomes framework for City Centre ambitions, including exploring the viability of strategies to promote rewarding employment opportunities for local people.
- Progress partnership commitment to coordinate enforcement strategies to address substance misuse related ASB and improve safety.
- Receive updates in relation to existing programmes to reduce levels of homelessness and rough sleeping across the City.
- Explore opportunities to enhance the health promoting qualities of the City Centre as a 'Healthy Zone'.

Priority Five: Living Well: Embedding Prevention

People are now living for a longer time in poor health and wellbeing at the end of their lives, due to a range of largely preventable conditions. Many of these can be modified or prevented through small changes to lifestyles, and health promoting environments

Outcomes from HWT 'Self –Assessment'

Prevention and early intervention were generally seen by members as valuable approaches to improve population health outcomes and reduce future demand.

Developing a shared goal of upstream approaches to improve health outcomes across all systems requires further work.

Impact modelling of the value of prevention interventions across the system could help to support Board partners efforts to ensure appropriate allocation of funds to these workstreams.

Further public and patient involvement can help shape development of an evaluation framework to track progress against prevention priorities.

Outcomes from Public Consultation

Improve awareness of where to access healthy lifestyle information.

Respondents overwhelmingly agreed that '**tackling the wider determinants of health**', '**targeting resources to those with greatest need**', and '**taking a life-course approach**' made sense.

There was interest in health and wider partners working together more effectively, particularly amongst services for older people.

A small number of respondents highlighted the need to address levels of loneliness and isolation across the City, as well as greater support for people effected by mental health problems at an earlier stage.

Future Focus for Health and Wellbeing Together

Health and Wellbeing Together will:

- Receive updates on the ways in which prevention is being embedded at system level across the City. This should include a range of approaches to tackle the wider determinants of health, target resources to those with greatest need.
- Ensure partner organisations are working coherently together to embed prevention interventions across a range of domains (including partnership actions to reduce childhood obesity).
- Have progress updates on how the 'Communities Together Programme' will help to identify and address loneliness and isolation across the City.
- Receive reassurance that healthy lifestyle messages are actively promoted via a range of on line platforms, as well as across communities and partner organisations (including workplaces). Health promotion and disease prevention interventions will be based on a life course approach, appreciating the populations varying strengths and needs across the City.

Priority Six: Integrated Care ‘Frailty and End of Life’

An Integrated Care Alliance has been set up in Wolverhampton, which brings together partners across the health and social care system to work on better integration of services

Outcomes from HWT ‘Self –Assessment’

Overall, the Board felt a good degree of progress has been made in recognising the need to begin developing integrated care pathways across multiple organisational domains to ensure care is provided in the right place at the right time.

The goals of integrated care initiatives need to be explored further to enable all partner organisations to understand impact in relation to their organisation. This could help strengthen the case for person centred ‘wrap around’ prevention, and effective future resource allocation.

Public engagement could help to further understand population needs and assets.

Outcomes from Public Consultation

A large proportion of respondents felt it was a good idea for health and social care organisations to share information about them (in a way that you can’t be identified), so that service providers can understand what kinds of support people need, and plan future service delivery.

In some cases, respondents who did agree, expressed a need to know who would have access to this data and how it would be used.

Reasons for disagreeing, involved a lack of trust in information security systems (based very much on high profile media cases of information security breaches), and fears in relation to the sharing of personal information, or not understanding how the approach would work.

Future Focus for Health and Wellbeing Together

Health and Wellbeing Together will:

- Request regular updates in relation to plans to progress an integrated care agenda across acute and community domains.
- Support further public engagement and consultation to improve public confidence and alleviate fears over the use of multi-agency data sharing to plan care. This could also include relevant organisational declarations in respect of GDPR compliance.
- Improve the experience of people using health care through greater use of Personal Health budgets

Priority Seven: Dementia friendly city

Supporting people with Dementia and their family and carers to continue to lead a full and active life

Outcomes from HWT 'Self –Assessment.

The City of Wolverhampton 'Dementia Action Alliance' has recently received a national award.

The Board reported a significant buy in at all levels for the 'Dementia Friendly City' agenda. This may be reflective of the effect of a named campaign, which could be considered as a means of gaining traction across other priority areas.

Overall, the Board reported a clear understanding of the shared goals for supporting people and their families living with dementia.

A future role for the Board will be ensuring quality in the care workforce available to support vulnerable people and their families.

A wealth of public and patient engagement is reported. This can be used to develop a coherent long-term evaluation framework for the Board.

Outcomes from Public Consultation

Improve awareness in relation to dementia amongst the local population.

Strengthening community-based packages of care was highlighted as offering the most effective means by which to support people with dementia.

Improvements are required to promote the wellbeing of carers of people with dementia, as well as ensuring carers get the support and help they need.

Future Focus for Health and Wellbeing Together

Health and Wellbeing Together will:

- Require reassurance of continuing efforts to raise awareness of dementia amongst the local population
- Receive updates on work to explore cross generation interaction opportunities
- Support continuing developments in the provision of high quality packages of care for people living with dementia.
- Request updates from partners in relation to how well the needs of carers (of people with dementia) are being identified, and the scale of interventions in place to support carer wellbeing.

SUMMARY

- Existing Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities reflect areas of importance highlighted in public consultation**
- Developing further engagement programmes can help ensure delivery of priority goals in a collaborative way with communities**
- Consultation findings support strategies to improve population health by tackling the wider determinants of health and targeting resources where they are most needed**
- A culture of inclusiveness will continue to drive a strategic approach to promote the health and wellbeing of all people (including people from socially excluded groups). A shared ownership of the inclusion agenda will ensure organisations nominated representatives consider the needs of marginalised groups in the design and delivery of services**