

FULL COUNCIL

5 APRIL 2022

REPORT OF CABINET MEMBER FOR DEPUTY LEADER REPORT AND SOLIHULL HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

1. COUNCIL UPDATE FROM THE DEPUTY LEADER

1.1 Purpose of Report

1.1.1 To advise Members that the Health and Wellbeing Board met on the 01 March 2022. Summary of key area discussed.

1.1.2 The Board considered progress in a number of areas in Solihull's place-based arrangements, which included the following:

- Mental Health Delivery Plan for Solihull
- Integration at Place – Kingshurst and Anticipatory Care
- Children and Families Board
- Population Health Management project
- Health Inequalities Strategy
- VCSE event – 24 March

1.1.3 The Board took into account how there had been agreement to develop a new Children and Families Board for the Borough, which would focus on the delivery of the '1001 days' programme, early help and the development of Family Hubs. Related to this, £300,000 had been authorised by Public Health to pump prime the development of Family Hubs and an additional bid for £1m had been submitted to the Department for Health and Social Care, with the support of the local health and care system.

1.1.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board received an update on the delivery of the Placements and Sufficiency Strategy for children looked after and care experienced young people 2020-2024. The Board considered the work undertaken to support the following key priorities identified within the Strategy:

- a) Support more children who are cared for by connected carers, and mainstream carers where appropriate, to move to permanent arrangements in a timely way.
- b) Increase the availability of local foster carers to offer more local family-based placements.
- c) Increase the availability of local residential placements for those children and young people who need a residential placement for a period of time.
- d) Clarify the housing options for our care experienced young people, working in partnership with Solihull Community Housing and Adult Care and Support Directorate.

1.1.5 The Board reviewed how the delivery of the strategy had been affected by the ongoing Covid pandemic; this included a net increase in the total number of children and young people in care and therefore requiring placements be that with foster carers, in residential care or in supported accommodation; this increase was due both to the number of children starting to be looked after and delays to children leaving care.

- 1.1.6 The Board also took account of how progress had been made in a number of areas, including the development of a dedicated Permanency Hub to support assessment of carers who wished to become special guardians or gain child arrangement orders. There had also been the establishment of a Council wide project to develop a foster care friendly Solihull approach and to explore different opportunities to support the recruitment of foster carers to foster for Solihull Council.

1.2 Update on progress of the Exploitation Reduction Board and Delivery Group

- 1.2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board reviewed the progress being made by the Exploitation Reduction Board (ERB) and the Exploitation Reduction Delivery Group (ERDG). The Health and Wellbeing Board took account of how, as a result of the recommendations from the Rachel Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR), which highlighted the risk of exploitation for young people in the Borough, and recognition of the need to take a consistent and multi-agency approach on the issue of exploitation within Solihull, an All Age Exploitation Reduction Strategy and Delivery Plan had been developed. All Age Multi-Agency Exploitation Reduction Safeguarding Procedures had also been developed and were launched in March 2021. The aim of this was to provide a consistent approach for children and adults and a single document for all professionals across Solihull. In addition, the role of Adult Exploitation Reduction Lead was created to support this work. The Health and Wellbeing Board received a progress update covering a number of areas, including the oversight against outcomes provided by the Exploitation Reduction Delivery Plan, as well as the development of the Solihull All Age Exploitation Screening Tool.

1.2.2 Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021

- 1.2.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board was invited to receive the Director of Public Health's statutory Annual Public Health report. The Board considered how the report looked to tell the story of the pandemic, with the impact of and response to Covid-19 in Solihull. The Annual report outlined the impacts of the pandemic on the population, as well as the multi-varied responses from across all sectors of society. The Board welcomed how this report demonstrated that all the agencies and the whole local community had stepped up to the challenge of Covid and they expressed their thanks to everyone involved in the production of the Report.

1.3 Background

- 1.3.1 This report highlights some of those decisions which have been made, but not all. Members wishing to view all decisions made can find these at <http://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/mgInternet/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>

1.4 Good News and Issues of Interest

1.4.1 Solihull Community Housing (SCH) Inclusive Services Register

- 1.4.2 More than 200 SCH customers have now been in touch to add their details to the new Inclusive Services Register. This is designed to ensure that SCH deliver services in the most effective way to meet the needs of all its customers. Residents can ensure that any physical or mental health challenges they face do not provide a barrier when it comes to receiving key services. I hope more customers will join the register over the next few months as SCH start to promote the new service via print and digital channels.

1.4.3 **Saxon Court** - The Residents' Group at Saxon Court have secured funding of just over £6,000 from Severn Trent Water Community Fund to create a Wellness Garden. This will be a place where residents and their families can sit to be mindful and relax. The contractor to 'build/create' the area is Community Gardening Services who give project workers with learning disabilities and mental health problems the opportunity.

1.4.4 **Responder Service**

1.4.5 The SCH Wellbeing Responder Service is now supporting Solihull Rapid Response Team. The aim of this service is to avoid preventable admissions to hospitals and attendances at A&E, supporting independence to remain at home for as long as possible. The Wellbeing Responder Service plays a critical role in identifying those who have fallen without injury and, by referring to Rapid Response relieves pressure on the West Midlands Ambulance Service.

1.4.6 **Furniture Recycling Project**

1.4.7 SCH's new Furniture Recycling Project has now been expanded to include beds, mattresses, wardrobes, crockery and small electrical items. Donations are increasing all the time to this important new service. The team leading on this great piece of work are now aligned to Upcycle in Castle Vale who have kindly allowed us access to their larger storage facilities for bulkier items.

1.4.8 **Challenges and opportunities for Businesses**

1.4.9 Along with the Leader, I have been holding meetings with a wide range of the borough's businesses including Phoebus Software and Prime Accountants who are both Solihull Town Centre employers. The Council have arranged these meetings so we can ensure that we understand the challenges and opportunities that they are facing. We have further sessions planned with IM Properties and Resorts World.

1.4.10 **Commonwealth Flag**

1.4.11 On Monday 14 March, I was also in attendance to celebrate the Commonwealth flag being raised over Solihull Council House to mark Commonwealth Day.

1.4.12 **Celebrating World Autism Acceptance Week with Gym Users in Solihull**

1.4.13 World Autism Acceptance Week took place 28 March – 3 April 2022 and to celebrate, Solihull Council's partners Everyone Active shone a light on people who live with autism and shared their inspirational stories. Working together they are pleased to offer inclusive sports and leisure centres where everyone is welcome and ensure their friendly and supportive staff are always on hand to help, so everyone can enjoy using our wide range of facilities.

1.4.14 **ICS Board**

1.4.15 The ICS Board continues to meet regularly with progress being made to establish the new Integrated Care System with key appointments to the senior executive roles starting to be made over the next month. An informal workshop was hosted by the ICS Chair and interim Chief Executive to discuss the emerging statutory Integrated Care Partnership Board on the 9th March and was attended by senior officers and key members from Solihull. They discussed a range of issues including how the partnership could add value to existing local partnerships.

1.4.16 **WMCA Wellbeing Board**

1.4.17 The WMCA Wellbeing board met last month and considered a range of issues including the work in train to review devolution arrangements in the light of the Levelling Up White Paper and also the health response to the Ukraine situation.