

Health & Wellbeing Board

Meeting of held on Wednesday, 19 June 2019 at 2.00 pm in F10, Town Hall, Katharine Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Louisa Woodley (Chair);
Dr Agnelo Fernandes (NHS Croydon Clinical Commissioning Group) (Vice-Chair);
Councillor Margaret Bird
Councillor Janet Campbell
Councillor Alisa Flemming
Councillor Simon Hall
Councillor Yvette Hopley
Rachel Flowers, Director of Public Health - Non-voting
Edwina Morris, Healthwatch
Steve Phaure, Croydon Voluntary Action - Non Voting
Rachel Soni, Director of Croydon Alliance

Also Present: Councillors Clive Fraser, Sean Fitzimons and Joy Prince

Apologies: Councillor Jane Avis, Guy Van-Dichele, Robert Henderson, Dr Faisal Sethi and Michael Bell

PART A

A1/19 **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2019 were agreed as an accurate record

A2/19 **Disclosure of Interests**

There were no disclosures at this meeting.

A3/19 **Urgent Business (if any)**

There was none.

A4/19 **Public Questions**

Mr Michael Hembest asked the Board the following question:

“In the Health & Wellbeing Strategy document under priority 4 and 5, it mentions the role of employers to improve workforces’ health. Isn’t this just wishful thinking? The days of major size employers in the borough are nearly over. Outside of the few major employers the small employers, who I think are now the majority, have scant time or resources to influence their employees other than to get them to do the job.

It’s not impossible to get influence via this channel but the opportunities are becoming fewer.”

The following written response was provided to Mr Hembest:

“Thank you for raising this important issue.

We acknowledge that it can be difficult for small organisations to invest in supporting workplace health. However, there are a number of examples of good practice where small businesses are taking steps to improve the health of their workforce. In fact we are hearing more of our small businesses citing the economic business case of supporting the health & wellbeing of their staff. It is becoming more prevalent as small businesses work to retain their existing staff.

There are also a range of free tools and resources which are often tailored to different size businesses. For example, one key programme is the London Healthy Workplace Award whereby any size organisation can work towards making their workplace ‘healthier, happier and more productive’ (<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/health/london-healthy-workplace-award>). In recognition of the different challenges experienced by small businesses, there is now a tailored approach for organisations with less than 10 employees.

There are also free health resources available to employers for use in their organisations. Here is a link to one example.

<https://www.acas.org.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1361>

Croydon also has the Good Employer Charter (www.goodemployercroydon.com) which businesses can sign up to, one component of which is workplace health. There are a number of small businesses that are part of this because they see the importance of being a good employer. Small businesses signed up to this, are invited to a range of events throughout the year, collaborating and sharing best practice to support each other on ensuring the implementation of policies and activities that support the health and wellbeing of their staff.

We promote all of these opportunities to businesses via a number of routes including at the annual Economic Summit and through our business newsletter.

We have included workplace health in our Health and Wellbeing strategy in recognition of the importance of good employment for health. The Health and Wellbeing Board will be working with the Council's Future Place Board to explore opportunities for a strategic response to workplace health for all Croydon Businesses"

A5/19 **Supporting the whole person through an integrated locality approach**

The Board considered a report which addressed and updated the Members on the developments of supporting the whole person through an integrated locality approach across the system in Croydon. The locality approaches would deliver the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, in particular priority eight: "*The right people in the right place at the right time*".

The Director of Alliance Programme, Rachel Soni, introduced the report and explained that in Croydon the approach to health and wellbeing was rapidly evolving and an important part of that was to ensure that the different areas within the borough were provided with what was needed to maintain healthy and productive life. The aim was that when Croydon residents sought help they should be able to find the assistance they need locally with all services tailored to local needs.

The report presented included perspectives and updates on the locality approach for:

- Council's Operating Model
- Health and Care Locality Development – Integrated Community Networks + (ICN+)
- Locality approach for the Children and Young People agenda
- Shift to strengths based approaches, such as Community Led Support
- The locality approach and the voluntary and community sector experience
- A Healthwatch Croydon perspective on what locality working means to the public

It was noted that three particular areas had been selected to pilot the localities work, and these were: Thornton Heath, New Addington and South Croydon. This selection was based on a number of factors including geographical spread, inequality and the existing or planned activity taking place in these areas.

The Croydon Voluntary Action representative, Steve Phaure, explained that the report was a council operating model and he suggested that further work engaging the community alongside the council would be beneficial, particularly focusing on preventative work. He added that there were a lot of assets in the borough which needed to be utilised.

The Healthwatch representative, Gordon Kay, did a presentation to the Board regarding the two successive two-hour public events held in Thornton Heath; these were to gain insight into how the new ICN+ model of services would be received by local residents. He highlighted that the following areas were focused on:

- Understanding the model
- Widening access
- Communication
- Building community ownership and representation

The Director of Public Health, Rachel Flowers, explained that the authority had services that could be provided to prevent residents relying on the NHS. The communication within the services needed to be developed but she noted that this was the first time in her career she has seen all areas starting to work together, which was positive.

The Chair noted that the Board needed to be conscious of how they could measure success following the introduction of the localities work.

Councillor Hopley noted that there was cross-party support of the localities work. She expressed concern for the communications around the work to the public as a lot of residents were unaware of the ongoing work and how they could get involved. She requested quantitative data from officers, including; how many residents in the borough have dementia and how many residents were currently receiving social care. The Chair agreed with Councillor Hopley and echoed her comments regarding the data and explained that the Board Members needed this from the outset to monitor the impact.

Councillor Bird explained that it was positive to hear feedback that the localities approach was proving to be successful; however, the Board needed to have borough-wide data to measure success. The Vice-Chair noted that Croydon Alliance data was available and further data was being collected. The Director of Public Health added that qualitative data needed to be collected and for officers to not just focus on quantitative.

Councillor Hall stated that it was important to ensure all residents from across the borough benefited by receiving the help and support needed. He noted that it was positive to have package support for residents and hoped that the communities would be strengthened through the work. It was added that the second Community Food Stop was to be introduced to Thornton Heath following the successful pilot scheme.

In response to the queries raised by Councillor Bird the Chair explained that the scheme was to be initially introduced to the areas with greatest need within the borough. The Director of Public Health added that evidence showed that those with a lesser income were often more at need but agreed that there was deprivation in all wards within the borough.

Councillor Hopley stated that there were a lot of residents unknown to the authority who could benefit from extra support, particularly in the south of the borough; these residents were often isolated as they were not part of a close community. It was noted that developing a tailored approach was important as different wards had different needs.

Councillor Flemming advised officers to collaborate with developing community groups within the wards to ensure the work was being promoted and to also relieve the potential stigma.

The Vice-Chair noted that social isolation affected residents across the whole borough and many people did not have access to the services needed; he was hopeful that the new localities approach would improve this greatly. From his experience as a GP, he noted that the figures regarding appointments and referrals were improving and patients had explained that they were feeling happier and more supported within the community. He added, though, that communication and engagement around the ongoing work did need to be improved.

Councillor Campbell noted that officers should collaborate with local schools, places of worship and all locations which provided community services.

The Director of Alliance Programme responded to the queries raised by the Board and explained that a communication plan would be introduced and this would focus on how reports were written particularly from the service user's perspective. She also noted that the data collected would be presented to a future Health & Wellbeing Board.

RESOLVED – That the Health & Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Commented on the latest position of the localities approach, which was being developed across Croydon.
- 2) Noted the Healthwatch recommendations in 8.1 and discussed next steps for addressing them.

A6/19 **Annual Report of the Health & Wellbeing Board 2018/19**

The Public Health Consultant, Dr Jack Bedeman, introduced the Annual Report and explained that it would be presented to Full Council for approval on 15 July 2019. The report included the key work which had been completed in 2018/19, including: the Health & Wellbeing Strategy, including the set priorities and outcomes; the ongoing work with One Croydon; the collaborative work with the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP); and social prescribing.

In response to Councillor Hopley the Chair agreed that all Councillors should have a hard copy of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and ensured they would all receive one by 15 July 2019, in time for Full Council.

The Croydon Voluntary Action representative noted that it was helpful when the head teachers attended the Health & Wellbeing Board on 27 February 2019 because it gave the opportunity for Members to hear that schools had limited resources and if there was any support which could be provided.

The Director of Public Health explained that the Health & Wellbeing Board may consider a joint working board with the Safer Croydon Partnership as this would ensure consistency across projects and plans.

The Healthwatch representative stated that there were a lot of work programmes and plans which made it difficult for a lay person to navigate; she suggested creating a working group of the Health & Wellbeing Board to go through an individual's journey and ensure it is streamlined and documented.

RESOLVED – That the Board agreed to endorse the annual report of the Croydon Health and Wellbeing Board 2018/19 and recommend its presentation to Full Council for consideration and approval.

A7/19 **Croydon's Health and Care Transformation Plan**

The Board considered a report regarding the Croydon's Health and Care Transformation Plan (HCP), which was a delivery plan for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The plan was about delivering an integrated system which was the primary reason for the creation of Health & Wellbeing Boards. The Plan had previously been presented and discussed at the Health & Wellbeing Board and consultation stage had now passed.

In response to Councillor Fitzsimons, who was observing the meeting, it was clarified that the Health and Care Transformation Plan had been presented to the Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee.

In response to Councillor Fitzsimons' concerns regarding the Health & Wellbeing Board's Terms of Reference, Councillor Hall noted that revisions would need to be agreed by Full Council.

In response to the Healthwatch representative, the Director of the Alliance Programme explained that comments received from Board Members had been incorporated in the final plan.

RESOLVED – That the Board noted that the plan would be finalised and approved by the Executive Director of Health Wellbeing and Adults following conclusion of the Consultation and subject to the consultation outcomes.

A8/19 **Measles and MMR vaccination in Croydon**

The Director of Public Health introduced the report and explained there was currently a measles epidemic and 24 people had recently passed away in

Europe. During the previous wave of measles, 30 residents in the borough had confirmed measles; therefore, it was important for the Health & Wellbeing Board to look at how these figures could be improved. It was noted that 67% of children within the borough had been vaccinated and she had sent letters to all the local schools, nurseries and primary care venues within the borough with all the relevant information.

The Director of Public Health urged everybody to check whether they had been vaccinated against MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) and to ask their friends and family. It was explained that if people were unsure, they were able to receive the vaccination in their GP surgery. She added that she would distribute useful information to all Health & Wellbeing Board Members.

The Board were also encouraged to receive the flu vaccination as there was a current outbreak in Australia, so this could become a problem in the United Kingdom in winter 2019. In response to the Chair, the Director of Public Health clarified that the flu vaccinations were needed every year.

In response to the Chair, it was clarified that schools were not legally allowed to prevent children from attending to school if they were not vaccinated. The Vice-Chair added that the DfE guidance did not stipulate that schools require children's vaccination statuses.

In response to the Healthwatch representative, the Director of Public Health explained that there was a communication strategy being developed, which would focus on distributing information to the residents who were more at risk, these included; child care workers, frontline services, teachers, nurseries and children.

Councillor Hopley requested that a short, simple message was provided to Board Members and Councillors to distribute amongst their constituents. She also noted that this could be published on the website, in relevant articles, on social media and distributed to Resident Associations. The Vice-Chair added that there was a recent clip filmed in the Philippines on measles, which was shown on BBC News, which should be distributed to Board Members.

RESOLVED – That the Board agreed to:

- 1) Note the content of the report.
- 2) Encourage persons who arranged for the provision of any health or health-related services to agree to the Croydon Measles Elimination Plan and work closely together in an integrated manner to deliver the actions within it (Appendix B). This included the active support and promotion of MMR vaccinations amongst individuals of all ages including patients, staff and the general population.

A9/19 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

This was not required.

The meeting ended at 4.27 pm

Signed:

Date:

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