

MINUTES OF THE MEETING of the Health and Wellbeing Board on
Wednesday, 15 February 2023 at 10.00 am in the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Matthew Winnington (Joint Chair, in the Chair)

Councillor Yinka Adeniran
Councillor Lewis Gosling
Councillor Suzy Horton
Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson

Councillor Scott Payter-Harris (deputation)

Andy Biddle, Director of Adult Care, PCC
Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health, PCC
Roger Batterbury, Healthwatch Portsmouth
Simon Cooper, Health & Care Portsmouth
Hayden Ginns, Commissioning & Partnerships, Education
David Goosey, Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board
Paul Markham, Hampshire Constabulary
Councillor Terry Norton, in capacity as Deputy Police & Crime
Commissioner
Kirsty Ranford, City of Portsmouth College
Lorna Reavley, The Hive
Dianne Sherlock, Age UK
David Williams, Chief Executive, PCC
Jo York, Health & Care Portsmouth

Officers present

Matt Gummerson, Alan Knobel, Charlie Pericleous, Mike
Stoneman, Andrea Wright

1. Chair's introduction and apologies for absence (AI 1)

Councillor Winnington, Cabinet Member for Health, Wellbeing & Social Care, opened the meeting. All present introduced themselves.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Brian Madgwick, Dr Linda Collie, Clinical Lead/ Clinical Executive (GP) Health & Care Portsmouth, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board, Sarah Beattie (National Probation Service), Sarah Daly (Portsmouth City Council, represented by Hayden Ginns), Penny Emerit (Portsmouth Hospitals University Trust), Professor Anita Franklin (University of Portsmouth), James Hill (Portsmouth City Council), Kelly Nash (Portsmouth City Council), Paul Riddell (Hampshire Fire & Rescue Service) and Suzannah Rosenberg (Solent NHS Trust).

2. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of previous meeting - 23 November 2022 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 23 November 2023 be approved as a correct record.

4. Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board (PSAB) update

David Goosey, PSAB Independent Chair, introduced the annual 2021-2022 report, explaining that in the light of the Covid pandemic it was more practical to place the voice of service users, especially those who are not usually heard, at the heart of the PSAB's work on the strategy. There was a focus this year on homelessness and alcohol and drugs misuse; key training had been delivered to several PSAB member organisations. Two Safeguarding Adults Reviews were published which showed it was still critical to champion service users' voices. Mr Goosey hoped to report on much more significant progress next year. Funding would be very helpful. He sought the HWB's continued support and scrutiny and asked them to hold the PSAB to account.

Dianne Sherlock commended the report's honesty and transparency; it was an emotional read. Mr Goosey said the PSAB's safeguarding work included individuals, groups and organisations like Age UK, who held an enormous amount of information about people, but there was still much work to be done.

Andy Biddle agreed it was important to have a level of accountability and scrutiny for strategic bodies. A safeguarding peer review in 2021-2022 was carried out in a spirit of inquiry but had said funding was an issue in Portsmouth so it was struggling in terms of the resources that can be allocated compared with other PSABs, which limited what could be achieved. David Williams supported Mr Goosey's determination to ensure voices of lived experience are heard, which was an important challenge for everyone. Jo York noted that although Portsmouth prided itself on partnership working the case studies in the report showed the outcome could be "horrendous" when it did not work. She asked if organisations were working with frontline teams to understand professional curiosity. Mr Goosey said the PSAB was keen to work with frontline practitioners and also at different levels in the system, including leadership. The integration of services in Portsmouth is a promising set of activities but it had the slight downside of privileging cohesion of agencies over other voices. Partnership working was sometimes discordant and generates conflict but sometimes conflict was a "best friend."

Councillor Norton explained the police emphasised the 18 to 24 age group as it was a key developmental stage when young people transitioned from school to adulthood. Habits such as drug taking were a particular threat at this stage. He asked how other organisations treated that stage and what could be done to share good practice. Mr Goosey agreed it was a key stage; last year the PSAB had developed a new transition policy for young people, which other areas had requested. Some young people, for example, those with significant disabilities, were served well whereas others that society did not regard the same way, such as those with problems with school or the police, not so well. There was sometimes a lack of wraparound support when people approached 18 so attitudes may have to change and resources shifted.

The Chair thanked Mr Goosey and his team for the report. Safeguarding was everyone's business so if someone had concerns they needed to act on them. All 42 Portsmouth councillors had a responsibility to take the lead in their communities though it had sometimes been a struggle to encourage them to complete safeguarding training. The HWB's member organisations could all do their part. He also noted that the transition stage arises consistently.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board note the content of the annual report.

5. Preventing Violent Extremism Strategy

Charlie Pericleous, Prevent Co-ordinator, introduced the report and said officers were seeking external funding as the EU Interreg Orpheus funding had ended in December 2022. Andy Biddle noted Prevent was fundamental to keeping the city safe. Officers were discussing how to get more permanent funding. He was not entirely sure what the independent review would result in but officers were looking to see if they could use existing internal resources. There were residual grants but the results would not be known until next month at the earliest. The Home Office had acknowledged the strength of Portsmouth's Prevent work. In response to a query from Councillor Vernon-Jackson, officers could try accessing the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. Councillor Vernon-Jackson suggested writing to Penny Mordaunt MP to ask if the government were adhering to their promise to replace EU funding.

Mr Pericleous said there was a legacy aspect to Project Orpheus such as shared training products and as part of the "2 Seas" project had engagement with cities in Belgium, France and the Netherlands such as Calais that had similar characteristics to Portsmouth. David Williams said although extremism did not currently have such a high media profile it was important not to deplete resources and attention and let work slip. Officers should press for opportunities to fund the soft and sharper sides of Prevent work with city-wide partners such as the police and the University. Mr Pericleous said Portsmouth was cautious to deliver sensitively when addressing the Islamist risk and not target particular communities. The Chair agreed all types of extremism should be tackled, not just particular ones, and thanked officers for the report.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board support the continuation of Prevent delivery at current levels to meet the local authorities' statutory obligations under Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

6. Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment 2023 and wider pharmacy issues

Councillor Scott Payter-Harris read out a deputation from Councillor Daniel Wemyss and then made his own deputation. Deputations are not minuted but can be viewed on the council's website here

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Matt Gummerson, Head of Strategic Intelligence and Research, introduced the report and outlined the proposed streamlined process for agreeing responses to consolidations and closures. In response to the deputations objecting to the proposed closures of pharmacies in the north of Portsmouth, he said the HWB would object to them and that if they did close, another provider could open in the area. The PNA had been published in October 2022 but had to be revised because of the consolidation of the Elm Grove and Osborne Road pharmacies, with the HWB now wanting to identify a gap in provision. The revised PNA would return to the Board for approval in June after consultation with specified organisations. Only those sections necessary to identify gaps would be updated. Further closures and consolidations would be likely to create additional gaps but officers would issue a supplementary statement rather than revise the PNA. New pharmacies would not be prevented from opening in those circumstances. Where there were clusters of pharmacies, such as in Cosham High Street, objections would be unlikely as if one closed it would not create a gap.

Councillor Horton had objected strongly to the consolidation of the Elm Grove and Osborne Road pharmacies because of the human element. Getting medication for relatives was time-consuming and frustrating and had removed their independence (though the situation had now improved with a new pharmacy). Consolidating the period of time for responding to gaps would help.

Councillor Gosling asked what the HWB was doing to facilitate more use of pharmacists as prescribers as the Integrated Care Board (ICB) had the power to launch a trial. Simon Cooper said expressions of interest for prescribers would be received by the end of February, not specifically for community pharmacists, but prescribing from pharmacies. The Local Pharmacy Committee and the ICB were supportive of Portsmouth being a pilot. There was funding for seven specialist pharmacists to work as prescribers across all GP practices had been agreed with the caveat they had to work within their competencies and that the initiative would gradually evolve.

Councillor Vernon-Jackson was concerned about the proposed closures in Drayton and Farlington and there should be no more. He proposed an additional recommendation to the report that the HWB should actively work with local pharmacy providers to fill gaps in provision. Portsmouth was lucky to have local providers which many other areas did not. Pharmacies were closing as they were becoming uneconomic. The budget granted to pharmacies in 2017/2018 did not allow for inflation and was now about three-quarters of its real value in 2017. The cuts in government funding since then were the root cause of the problem.

Jo York explained that the ICB had assumed responsibility from NHS England for pharmacy, optometry and dentistry in July 2022, which was positive as the ICB could understand the local impact. The ICB needed to understand the national pharmacy contract and figures could be given to the HWB if requested. All contracts were currently being reviewed at a national level so the ICB needed to influence upwards as well supporting close working with local pharmacies to get the best service for residents.

Simon Cooper, Director of Primary Care & Medicines Optimisation, (himself a pharmacist), gave a presentation on community pharmacy services. There might be more rationalisation with the workforce spread more thinly; community pharmacy is not always seen as exciting. From 2026 all newly qualified pharmacists will also be qualified prescribers. In response to questions, he said Lloyds had offered their pharmacies for sale and were open to approaches in case other providers wanted to take them on; it was not known if the online services were included. Employment rates were skyrocketing so employing locums was less viable. Use of distance and online pharmacies had increased and they accounted for the increased number of prescriptions. They were good for repeat prescriptions but people could not get advice from them. Elderly people (especially over 80) were the highest users but it was more likely to be adult children registering on their behalf. Age UK was not surprised at the age range of online pharmacy users as their youngest client was 42 and they were looking to work with people in their 20s and 30s.

Jo York mentioned the unintended consequences of online pharmacies which had resulted in lower growth of high street pharmacies. Organisations needed to recognise the challenges and opportunities and think not just about strategy but operational issues. Local challenges were deprivation and the impact of the cost of living crisis. It should be noted pharmacies were all independent businesses. In the past there were inherent perverse incentives, for example, the way flu vaccinations were managed, but issues had to be resolved so they could play a role in the primary care system.

Members agreed pharmacies could play a greater role than just issuing prescriptions, which could be seen as positive as they could help to address challenges associated with deprivation. They noted the most vulnerable residents used community pharmacies, for example, for substance misuse support and stopping smoking. Pharmacies were a first port of call during Covid. Mr Cooper said historically pharmacies were commissioned to provide prescriptions but this historic reliance was now outdated and no longer fit for purpose. Pharmacies had offered many other non-commissioned services and organisations needed to consider how they maintained the viability of pharmacies.

Members thought being able to prescribe would have a big impact on GPs and might make pharmacy a more popular career if it offered more autonomy. They thought most community pharmacies could close in the next ten years if they were uneconomic as they were not charities. However, they kept people out of primary care so closures would increase pressure on acute services. The model would probably change significantly with either substantial subsidies or the NHS providing pharmacies directly. Major changes would be problematic in a city with low levels of functional literacy.

The Chair thanked officers for the report and Mr Cooper for his presentation. Cutting face-to-face services had a detrimental impact on people and in the absence of private sector provision local organisations had to make the most of resources.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board

- 1. Approve the proposed changes in section 4 that will form part of revised PNA 2023.**
- 2. Agree that the draft PNA can be signed off for consultation by the joint-chairs of the HWB by 1st March 2023.**
- 3. Agree that the HWB response to future consolidation applications can be approved by the joint chairs of the HWB as part of a revised process set out in section 6.**
- 4. Actively work with local pharmacy providers to fill gaps in provision.**

7. Health & Wellbeing Strategy - Education

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director, Education, gave a presentation on progress on the three priorities within the strategy for education ie support for families in pregnancy, developing a culture of aspiration, and attendance. Mr Stoneman provided some context and confirmed that the majority of schools (70%) were now part of a Multi Academy Trust (MAT) who were responsible for raising standards in those schools. Mr Stoneman said that Portsmouth has been allocated £1.8m as a Priority Investment Education (PIE) Area to focus on literacy, maths and attendance. Maths has been added as a ninth priority to the Education Strategy. Although reading results had improved others had decreased and the gap with national had widened for most performance measures. Increased secondary school absence, mainly due to Covid, was a concern. Mr Stoneman highlighted a range of work and initiatives that have been implemented to address the three priorities in the strategy. This included:

- **Supporting families in pregnancy and the early years to give children the best start** - successful bid to the DfE for the Start for Life/Family Hub Investment Programme to develop the universal Family Hub Network offer, with a significant focus on the first 1001 days.
- **Raising aspirations:** Aspirations Week, National Apprenticeship Week, Careers and Enterprise Show, the Youth Hub, SEND Employability and Enterprise Forum.
- **School attendance:** Relational Practice in schools, multi-agency approach to addressing severe absence (below 50%), LA Link Co-ordinators, support for neuro-diverse children in schools, mental health support teams, refresh of the school attendance campaign.

Mr Stoneman concluded with an ask of all agencies and services to support improvements to school attendance and that it was everyone's business to lean into this and to have those conversations with families and children to reinforce the importance of school attendance.

Councillor Norton welcomed the support for families and mental health, as the latter often put unwanted pressure on the police. However, attainment was not improving despite strategy after strategy and reassurances it would recover after Covid. Much is due to behaviour in schools. Councillor Norton felt that relational practice was effectively an in-house way of managing behaviour but despite leading to fewer exclusions attainment had yet to improve. However,

there was some work to be done with the police and it was recognised that more schools were requesting police engagement.

Mr Stoneman did not disagree. Attendance was inextricably linked to attainment. Being a PEIA with a focus on literacy, maths, attendance and underperforming groups has put the spotlight on Portsmouth to raise standards but the funding is welcome. Councillor Horton said schools were judged on exam results (though attainment could not always be measured by league tables) and agreed it was a conundrum why Portsmouth was not doing as well as similar areas, despite most schools being judged by Ofsted as Good or better. Covid should not be used as an excuse but it would have had a disproportionate impact on disadvantaged families as home schooling would have been much more difficult. Attendance was key and everyone needed to work collectively on why a child was not in school. Mental health help was a vehicle to support families. Lifting the aspirations of our families and children was an important part of the strategy. As an example, Trafalgar School combined Live Well events with a parents' evening. The city had the right values to resolve its complex issues and the Board was the best platform to do so. Jo York agreed and asked if HWB members, as some of Portsmouth's biggest employers, were doing enough to sell their career opportunities. Mr Stoneman said health and care had some representation but more could always be done; he offered to put Jo York in touch with people. In addition, anyone was welcome to give feedback on Aspirations Week.

The Chair said from his own experiences as a school governor and family's experience as a teacher he knew the efforts schools made to get children to attend. Covid had a big impact as it broke routines. He thanked officers for the work they were doing which he recognised as a long process.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board note the report.

8. Combatting Drugs Partnership Needs Assessment and Plan

Alan Knobel, Public Health Principal, introduced the report, noting that the Plan could be adapted to meet priorities. He said there were about 500 people with substitute prescribing who used community pharmacies to access medication so fewer pharmacies would be a struggle. The Board thought it was an incredible report.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board

- 1. The Health and Wellbeing Board note the substance misuse needs assessment.**
- 2. The Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Substance Misuse Plan for Portsmouth 2023-2026.**

9. Superzone update

The Board agreed to consider the Superzone update at its meeting on 28 June as there was not enough time to consider it at today's meeting. It was also going to the Cabinet on 7 March.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board consider the update at its next meeting.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 28 June at 10 am.

Remaining meetings in 2023 are 27 September and 29 November (both Wednesdays at 10 am).

Councillor Matt Winnington and Dr Linda Collie (Chair)