

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD SUMMARY Wednesday 7 December 2022 (2pm)

Please see Nottinghamshire County Council's website for the [papers](#), [membership](#), [work programme](#) and [strategy](#) of the Health & Wellbeing Board. Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapters are available on [Nottinghamshire Insight](#).

The meeting on Wednesday 7 December can be viewed [here](#).
If you have any queries about this summary, please contact [Briony Jones](#).

Chair's Report

The 2022 – 2023 Better Care Fund Planning Requirements

Quarterly Report – JHWS 2022 – 2026

The Nottinghamshire Covid Impact Assessment – Domestic Abuse

CHAIR'S REPORT

Councillor John Doddy, Chair of the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board, presented a report on the current local and national health and wellbeing issues and their implications for the current Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The following points were discussed:

- It has been found that the number of pregnancies affected by life-threatening issues such as spina bifida could fall significantly if folic acid is added to non-wholemeal flour. As a result, the Government has begun a consultation on proposals to add 250 micrograms of folic acid per 100 grams of flour.
- Nottinghamshire County Council's Trading Standards Service receives funding from Public Health to carry out enforcement action in relation to illegal tobacco products. Increased action has also been taken regarding vaping products not meant for the UK market, which are limited to a capacity of 2ml (approximately 600 puffs). However, some products available contains up to 10,000 puffs and can be more harmful to users due to further additives being present.
- The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has been successful in securing £1 million in funding to help children affected by domestic abuse. The money will be used to provide specialist training and support to nursery and primary school workers to help identify the signs of domestic abuse, as well as giving more children access to a wider range of therapeutic support services.
- In November 2022, Nottinghamshire became a member of Sustainable Food Places (SFP), as part of a national project to improve local food systems. Developing a SFP forms part of the ambition to develop a healthy and sustainable Nottinghamshire, given the present nutritional emergency for children in the area – where around 40% of eleven-year-olds are overweight.

THE BETTER CARE FUND PLANNING REQUIREMENTS 2022 – 2023

Kashif Ahmed, Service Director for Strategic Commissioning and Integration at Nottinghamshire County Council, and Naomi Robinson, Senior Joint Commissioning Manager at the NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board, presented a report on the latest Better

Care Fund (BCF) planning requirements and the work to undertake a collaborative commissioning review of the services within its scope. The Board were asked to endorse the Nottinghamshire 2022-23 Better Care Fund planning templates.

QUARTERLY REPORT: JOINT HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY 2022 – 2026

Sue Foley, Public Health Consultant at Nottinghamshire County Council, presented a report on the progress to deliver the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). The Board were asked to note the issues outlined in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-26 quarterly report, and to encourage members to act on them as appropriate.

The ambition is for the JHWS to be a visible, living and coordinated effort to deliver good health and wellbeing for the people of Nottinghamshire. The purpose of the quarterly reports is to ensure the constant monitoring and evaluation of the progressing JHWS, and to track the emerging outcomes within the ongoing and evolving processes. It is also important that the voice of lived experience is emphasised as part of the regular reporting. Currently, there is a strong focus on four ambitions, with progress including the 0-5 Children and Young People Best Start Learning Lab, Food Insecurity, the Mental Health Promotion Action Plan, and Making Every Adult Matter. A number of learning groups are in place to review areas of challenge, and it is important that vulnerable and marginalised populations (including those who are homeless) are engaged with effectively. A great deal of work has started to support people during the cost of living crisis, with a strong focus on those who are particularly vulnerable or marginalised.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COVID IMPACT ASSESSMENT: DOMESTIC ABUSE

Sue Foley, Public Health Consultant at Nottinghamshire County Council, and Rebecca Atchinson, Senior Public Health and Commissioning Manager at Nottinghamshire County Council, presented a report on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the health and wellbeing of the population of Nottinghamshire in the context of domestic abuse. The following points were discussed:

- a) The Coronavirus pandemic gave rise to a number of significant challenges relating to domestic abuse, including victims becoming trapped with their abusers during periods of lockdown, so it is vital to ensure that the right services are commissioned to address the issues as effectively as possible. As such, it is important to review the impacts of the pandemic on Domestic Abuse services at different stages, and their effects on service providers, victims and perpetrators.
- b) A report has been produced following an analysis of local, regional and national data, in addition to the available academic research, with the key finding that those who were disadvantaged before the pandemic were subject to a greater level of disadvantage during it – and that this higher level of disadvantage has persisted following the pandemic. The pandemic escalated and intensified cases of domestic abuse by reducing protective factors such as social contact and temporary means of escape (such as going to work). Perpetrators also took advantage of additional means of exerting control and were aware that their victims had access to less support.
- c) Service demand fluctuated during the pandemic, and it is important that the reasons for this are understood. Services needed to adapt quickly and flexibly, and their resilience was tested significantly. Calls to the 24-hour helpline for women doubled during the pandemic and still remain higher than pre-pandemic levels. Many callers were identifying as victims for the first time, due to the level of enforced close contact with their abusers.

- d) Helpline staff had to work from home during the lockdown periods and handling this greater volume of calls in a domestic setting was a significant challenge. This impacted on staff wellbeing, as they were taking traumatic calls in isolation and were not able to receive in-person support from colleagues. Sickness levels amongst staff increased as a result, including long-term absence due to mental health issues. Ongoing recruitment has also proved to be difficult. The effects of the stresses of the pandemic on staff are still being felt, with demand remaining high while services are stretched.
- e) It was not possible to provide in-person services during the periods of lockdown. However, face-to-face contact was resumed as quickly as possible, particularly in the context of children. Face-to-face services have now returned to normal provision, but good quality virtual services remain in place and can be used by victims who prefer to access support in this way.
- f) The Nottinghamshire Domestic Abuse Partnership Board (DAPB) has established a task and finish group to review the 8 recommendations of the report (including on effective resourcing and the identification of disproportionately affected groups) and develop an action plan to address them.