

RECORD OF THE MEETING of the Health and Wellbeing Board on
Wednesday, 29 November 2023 at 10.00 am in the Executive Meeting Room,
Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Dr Linda Collie, Clinical Lead/ Clinical Executive (GP) Health & Care
Portsmouth, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (Joint
Chair, in the Chair)

Councillor Steve Pitt, Leader of Portsmouth City Council

Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health, PCC
Natalie Brahma-Pearl, Chief Executive, PCC
Sarah Daly, Director of Children, Families & Education, PCC
David Goosey, Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board
Superintendent Mark Lewis, Hampshire Constabulary
Kelly Nash, Strategy Unit, PCC
Gemma Nichols, Portsmouth Creates
Dr Jason Oakley, University of Portsmouth
Lorna Reavley, The Hive
Paul Riddell, Hampshire & Isle of Wight Fire & Rescue Service
Jo Shankland, City of Portsmouth College
Dianne Sherlock, Age UK
Frances Soul, Portsmouth Education Partnership
Jo York, Health & Care Portsmouth

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

Dr Linda Collie, Clinical Lead/ Clinical Executive (GP) Health & Care
Portsmouth, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board opened the
meeting.

The Board thanked Jo York, whose last day of service was 30 November, for
her contribution to the Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) and the city's health
and wellbeing over the years.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lewis Gosling,
Councillor Graham Heaney, Councillor Suzy Horton, Councillor Matthew
Winnington, Roger Batterbury (Healthwatch, who was represented by Dr
Oakley), Sarah Beattie (Probation Service), Andy Biddle (Adult Social Care,
PCC), Penny Emerit (Portsmouth Hospitals University Trust), James Hill
(Housing, Neighbourhood & Building Services, PCC) and Alasdair Snell
(Solent NHS Trust).

The Board agreed to consider agenda item 6 (Community Safety Strategic
Assessment) first but for ease of reference the minutes will be kept in the
original order.

34. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

35. Minutes of previous meeting - 27 September 2023 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 27 September 2023 be approved as a correct record.

36. Matters arising

Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board (PSAB) - Funding - minute 27

Dr Collie asked if letters had been written to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight (HIOW) Constabulary and HIOW Integrated Care Board requesting them to set out their funding formulas and how they intended to enable the PSAB to meet its obligations. A response has been received for the current financial year contribution but will be pursued now for 2024/25 as that is not confirmed.

Portsmouth as an age-friendly city - minute 31

Dr Collie reminded those present of Andy Biddle's request to complete information on what their organisations were doing to make Portsmouth an age-friendly city; information should be sent to Kelly Nash by Friday 15 December.

37. Portsmouth Safeguarding Adults Board (PSAB) Annual Report (AI 4)

David Goosey, PSAB Chair, introduced the report, noting that he was fortunate to present it alongside the Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR) for three adults. The reviews reflected the PSAB's challenges and priorities, including the shortage of resources which had been discussed at the previous HWB meeting. The three people in the SARs fell through the net as the net was not good enough to catch them. The SARs pointed to the need for a more rigorous approach to risk assessments and showed the impact of stigma on the three people. They held off from seeking assistance as they were afraid of the reaction they would get. Housing was a key issue though no doubt there were challenges around housing them. Positive relationships were discussed at the HWB's previous development session meeting and a trusting relationship with an adult could have made a huge difference to them. In the year the report was published there was a thematic review into ten deaths so without intervention the process was likely to continue.

Helen Atkinson would bring proposals from the development session to the next HWB meeting. There were so many different organisations and the behaviour of adults with the most complex needs did not always lend itself to having positive relationships with organisations. Scoping had started but organisations needed to focus differently on this group of people. Rather than rushing in organisations should scope the work well and ensure a proper partnership approach. Jo Shankland was Designated Safeguarding Lead on the Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Partnership. The City of Portsmouth College trained a significant amount of adults who might be at risk of falling through the net so she was happy to volunteer to be on the PSAB to close the gap.

The Chair said the case studies brought to life why organisations needed to improve.

RESOLVED that the Health & Wellbeing Board note the report.

38. Portsmouth Safeguarding Children Portsmouth Partnership Annual Report (AI 5)

Scott MacKechnie, Independent Chair & Scrutineer, had had to give apologies and the HWB agreed to postpone consideration of the report as he was the most appropriate person to present it.

RESOLVED to postpone the agenda item until the next meeting.

39. Community Safety Strategic Assessment (AI 6)

Matthew Gummerson, Assistant Director, Strategic Intelligence & Research, introduced the report, and Sam Graves, Community Safety Analyst, gave a presentation outlining key trends and issues in 2022/23. The Strategic Assessment is a statutory requirement for community safety partnerships. Police datasets give detailed information about crime in the city but not all crimes are reported to the police so a range of other data sources are used. On balance crime levels were likely to have remained stable over the last decade. Possession of a weapon offences had increased but this might reflect a greater focus on searching suspects. Domestic abuse was heavily impacted by the willingness of people to report it. Although there were positive outcomes for those who accepted responsibility for their actions it was a small number and there was still work to be done to hold perpetrators to account. There was a small genuine increase of child criminal exploitation linked to drugs networks as well as raised awareness. The reduction in recorded shoplifting probably did not reflect the number of offences; work was being done to tackle it.

Under the new Serious Violence Duty responsible authorities were required to share information. Upper tier local authorities across Hampshire produced strategic needs assessments (SNA) for 14 districts with local data then an analyst in the Violence Production Unit produced an overarching one for Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Portsmouth and Southampton. A large proportion of serious violence comprised possession of a weapon, GBH, robbery of personal property, a small number of homicides and violent disorder offences. The increase in serious violence since the Covid pandemic was driven by possession of weapons and robbery offences. It was concentrated in the city centre on Friday to Sunday evenings so the night-time economy could be a significant driver. About 60% occurred in public spaces and was mostly amongst strangers. Portsmouth compared fairly poorly with the Hampshire and England averages for measures associated with serious violence.

A 2022 survey showed levels of anti-social behaviour as fairly stable since 2014 but it needed to be reported to the correct agencies. The rankings in the table of areas where people felt unsafe showed interesting changes, for example, Portsea has been seen as safer since the development of Gunwharf. However, the Cascades had not affected Commercial Road the same way. Paulsgrove has been seen as safer since 2009 due to a lot of community work which could be translated to other areas.

The next community safety survey would take place next year with the fieldwork taking place in February and March 2024. Previous survey

reports were on the Safer Portsmouth Partnership website and fieldwork locations were likely to be similar, though suggestions were welcome. There would be about 1,000 face-to-face conversations with residents. Dates and other information would be on the council's website and social media. Finally, it was recommended that the community safety priorities remained unchanged.

In response to questions, Ms Graves said there was a lot of evidence of associations of victimhood with "the causes of the causes" in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. For example, a detailed spreadsheet showed the different risk and protective factors linked to serious violence and highlighted issues such as engagement with education. Serious violence was more likely to be found in areas of high deprivation but not all such areas have it.

Superintendent Lewis said reading the SNA alongside the report showed how interlinked elements drove serious violence. The SNA highlighted not just policing but so many other factors like educational attainment. Organisations needed to look at the detail in the SNA at the HWB's development sessions. Without pre-judging next year's assessment thefts from shops would increase significantly as the Police were working to increase reporting and recording of shoplifting. Violence in the home was still significant; it was a very difficult matter to crack but a key action. The Violent Crime Taskforce was looking at longer-term problem solving.

Councillor Pitt agreed the reporting of shoplifting was far lower than the number of incidents. He had recently met shopkeepers and stallholders who had had multiple incidents of shoplifting but not reported them. The levels of anxiety were not being reflected; they were afraid to go to work and wore bodycams. Shoplifting led to other crimes and targeted work was needed. Ms Graves said shoplifting was not in the current priorities as these were elected using a matrix which looked at the physical and emotional harm compared with the proportionate effect of serious violence, alongside things like volume of incidents. Mr Gummerson acknowledged Councillor Pitt's point. The research and analysis programme linked to the Strategic Assessment identified areas where more data and intelligence was needed to understand the issue and enable the right response, and the underreporting of shoplifting would be explored through that. Superintendent Lewis said the increase in reported shoplifting incidents would be in next year's crime report. Confidence in the number of people being brought to justice was increasing. How safe people felt, and not just violence, was an element of community safety and a police priority too. The police were exploring opportunities to tell the public what was happening. The position was improving but there was still work to be done. Shoplifting could be linked to organised crime or the cost of living.

Jo York asked if there was a coding issue around the figures for decreasing alcohol and drug related admissions in view of the higher number of deaths. Ms Graves explained the measure was for 15 to 24 year olds so the drug related deaths would be a different cohort. A monitoring report that went to the Combating Drugs Partnership had more detail. There were limitations with violence data obtained from the Emergency Department as there was

not always time to do detailed assessments. A report on combating drugs would come to the next HWB meeting. There had been a significant uplift in government funding for treating substance misuse.

Dr Collie thanked officers for a thorough report.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board use the information in this strategic assessment (and the previous full strategic assessment in 2020/21) to guide evidence-based day to day decision making and resource allocation.

40. Health and Wellbeing Strategy - Poverty (AI 9)

Mark Sage, Tackling Poverty Co-ordinator, introduced the report. Since the previous HWB meeting there had been two development sessions on tackling poverty. The Tackling Poverty Steering Group would meet the following day to look at learning from the Public Health Annual Report. Mr Sage wanted to make the HWB aware of a significant risk to funding. The council was hoping for confirmation in the autumn budget statement that Household Support Fund funding would continue to 2024/2025 but the only reference was to the current round, which ended on 31 March 2024 and could only be used in this financial year so there was no certainty. However, the council has had very late notice of funding in previous years from the government. The annual funding of around £3.8m provided significant financial support to residents and funded temporary staff to deliver it. The council would look to lobby around this and the DWP were fully aware of the risks. The next steps in the coming months were looking at how to work around the resources available.

Councillor Pitt was pessimistic as the government had had a massive opportunity to support people in hardship but had not. He had raised it with the Local Government Association and was expecting a joint approach across local authorities. Losing £3.8m would be catastrophic.

Public Health would definitely be raising concerns and wanted to broaden the issue so it was everyone's business. The impact of Covid and the cost of living crisis had not gone away and would continue into next year. The all-partner Steering Group would continue to see the impact on organisations like the police and NHS. A huge amount of work has been done to support people and although it has slightly mitigated the cost of living crisis the impact could still be seen so should be stated.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board note the report.

41. Education attainment - update on 2023 results (AI 10)

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Education, introduced the report. The majority of Portsmouth schools (14) were Multi-Academy Trusts (MAT) who were responsible for results, some of which were sobering and disappointing. A variety of factors affected attainment and although Portsmouth had the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP) improving attainment was a collective effort. On a pleasing note the dip in Ofsted judgements had improved which meant a return to the "Portsmouth paradox" in that schools were judged Good or Outstanding but results remained in the bottom 10% of

local authorities. Portsmouth has been designated one of 24 Priority Investment Education (PIE) areas in the UK and given a grant of £1.8m though that put the city in the spotlight. A delivery plan was in place and going well but there was a long journey ahead.

Mr Stoneman highlighted key points from the results. Year 1 Phonics results showed a significant improvement and were near pre-Covid results. KS1 results showed a slight improvement but still a gap with national. KS2 results were some way off 2019 results though the picture was similar across the country. Reading results were the most disappointing as steady progress had been made before Covid. The drop in results was replicated across the country and schools were disgruntled about the tough test. The gap in Portsmouth was bigger though a significant upturn was expected in 2024. There was a small increase for Writing and Maths though the gap was the same. KS4 results were more depressing. 2022 results had been given a degree of latitude so should be disregarded and 2023 results compared instead with 2019. Results had not returned to 2019 levels whereas they had nationally which meant a significant gap. Education officers have talked individually to MATs about the results. The biggest factors were the impact of Covid and attendance, especially at secondary level where absence was severe and persistent. Attendance was worrying so was a key priority for the PIE area.

In response to questions, Mr Stoneman said overall absence was around 91%/92%. About 20% or more of children were persistently absent and missed 10% sessions. About 600 pupils had severe absence and missed 50% sessions. Mr Gummerson noted that nearly half of children (48%) were starting life without the qualifications that would help them get work and only one in five would pass English and Maths through additional work in further education. He reiterated educational attainment as one of "the causes of the causes."

Jo Shankland agreed as the College had seen a significant increase in students joining at entry levels because of not having Maths and English. There was a massive drop in attendance. The College was working with Amanda Percy (Post 16 Skills & Campaign Manager) at the council on the "Every Day Counts" initiative and creating a strategy to link with it. As a GP, Dr Collie had seen older children with anxiety so it was a matter of how to help them go to school. Mr Stoneman said the council was re-launching a new attendance campaign in January and working with parents to ensure it made some difference.

Sarah Daly said it was important to focus on those children entering school and how to better prepare children and parents for school. Covid and anxiety were still significant concerns. Parents were surprised when their children were not as far ahead as others at reception stage. School was a key strategy for the ICB too as part of the importance of the first 1,001 days. Matters had to be tackled at the earliest opportunity or they became a bigger problem later on.

Kelly Nash agreed Covid had had a significant impact. Some graphs showed results below 2015 levels so it was time to build back. With regard to lessons learnt from the bigger gap in KS2 results, Mr Stoneman said officers were working on a protocol to improve the transition from KS2 to KS3, for example, clearly identifying children who needed additional support, even having their primary school teachers supporting them in the first term. Children had wraparound support at primary school then everything fell apart at secondary school and if attendance was lost then they really struggled.

In response to Dr Collie's point that very high grades for admission to higher education, when they were not always necessary, were demoralising, Mr Stoneman said there was a variety of pathways for children that led to high-level careers and not just university. They needed awareness and knowledge of the pathways. Children's Services were doing some excellent targeted work around vulnerable young people, for example, work experience for care-experienced young people. Dr Oakley said widening participation was to the fore again. More awareness of contextual offers taking into account applicants' circumstances was being promoted amongst local colleges. Portsmouth Creates was looking across the sector at mentoring and apprenticeship schemes for those who might have fallen off traditional routes.

Natalie Brahma-Pearl said that the HWB as a group of multi-agency partners attainment was not just a matter for Education. For example, at KS1 health visitors could notice problems with school readiness like poor speech. It was for everyone to consider the longer-term outlook and outcomes of low English and Maths results. The lack of skills was a challenge for employers and would continue for generations if there was no grip on the situation. The Marmot principles and wider determinants of health were always being discussed. She asked how everyone as a system could play an active part and if they were really gripping and unpicking the challenge. The £1.8m PIE funding was a drop in the ocean. However, not everyone was vulnerable; sometimes it was a case of choices made but the HWB needed to take ownership.

Ms Daly acknowledged the points. Children's Services were working with health visitors about what they were expected to do and what others could do. There were two meetings in December and January about the underpinning strategies, including attainment, for the Children's Trust. No improvement would lead to grim statistics and outcomes for adults. All areas had increased levels of poverty but organisations needed to ask what caused specifically Portsmouth's situation and the Portsmouth paradox. A report would probably be brought back to the HWB in the spring.

Superintendent Lewis did not doubt there was a link to "the causes of the causes" and to the Strategic Assessment for community safety. Transition to secondary school was a key time when children were most vulnerable to criminal exploitation. What happened in the education world affected the police world.

Jo York agreed and asked how the HWB could support the wider health and care system, for example, the first 1,001 days. Project Fusion and the new community mental health provider gave an opportunity, rather than a threat, to

work differently and engage more with communities. The aspect not grappled with was how the HWB as large employers, who faced workforce challenges, could create better outcomes for young people. Health & Care Portsmouth had created ten apprenticeships but that was a drop in the ocean. Ms Atkinson said the work of Hayden Ginns (Assistant Director, Commissioning & Partnerships) on the Portsmouth paradox was leading the way with national recognition. The workforce as a big issue as Portsmouth and Southampton had the worst rate of health visiting and school nurses despite having great teams. In more affluent areas there was more time to spend on visits but in areas with the worst rates of domestic violence and deprivation they dealt with very difficult cases so had to work harder and more innovatively to make a difference.

As to whether the MATs were being challenged enough, were insular or saw the same challenges as the council, Frances Soul said they were all represented on the PEP, were engaged and understood Portsmouth's needs and priorities. DfE Regional Directors drove accountability and worked in partnership with Education and the PEP. Last time Scott MacKechnie came to talk to the PEP but the issue needed to reach a higher level; any aspect that could raise awareness was welcome. Conversations often reverted to attendance though the low number of permanent exclusions was positive. Mr Stoneman said there was an annual conversation with all MATs and accountability lay with the Regional Director. However, there was very little challenge, only when a school was judged Requires Improvement or Inadequate. Many MATs had 50 to 70 schools and if most were satisfactory the minority was not seen as a problem. However, Portsmouth had a strong model and platform.

Councillor Pitt believed massively that aspiration was a big problem in that some young people did not see beyond their own street and could not see the point. It was tough but they needed to be shown there were opportunities beyond academic grades. In his experience, employers said they could train almost anybody but could not teach soft skills such as communication or empathy. People needed to engage with young people and addressing one child at a time might be more productive than looking at statistics. Initiatives in schools promoting jobs and careers needed to be something children could relate to.

RESOLVED that the Health and Wellbeing Board note the report.

Dates for 2024 meetings (all Wednesdays at 10 am) are 6 March, 26 June, 25 September and 27 November.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 am.

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Councillor Matthew Winnington and Dr Linda Collie (Chair)