

Divisions - All

OXFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

26 JUNE 2025

HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY UPDATE

PRIORITIES 1 and 2 – Start Well

Report by Director of Children’s Services

RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is **RECOMMENDED** to:

- a) **Note the progress of the delivery of priorities 1 and 2 under the thematic domain of Start Well within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy along with key challenges.**

Executive Summary

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board approved a new strategy in December 2023, with the priorities split between four thematic areas of Start Well, Live Well, Age Well and Building Blocks of Health. Delivery against the ambitions within the strategy is the responsibility of all organisations represented on the Board and is supported by an Outcomes Framework agreed by the Board in March 2024.
2. The Board has agreed to receive a rotating update on delivery of 1 of the 4 strategy themes at its quarterly meetings, meaning that over the course of a 12-month period an update on each theme would be presented once. This report is the first annual report of the thematic domain of Start Well covering:

Priority 1: The best start in life

All children in Oxfordshire should experience a healthy start to life and be ready for school, especially in our most deprived communities.

Priority 2: Children and young people’s emotional wellbeing and mental health

More children and young people in Oxfordshire should experience good mental health and emotional wellbeing.

Introduction

3. This cover paper highlights some key successes and challenges and should be read in conjunction with the attached report (annex 1) which covers in more

detail each of the outcomes in relation to Priorities 1 and 2 of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

4. It should be noted that these priorities require a whole systems approach to bring about change and the report does not include every piece of work that is happening across the system in each area but highlights key successes along with key challenges. It should also be noted that it may take some time for the interventions put in place to positively affect the outcome trajectory.
5. Performance information is provided in the attached annex 2 which gives an overview of key indicators as set out in the Health and Wellbeing Board Outcomes Framework. Work is underway to develop a full suite of data for the new children's chapter in our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), this will contain more in-depth performance indicators and analysis and will be shared in due course.

Summary of Key Activities

A very brief summary of each of the key areas is included below (with expansion in the table report at annex 1):

6. We have worked in partnership to develop our early help and early years strategies, setting a shared strategic framework for these areas. Implementation plans are now being progressed by the partnership boards. We are also starting to plan to create a network of Family Hubs across Oxfordshire, so that all families can access a range of partnership resources and early support in their local community.
7. We have strengthened our support that we offer particularly to new parents and carers. This includes access to Dad Pad for expectant and new fathers, family mood assessments with new families before the baby is six months old, as well as a range of parenting courses and CAMHS support.
8. So that all children grow up safe and secure, we are working to embed family safeguarding as our shared approach across children's services. We have trained partners on our threshold of needs, front door approach and early help assessments so that we can effectively identify and support need together.
9. To promote the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people, we are putting in place a new CAMHS contract and transformation work is underway to strengthen delivery. 69% of our schools currently have mental health support teams and we are aiming for 100% by 2029.
10. We are proud that Oxfordshire has become a Marmot Place and there is substantial work ongoing to promote the best start in life for all children and young people. This includes consideration of some of the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, including access to education, employment and training as well as support with the cost of living.

11. There are numerous initiatives across Oxfordshire to support children and young people and a common theme is that not all families and multi-agency practitioners are aware of the full offer that they can access. A theme for further development is our communication and approaches for raising awareness about support available, as well as creating a central resource through our digital Family Hub.

Financial Implications

12. There are no financial implications that the Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note in relation to this report. Existing budgets from across the system are being utilised to deliver against the above priorities.

Comments checked by:

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Legal Implications

13. This report provides key updates to the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to the Council’s statutory duty under section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area.

Comments checked by: Craig Cochrane, Head of Law and Legal Business Partner, Child Care Team (Legal Services), Email:
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Lisa Lyons
Director of Children’s Services

Annex 1. Start Well Report

Annex 2. Start Well performance indicators

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