

DORSET'S JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH BOARD

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 MAY 2021

Present: Cllrs Karen Rampton, Graham Carr-Jones and Laura Miller

In observer capacity: Cllr Jane Kelly (BCP)

Apologies: Cllrs Nicola Greene

Officers present (for all or part of the meeting): Sam Crowe (Director of Public Health), Sian White (Finance Manager), Clare White (Accountant), Vanessa Read (Director of Nursing and Quality, Dorset CCG) and David Northover (Democratic Services Officer).

79. Election of Chairman

Resolved

That Councillor Karen Rampton be elected Chairman for the meeting.

80. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Resolved

That Councillor Laura Miller be appointed Vice-Chairman for the meeting

81. Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Nicola Greene (BCP).

82. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made at the meeting.

83. Public Participation

No statements and questions from Town and Parish Councils or public statements or questions were received at the meeting.

84. Forward Plan

The Board's Forward Plan was noted and, what was due to be considered over the coming months, accepted.

85. JPHB Annual Report 2020/21

The Board received the Annual Report which was designed to play its part of the renewed agreement for the shared service the Director of Public Health Dorset: reflecting on the achievements of the service, and identifying any areas for development and set out what still had been achieved - despite the need to respond to and address the needs of the Covid 19 pandemic – and the means by which this had been done in terms of:- preventative work, partnership working, drug and alcohol interventions, Sexual health, LiveWell Dorset; Children and Young People’s Public Health Service, Community Health Improvement Services (CHIS), NHS Health checks, Integrated care system, prevention at Scale and the Dorset Offer

Appendix A summarised the work of the public health service in the financial year 2020/21, with the Board being asked to acknowledge the overwhelming nature of the work being focused on the response to the coronavirus global pandemic, but that achievements had still been made on delivering on objectives in our annual business plan during the year.

The Board were assured that the team had endeavoured to deliver as far as possible against their statutory responsibilities, provided essential public health services in line with Government guidance at the time, and above all protected and responded to the health threats arising from the unprecedented pandemic.

The Board expressed its appreciation for what the whole Public Health Dorset team had done in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic and commented that this was a credit to the team, to local councils and their partners and to the residents of Dorset. They commented that this demonstrated the importance of our public health service and that Dorset and its residents were benefitting from the robust response being shown. They hoped this positive response could be maintained and improved upon and looked forward to seeing what positive achievements the future held.

Resolved

That in reviewing the Annual report of the shared service for 2020-21 the objectives achieved and the way this was done were noted and endorsed.

Reason for Decision

Production of an annual report setting out the work of the shared public health service was agreed as condition of the renewed service agreement between BCP and Dorset Councils.

86. Finance Report

The Board received an update on the use of each Council’s grant for public health, including the budget for the shared service, Public Health Dorset, and the other elements of grant used within each Council outside of the public health shared service. The report described how the funding was being applied and to what services and in what proportion.

The final outturn for the Public Health Dorset 20/21 budget, after £1M was returned to local authorities in 2020/21, was £27.742M, against a budget of £28.748M. Reserves now stand at £1.940M. Grant allocations for public health were published 16 March and included an uplift. This provided the opportunity to meet the original commitment of £1M to be retained by Councils in 2021/22 for investment in public health outside of the shared service.

Agreement has also been reached on the financial impact of the shift of BCP drug and alcohol contracts. This means a change in the recommended contributions for each local authority, set out in Appendix 2 for approval. This will form the revised financial annex to the shared service partnership agreement for 2021/22. The public health ring-fenced conditions apply equally to these elements of the grant and the use of the Grant in each council outside of the shared service will continue to be monitored through the JPHB.

The opening revenue budget for Public Health Dorset in 21/22 is £25.036M. There will continue to be COVID-19 impacts throughout 21/22, with financial impacts remaining hard to gauge, however a first provisional forecast is included in appendix 1 and shows a potential overspend.

Plans in support of COVID-19 local outbreak management plans are developed through the COVID-19 Health Protection Board, chaired by the Director of Public Health. Additional funding from the Test and Trace Grant and Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to support these plans are overseen by each local authority. Some of the additional costs to the shared service in supporting this work are met through these additional funds.

The current contract with REACH for the Dorset Council area is due to expire at the end of October 2022. Taking the current context and advice from procurement into account it is recommended that this is extended to the end of October 2023.

Whilst it was acknowledged that the continued interventions needed to address the issues associated with Covid-19 were unprecedented and represented a unique challenge both in financial and practical terms, the Board recognised that the available funding was being used as efficiently as it could be and appropriately prioritised to continue to optimise outcomes.

Resolved

- 1) That the recommendation in 4.2 of the Director's report around governance of decision making for drug and alcohol services, and monitoring of performance be supported and endorsed.
- 2) That Appendix 2 of the report, forming an updated financial annex to the shared services partnership agreement for 2021/22 and giving a budget for the shared service of £25.036M, be approved.
- 3) That an extension of the current REACH contract for a further year until the end of October 2023 be approved.

Reasons for Decisions

The public health grant is ring-fenced, and all spend against it must comply with the necessary grant conditions and be signed off by both the Chief Executive or Section 151 Officer and the Director of Public Health for each local authority.

The public health shared service delivers public health services across Dorset Council (DC) and BCP Council. The service works closely with both Councils and partners to deliver the mandatory public health functions and services, and a range of health and wellbeing initiatives. Each council also provides a range of other services with public health impact and retains a portion of the grant to support this in different ways.

At the November 2020 meeting the Board approved a continued shared service partnership agreement, and a financial annex was agreed at the February 2021 meeting, setting out the agreed contributions to the public health service. On 16 March the public health allocations were published, resulting in a change to the grants and hence the contributions. This will support better financial planning and use of the Public Health Grant to improve outcomes in partner Councils, as well as through the shared service.

87. Health Improvement Performance Update

This report provides a high-level summary of performance for LiveWell Dorset, Smoking Cessation, weight management services, health checks and Children and Young People's Public Health Service (CYPPHS) performance, and service developments in light of COVID, with supporting data in appendices.

The Board was pleased to see the progress being made and the success being seen with the Services delivered and the health service improvements. Officers affirmed that Public Health Dorset would remain committed to maintaining and developing these improvements going forward.

Resolved

That the information in the report and the performance on health improvement services and children and young people's services and the services developments due to the impact of COVID be noted.

Reason for Decision

To update the Joint Public Health Board and to note performance, and ensure that Councils have oversight of the mandated public health services provided through the ring-fenced Public Health Grant.

88. Public Health Dorset Business Plan 2021/22

The report set out the 2021/22 Business Plan for Public Health Dorset and proposed what was to be done, how it was to be done and the reasons for why it was to be done.

Despite uncertainty during the pandemic, Public Health Dorset commissioned and provided essential public health services which need to be brought back

up to full delivery. In learning about how we live with COVID-19, there was a need to consider how resources can be used to support health protection work: being clear about priorities will help us develop and deliver so we are well placed for the future.

The health and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19 will be with us for a long time and public health is at the heart of the public sector response to this. We will continue to provide essential public health services while developing new programmes working with partners and communities, in line with local strategy, and Government policy.

The report highlighted the main priorities from the Business Plan, and how these would be progressed, what the priorities were and what partnerships were in place, along with some of the risks and issues of delivery; programmes and services – including LiveWell Dorset, substance misuse, sexual health and children and young people -, prevention at scale and what this entailed and organisational arrangements compatible with the integrated care system, Prevention at Scale and partnership arrangements.

The Board expressed its appreciation for what the whole Public Health Dorset team had done in addressing the Covid-19 pandemic and commented that this was a credit to the team, to local councils and their partners and to the residents of Dorset. They understood and acknowledged what PHD was trying to do, how it was doing it and why it was doing it and were satisfied that this demonstrated the importance of our public health service and that Dorset and its residents were benefitting from the robust responses and interventions being shown. They hoped this positive progress would be maintained, with the Business Plan showing the commitment towards addressing the relevant issues, how it would be done so as to achieve those outcomes.

Resolved

The Board were satisfied with how the services provided were to be managed, noted the Plan and agreed with the approach to monitoring in

future meetings.

89. Urgent items

There were no urgent items for consideration.

Duration of meeting: 10.00 - 11.30 am

Chairman

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