

# **CESHIRE EAST COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cheshire East Health and Wellbeing Board**  
held on Tuesday, 19th November, 2024 in the Committee Suite 1,2 & 3,  
Westfields, Middlewich Road, Sandbach CW11 1HZ

## **PRESENT**

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

Councillor Sam Corcoran (Chair), Cheshire East Council  
Councillor Carol Bulman, Chair of Children and Families Committee,  
Cheshire East Council  
Helen Charlesworth-May, Executive Director Adults, Health and Integration  
Councillor Janet Clowes, Cheshire East Council  
Michelle Davies, Guinness Partnership  
Richard Nash, Interim Director of Family Help and Children's Social Care,  
Cheshire East Council  
Councillor Jill Rhodes, Chair of Adults and Health Committee, Cheshire East  
Council  
Peter Skates, Acting Executive Director Place, Cheshire East Council  
Kathryn Sullivan, Chief Executive, CVS Cheshire East  
Mark Wilkinson, Place Director, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated  
Care Board  
Isla Wilson, Chair of Cheshire East Health and Care Place Partnership

### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Guy Kilminster, Corporate Manager, Health Improvement  
Dr Rod Thomson, Public Health Consultant  
Dr Susie Roberts, Public Health Consultant  
Dan McCabe, Head of Integrated Urgent Care  
Nik Darwin, Senior Commissioning Manager  
Hannah Gayle, Project Manager – Thriving and Prevention  
Rachel Graves, Democratic Services Officer

The Chair congratulated the Green Spaces for Wellbeing team who had won the best health initiative award from the Green Flag scheme for their work in Queens Park, Crewe. The initiative had got people involved in working outside in green spaces with others on a community project in an area of the Borough and it was contributing to addressing the wider determinants of health and reducing health inequalities.

The Chair reported that Item 8 – Cancer Alliance, had been deferred until the next meeting of the Board in January 2025.

## **24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Denise Bowman (Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service), Louise Barry (Healthwatch Cheshire), Dr Paul Bishop (NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board), Superintendent Claire Jesson (Cheshire Constabulary) and Theresa Leavy (Interim Executive Director Children Services, Cheshire East Council).

Richard Nash, Interim Director of Family Help and Children's Social Care, Cheshire East Council, attended as a substitute for Theresa Leavy.

## **25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In the interest of openness, Councillor S Corcoran declared an interest by virtue of his wife being a GP.

## **26 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

## **27 PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME/OPEN SESSION**

There were no public speakers.

## **28 HOUSING AND HEALTH**

The Board received a presentation on Housing and Health from Karen Carsberg, Head of Housing, Cheshire East Council and Michelle Davis, Regional Head of Customer Services (North West), Guinness Partnership.

The presentation highlighted the link between poor housing conditions and health conditions such as respiratory problems, mental health issues and slower physical development in children. Statistics showed that 9% of private housing and 5.4% of social housing in England suffered from damp. Another area of concern was that many residents faced fuel poverty.

The Board commented that there was a reluctance by tenants to report issues due to the fear of eviction and that it was important to engage with tenants and landlords to set out their responsibilities. It was suggested that housing assistance and promotion of government programmes and grants should be made more user friendly and accessible for all tenants, especially vulnerable groups. Engagement with voluntary sector partners, and the fire service, police and health care providers for outreach and support would be ways of doing this

**RESOLVED:**

That the presentation be noted.

**29 CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE CHILD POVERTY REPORT**

The Board received a report on a recent analysis of child poverty across Cheshire and Merseyside undertaken on behalf of the CHAMPs Public Health Collaborative.

The analysis had shown that there were persistent high levels of child poverty across Cheshire and Merseyside, which reflected the national trend. In 2022-23 14.7% of children under 16 in Cheshire East lived in relative low-income families, with two thirds of these children being in working families which showed the limits of employment in addressing poverty. Child poverty was linked to health inequalities, reduced life expectancy and poor mental health.

It was noted that the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board was working with partners on prevention and had allocated additional funding. The Board highlighted the importance of local initiatives such as family hubs and targeted community programmes and that multi-sector interventions were required to help prevent the causes of poverty, these included the provision of housing, transport and education. Policy changes at a national level, such as the re-evaluation of the child benefit cap, would also help towards reducing child poverty.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the findings and recommendations within the recently published rapid situational analysis paper.

**30 JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JSNA) UPDATE**

The Board received an update on the progress with the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment work programme.

It was reported that work had been focusing on loneliness and social isolation, care of older people, special education needs and disability, sexual health, lifestyle and a Macclesfield place-based review.

It was noted that future reviews would be deferred due to staff shortages and resources constraints and the pressure to complete the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment for formal consultation.

**RESOLVED:** That the Health and Wellbeing Board

- 1 note the progress on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment work programme and current capacity challenges across the system.

- 2 continue to use the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to inform decision making across the system.

### **31 CANCER ALLIANCE**

This item was deferred until the next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **32 CHESHIRE EAST DRUGS AND ALCOHOL PLAN**

The Board received a report on the Cheshire East Drugs and Alcohol Plan.

The Plan provided a clear set of actions to address recommendations outlined in the Drugs and Alcohol Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. The Plan had been co-produced with a wide range of stakeholders and information gathered from focus groups and 1-to-1 interviews. The Plan focused on areas of training and education, communication, reducing stigma and reducing supply and demand.

The Plan had been approved by the Combating Drugs Partnership and would be considered by the Adults and Health Committee on 18 November 2024. Monitoring of the Plan would be carried out by the Combating Drugs Partnership using measurable targets.

The issue of Minimum Unit Pricing was raised and whether a sub-regional approach could be taken on this. It was reported that it was on the agenda at the Cheshire and Merseyside Alcohol Programme Board but was awaiting national government direction on minimum unit pricing.

It was noted that alcohol related issues spanned across all communities, including affluent areas. It was asked what barriers were there to those that needed help. In response it was stated that these included resource limitations, stigma and inadequate referral pathways. It was felt that an emphasis should be on an inclusive approach to treat mental health and substance misuse together. It was suggested that a co-ordinated practical integrated response involving health, education, housing and social care would benefit those that had alcohol and drugs issues.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the 'Cheshire East Drugs and Alcohol Plan – Reducing Drug and Alcohol Harm in Cheshire East'.

### **33 NHS TEN-YEAR PLAN ENGAGEMENT**

The Board considered a report on the draft Cheshire East Council's response to the Ten-Year Plan engagement exercise.

In October the Government and NHS England had launched their engagement exercise to inform the new Ten-Year Plan for Health. The Cheshire East Council's response had been drafted and was shared with the Board for comment, prior to internal sign off and submission before the deadline of 2 December. Partner organisations were encouraged to respond individually.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Health and Wellbeing Board note the draft Cheshire East Council response to the Ten-Year Plan engagement exercise.

**34 THE CHESHIRE EAST WINTER PLAN**

The Board received a presentation on the Cheshire East Winter Plan.

The purpose of the Winter Plan was to ensure that plans had been put in place to manage the increased activity during the Winter period. The Plan had been developed in partnership with Cheshire East system partners across the place and considered the impact and learning from last winter.

The Board provided feedback and comments in respect of

- insufficient funding and workforce shortages to meet projected demand
- ways to improve the involvement of the voluntary sector
- suggestion that the focus should be on preventative measures such as vaccinations and falls prevention.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Winter Plan be noted.

The meeting commenced at 2.00 pm and concluded at 4.00 pm

Councillor S Corcoran (Chair)