

Health and Wellbeing Board Chairman's Annual Report 2021/22

Chairman: Cllr. Dr David Jefferys
Vice-Chairman: Cllr. Robert Evans

The Health and Wellbeing Board held 5 meetings during the Civic Year, of which the first was held virtually because of the pandemic restrictions. As would be expected, a major focus of attention for the Board during the year was on the different phases of the Covid-19 SARS-2 pandemic response in Bromley. The Board Members received detailed weekly updates on the monitoring of cases from the Public Health team. The situation was discussed in depth at each Board meeting. Updates were given by the SEL CCG and by the Bromley Place team on the local vaccination campaign.

The Board was impressed by the success of the vaccination campaign and the rollout across the Borough, particularly with the work to address vaccine hesitancy. Suggestions were offered to increase vaccination uptake in Bromley and the Board welcomed the measures taken to meet the concerns and needs of all the diverse groups and communities in Bromley. The HWB expressed its heartfelt thanks to all who worked so hard to deliver such a successful initial vaccination programme and the subsequent booster dose administration. So many have been involved but particular thanks go to those in the CCG, the Public Health team, Community Pharmacists and the large group of willing volunteers.

The Board also discussed many other issues related directly and indirectly to the effects of the pandemic in Bromley. These included:

- the provision for diagnosis, treatment and care of long covid syndrome patients,
- the Winter response plan,
- the Community response plan to wave 2 of the pandemic
- the Board has closely followed the successful introduction of the SPA (single point of access) initiative and was delighted to note its national recognition and the award it has received.

The Board has also looked both through and beyond the pandemic. This included a key focus on mental health for adults and children with presentations from Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, which included the new programme on Learning Disability. We received an update on the Bromley Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy and discussed and commented on the Loneliness and Social Isolation Report and Action Plan. The Chairman took part in the Bromley Rough Sleepers Workshop and a report on this workshop and the implications for the JSNA (the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment) were discussed at the March HWB meeting.

The Board has kept a close eye on the delivery of the non-vaccination campaigns. We also considered the wider health implications of the pandemic on public health with a particular emphasis on obesity and weight management, excessive alcohol consumption and drug abuse. It was decided to reconvene the Obesity Task Force.

We discussed with the Bromley Place Based Board and with King' College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust the programmes for catch-up on cancer screening. Much of these considerations were focussed on the plans for the major revision of the JSNA and the Public Health and Wellbeing Priorities which will be undertaken in 2022/23. In addition to our necessary focus on the pandemic the Board also discussed and took forward a range of other important matters. These included:

- updates from the Integrated Commissioning Board
- A presentation from Mytime Active and their public health support programme in Bromley
- A report from the Falls and Fracture Prevention Service. This has taken forward the report commissioned by the HWB from Professor Cameron Swift
- the reports from Bromley Healthwatch

Statutory roles

The Board has a range of statutory roles prescribed in the Health and Social Care Act, and these were undertaken during the year:

- the BCF and ICBF quarterly reports were received and commented upon before their submission the DHSC
- a proposal to extend the timetable for Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment was agreed

The Board was pleased to receive and agree the publication of the annual reports from the Bromley Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Bromley Safeguarding Adult Board. The Board commented on the great work undertaken by the two Boards and the clarity of their new style annual reports.

The Chairman attended the pan London HWB Chairs meetings organised by London Councils. Because of the pandemic these were held monthly rather than quarterly. The Chairman also represented the HWB at the meetings of the Adult Safeguarding Board and the newly established Bromley "inter chairs meeting".

In the report for the previous Civic Year 2020/21 it was commented that Public Health had been placed at the centre of the Councils Work by the pandemic. The same has been true for this year but hopefully the focus next year will move back to a more normal situation.

The Board would like to place on record its gratitude, on behalf of the residents of Bromley, to the Public Health team and the Health Partners for their dedication and tremendous hard work over the past year in maintaining the health and wellbeing of all in Bromley. We look forward next year to not just maintaining health and wellbeing but enhancing it as we finally move out of the pandemic of the last two years.

Councillor Dr David Jefferys
Chairman, Health and Wellbeing Board