

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ADULTS & HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL HELD ON THURSDAY 3RD MARCH 2022, 6.30pm - 9.20pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: Pippa Connor (Chair), Mark Blake and Eldridge Culverwell

Non-voting/co-opted members: Ali Amasyali

44. FILMING AT MEETINGS

The Chair referred Members present to agenda Item 1 as shown on the agenda in respect of filming at this meeting, and Members noted the information contained therein'.

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Nick da Costa, Cllr Mahir Demir, Cllr Sheila Peacock and Helena Kania.

46. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Pippa Connor declared an interest by virtue of her membership of the Royal College of Nursing.

Cllr Pippa Connor declared an interest by virtue of her sister working as a GP in Tottenham.

48. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/ PRESENTATIONS/ QUESTIONS

None.

49. MINUTES

Cllr Connor referred to an action point at the bottom of page 4 of the minutes which was a request for further information to illustrate the different elements of the 2022/23

budget so that the changes to the base budget from 2021/22 were made clear. It was noted that this had been addressed through the Cabinet response to the budget scrutiny recommendations which can be found in Appendix 9 of Item 732 of the Cabinet meeting held on 8th February 2022. (Link: [Appendix 9 Budget Scrutiny Recommendations 2021-22.pdf \(haringey.gov.uk\)](https://www.haringey.gov.uk/Appendix%209%20Budget%20Scrutiny%20Recommendations%202021-22.pdf))

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as an accurate record.

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2021 be approved as an accurate record.

50. WORKING TOWARDS MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Dr Chantelle Fatania, Consultant in Public Health, presented slides on this item with an update on the Great Mental Health Programme in Haringey. She described the programme as an ambitious, innovative and collaborative wellbeing initiative that had been launched in October 2021. The overall programme consisted of seven prevention and promotion initiatives delivered by different organisations including through face-to-face and digital support. Haringey was one of 40 local authorities which had been successful in securing funding from the Better Mental Health Fund and this was being used to support the programme.

As part of the programme, an initiative called Community Protect was delivering wellbeing activities in the central and eastern areas of the borough. The priority groups for engagement were:

- BAME people
- Residents whose first language is not English
- Homeless people and rough sleepers
- Low-income households
- People with autism and learning disabilities
- Older people
- Young people who are NEET

In terms of the other initiatives:

- MIND in Haringey were delivering a bereavement support programme with activities including grief workshops, a bereavement support group, a telephone support line and access to qualified counsellors.
- A parenting programme was being delivered by ABC Parents working with a groups such as single parents and parents who speak limited English.
- A case worker had been commissioned to deliver interventions to identify and support victims of domestic violence, write safety plans and offer information and advocacy on issues such as housing, welfare, benefits, legal rights and child protection.

- Community Navigators would work with residents in Northumberland Park to improve their mental health and wellbeing, directing residents to support and building a befriending network.
- A targeted communications campaign was designed to increase reach and equity of local mental services and resources.
- The digital offer was being improved in partnership with Good Thinking, which was a digital well-being resource run across London. There were specific resources for young people, people who had been bereaved, employers/employees and faith communities.

As part of the programme, a Great Mental Health Day event was held on 28th January 2022 which aimed to:

- Raise awareness of local and regional mental health services, community organisations and activities.
- Challenge stigma often associated with mental health and asking for help.
- Encourage open conversations about mental health and wellbeing.
- Signpost people to the most appropriate form of advice for them.

The Great Mental Health Day initiative originated in Haringey but was also replicated in other London Boroughs. In Haringey, 18 events were held and at least 337 residents interacted with the physical and virtual activities. There were also over 60 events listed on the Thrive LDN website covering most boroughs in London which included exercise classes, meditation, wellbeing walks, coffee mornings and workshops to discuss mental health and wellbeing.

Co-production was an important part of the Great Mental Health in Haringey. For example, Good Thinking were co-producing culturally competent materials specific to Haringey. Mind in Haringey hosted a quarterly steering group for delivery partners and interested stakeholders to gain knowledge of how individual community groups experience bereavement and access services.

The evaluation of outcomes would be conducted by collecting qualitative and quantitative data with the programme due to run until October 2022. The Community Protect element of the programme was being evaluated by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). Haringey Council had also committed to signing up to the Prevention Concordat, a national multiagency collaboration based on taking a prevention-focused approach to mental health.

Dr Chantelle Fatania and others then responded to questions from the Panel:

- Asked by Cllr Connor about the co-production approach for the establishment of the project, Dr Fatania said that the initial turnaround for the funding application was less than two weeks so co-production wasn't possible at that stage. However, co-production was part of the overall approach. For example, the work with Good Thinking, was a London-wide initiative through a digital

platform that co-produces resources with Londoners and with faith-based forums. Cllr das Neves, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-being, added that a lot of services are peer-informed and that sometimes it was not possible or appropriate for services users to directly inform service delivery. However, where it was possible then service users would inform the Council on what works and what doesn't and how services could learn and adapt from that input.

- Cllr Connor asked whether the Joint Partnership Board would be involved in this process. Lynette Charles, CEO of Mind in Haringey, said that they had been closely working with grassroots organisations as part of the Community Protect project, including throughout the lockdown period. This had involved not just co-producing but also co-delivering services. When the Great Mental Health Programme was established, this had been very welcome because there was already some partnership work going on and this enabled the support to be developed a lot further.
- Cllr Mark Blake asked about the funding source for programme, noting that it was time-limited. Dr Will Maimaris, Director for Public Health, confirmed that this was from the Better Mental Health Fund which came from Public Health England.
- Cllr Blake emphasised his concerns about the extent of mental health issues in the criminal justice system. Cllr Blake also commented that accessibility of mental health services could be very problematic, particularly for BAME communities. Will Maimaris commented that the scope of the Great Mental Health Programme funding was limited to support a broad community-based prevention programme but acknowledged the importance of the wider challenges that he raised relating to mental health services.
- Cllr Connor noted that there was currently an ongoing Mental Health Services review for the North Central London (NCL) area and asked how this related to the evaluation work been carried out for the Great Mental Health Programme. Will Maimaris, said that there was no explicit link to the Mental Health Services review currently but they could consider feeding into this. **(ACTION)**
- Cllr Connor raised mental health support for young people in schools commenting that funding for this was not currently reaching the whole of the borough. Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director for Commissioning, responded that the Children & Young People's Mental Health & Well-being Transformation Plan had identified the need to expand the offer into schools across the Borough. This was also part of the emerging core offer for the Mental Health Services review so it had been identified as a key priority that needed to be resourced as part of prevention and early intervention. The aim was to have a single approach across the whole of the NCL area.

Cllr Connor thanked everyone who had contributed to the discussion, noting the success of the Great Mental Health Day and commenting that it was welcome to see the wide range of initiatives in this area.

Noting the positive comments made by Charlotte Pomery on mental health support for young people in schools, the Panel recommended that this support be implemented borough-wide as soon as possible. **(ACTION)**

RESOLVED – That the Panel recommends that mental health support for young people in schools should be implemented across the whole Borough as soon as possible.

51. LIVING THROUGH LOCKDOWN - COUNCIL RESPONSE

Charlotte Pomery, Assistant Director for Commissioning, introduced this item noting the apologies from Helena Kania because this was a joint response from the Council and the Joint Partnership Board.

Charlotte Pomery said that the Living Through Lockdown report conveyed the experience of vulnerable residents and those with additional needs during the first Covid-19 lockdown and made recommendations on how services were delivered. There was a co-production working group in place which involved members from the various reference groups of the Joint Partnership Board and this working group would continue to operate. The working group was chaired by Helena Kania with around eight members as well as representatives of the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group and there were minutes taken by Public Voice.

Charlotte Pomery explained that there were a series of headline points responding to the recommendations of the report, a selection of which were then discussed:

The first section was on better and faster communication. Charlotte Pomery acknowledged that this was critical in the first lockdown and that there had been a significant amount of work on improving digital communications and digital inclusion, investing in roles such as community champions and the community newsroom and a stronger focus on communication in community languages and easy read. Cllr Connor observed that the feedback from some service users was that they weren't always sure what was happening and didn't feel that they had sufficient access to information. She asked what had changed as a result of this feedback. Charlotte Pomery said that the response was all about changing ways of working and the communications model in areas such as community champions and the emphasis on co-production were examples of the long-term shift in this area. Beverley Tarka, Director for Adults & Health, added that the shift in communications was part of an ongoing journey which

included the new locality-based working approach which had been a topic of discussion at previous Panel meetings.

Another recommendation was on default financial assistance where it had been felt that, if steps had been taken to reduce a financial burden, this should be applied automatically rather than by requiring individuals to apply. Charlotte Pomery said that this was possible in some areas where this had been implemented but not in others such as where a means-tests was necessary.

On Care Assessments and Annual Reviews, there had been a recommendation on non-digital routes to care and assessment. Charlotte Pomery said it was agreed that there should be dual offers of face-to-face and digital services and that this had now been in place for some time wherever possible. She acknowledged that there was still some debate about the balance between people preferring face-to-face access (due to lack of confidence with digital services) and people preferring digital access (due to concerns about Covid-19). Cllr Connor noted that, according to the report, this dual approach was a strain on services and asked whether this was impacting on timescales for care assessments. Beverley Tarka added that there had been delays to the social care assessment waiting list caused by Covid-19 and that, while the Council triages and prioritises cases to manage the waiting lists, this was part of the argument to central Government on appropriate funding for social care. She confirmed that there were some performance statistics on this issue that could be shared with the Panel. **(ACTION)** Cllr das Neves suggested that this information should be provided to the Panel on a regular basis. Charlotte Pomery confirmed that a recommendation on sharing information on backlogs and plans to address this with the Joint Partnership Board had been agreed.

On a recommendation that Haringey Council should ensure that they contact all those with a learning difficulty, Charlotte Pomery observed that while some contact lists were available (such as those registered with their GP) and the Council did seek to contact all known vulnerable residents, there was no single register of everyone with a learning disability in the Borough.

On the Carers and Caring section, Charlotte Pomery noted that the recommendations in this section were being picked up through the Carers' Strategy work and that there was already a Carers' Strategy Implementation Action Group in place, as had previously been discussed with the Panel. This involved members from the JPB Carers' Reference Group but included a wider group of carers as well. They had emphasised good communication and respite as priority issues.

Charlotte Pomery said that there had been no break in home care provision during the pandemic, though obviously there had been anxieties from some users about people coming into their households. There had been some reduction in demand for day

services due to concerns about Covid-19, so there was more work to do in future on encouraging and enabling people back into day services.

On the Mental Health and Wellbeing section, Charlotte Pomery said that the huge impact of the pandemic on mental health in the community was widely acknowledged and that the response in this area included some excellent work on bereavement counselling through the Community Bereavement Framework and the wider community-based initiatives described in the previous agenda item.

On the Housing and Sheltered Accommodation section, there were recommendations on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and on plans to reduce evictions. It was recognised that sheltered housing was an important element of supporting vulnerable residents. It had been proposed that this area be the topic of a wider discussion with the Joint Partnership Board. She also noted that the Scrutiny Panel had recently been doing a Review on sheltered housing which could potentially feed into the wider debate on this.

On the Care Homes section, Charlotte Pomery said that communications with care homes had improved but a major challenge had been the national guidance for care homes which changed very frequently and made it difficult to keep families connected. Funding had been provided through the NHS and central Government on digital technology for residents to help enable them to keep in touch with friends and family. Cllr Connor observed that residents had reported frustrations with the inconsistencies in the visiting rules during the pandemic across different care homes in the Borough. Will Maimaris acknowledged that there was some local flexibility with different contexts in different care homes and that the Council had strengthened relationships with the care homes and had tried to support visiting where possible. Cllr das Neves observed that this was a national issue and that some large care providers had taken a particular stance on all of their homes.

On the Parks and Recreation section, Charlotte Pomery said that some interested points had been raised on how to ensure that vulnerable residents could access parks and open spaces. Safety and parking were issues that had come through strongly. The Council was developing a new Parks and Green Spaces Strategy and was keen to ensure that the Joint Partnership Board was actively involved in this. She added that the Joint Partnership Board was also closely involved in discussions on parking enforcement more widely as this had been a concern during the pandemic for blue badge holders.

On the Personal Budgets and Assistants section, Charlotte Pomery said that had been particular concerns about the free availability of PPE for personal assistants.

On Food Provision, Charlotte Pomery said that there was a strong food network and so the mechanisms for food delivery were now in place should they need to be

expanded again in future. A food strategy would also be developed shortly with partners.

Cllr Connor thanked everyone involved in developing the response and proposed that a further update be provided to the Panel in 2022/23 (potentially at the September 2022 meeting), noting that input from NHS colleagues would also be welcome.

(ACTION)

52. CABINET MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr das Neves, Cabinet Member for Health, Social Care and Well-being, introduced this item with an update on some key issues:

- The Canning Crescent Mental Health Centre was due to open in June/July with more bed space for people in crisis, a community café and the safe haven run by Mind all in an accessible location.
- On Covid, a lot of the government financial support would be dropping away and that, in this new phase, the Council would be looking at the learning from the pandemic and how to further develop outreach to increase vaccination rates.
- There had been a lot of work on health and care integration with new legislation and guidance and changes to the Borough Partnership (including co-production) with Integrated Care Systems expected to begin in July.
- The work on place-based hubs was progressing, starting with Northumberland Park, and bringing the Council's presence into the community was vital, particularly following years of austerity cuts.
- The prevention of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) was a significant priority and there had been a commitment to increase funding in recognition of the scale of the issue, including the rise in domestic abuse during the pandemic. There were also new measures expected on lighting and surveillance, including in Finsbury Park.
- New efforts were being made to improve work on aid and adaptations, particularly on communications and on resourcing in areas such as occupational therapists and surveyors (though this was a wider regional and national problem).
- The ongoing integration work with Homes for Haringey (HfH) would include the links between health and care and HfH services such as sheltered housing.
- There was a large capital programme which including a project to support women experiencing homelessness/rough sleeping and women experiencing domestic abuse. The capital programme also included Osborne Grove Nursing Home where the co-production had been of a high standard. 57 White Hart Lane was a project with the NHS to provide care and support for young people with complex needs and this was in the early stage of development.

Cllr das Neves and senior officers then responded to questions from the Panel:

- Asked by Cllr Culverwell for her view on priorities for scrutiny, Cllr das Neves responded that tracking the data on a regular basis, as previously mentioned, would be her suggestion.
- Asked by Ali Amasyali whether services were back to normal operation yet after Covid, Cllr das Neves said that a lot of services had functioned throughout the pandemic. However, some residents were still reluctant to engage with services face-to-face, there was still some backlog in certain areas and there were also now higher levels of demand in some areas.
- Ali Amasyali asked for statistics on the typical timescales for aids and adaptations to be implemented after an application. Beverley Tarka responded that pre-Covid it could typically take 12 months for a standard adaptation to be completed. An additional challenge since then included supply and demand issues which were causing delays and this was unfortunately likely to remain the case for some time to come. The Council recognised that communication with residents about progress on their application was particularly important in such circumstances. Cllr Blake asked about the use of suppliers and contractors and suggested that data on how the delays in this area had changed over the last few years could be brought to a future meeting. **(ACTION)** Beverley Tarka added that the Council used the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to obtain contractors. Charlotte Pomery said that local suppliers were used in some circumstances but this would often depend on specialisms and the scale of the work required. Asked by Cllr Blake whether there was any collaboration with other Boroughs on suppliers, Charlotte Pomery commented that there was some work with other London Boroughs on specialised equipment to bring down costs. Additional costs had resulted from the impact of Brexit, increases in demand and rises in inflation.
- Cllr Connor asked about the decrease in the base Adults budget in 2022/23 as had been observed during the recent budget scrutiny exercise. Cllr das Neves said that £6m of additional funding had been provided in recognition of the increased need that was anticipated. She added that a written response would be provided to the Panel on the specific figures that Cllr Connor raised from the budget scrutiny. **(ACTION)**
- Asked by Cllr Connor about funding for VAWG initiatives in schools, Cllr das Neves acknowledged that the budgets were an issue and so was the ability for schools to manage new initiatives given their recent focus on recovering from the pandemic. There was also some ongoing work with young people on a VAWG campaign with videos to challenge victim-blaming attitudes.
- Cllr Connor noted that Panel Members had visited sheltered housing schemes in the Borough recently and had expressed concerns that people with very high needs were placed with older residents. Cllr das Neves said that she was aware of these concerns and agreed about the importance of sheltered housing residents feeling safe. She committed to an additional written response on this issue. **(ACTION)** Charlotte Pomery observed that there may be further work to

do to consider particular designation of schemes for particular needs. Cllr Blake added that he had picked up concerns from residents that the criteria for admissions to sheltered housing appeared to have changed towards residents with high needs rather than those who were mainly independent but needed some limited support.

- Cllr Connor reiterated her concerns from earlier in the meeting about funding for mental health support for young people in schools so that this was provided across the whole of the borough. Cllr das Neves agreed that this was a concern and said that she would raise this with Cllr Zena Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families and would provide a written response to the Panel. **(ACTION)**

CHAIR: Councillor Pippa Connor

Signed by Chair

Date