

OXFORDSHIRE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

OUTCOMES of the meeting held on Thursday, 13 March 2025 commencing at 2.00 pm and finishing at 5.15 pm

Present:

Board Members: Councillor Liz Leffman (Chair)

Sam Hart (Vice-Chair)

Ansaf Azhar
Veronica Barry
Michelle Brennan
Stephen Chandler
Councillor John Howson
Councillor Dr Nathan Ley
Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery
Councillor Rob Pattenden
Councillor Helen Pighills
Matthew Tait

By Invitation: Cllr Louise Upton (Oxford City Council) – Substitute.
Clare Keen (Oxford City Council) – Substitute.
Olivia Clymer (Oxford University Hospitals) – Substitute.

Rob Bowen (Deputy Director of Strategy and Partnerships, ICB)
Dr Erica Charters (Oxford University)
Katherine Howell (Healthwatch Oxfordshire)
Tom McCulloch (Community First Oxfordshire)
Louise Smith (Primary Care Director, ICB)

Officers: Jack Ahier (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Ian Bottomley (Head of Joint Commissioning - Age Well), Bethan McDonald (Consultant in Public Health), Craig Miles-Clarke (Senior Research Officer), David Munday (Deputy Director of Public Health), Derys Pragnell (Consultant in Public Health), Jason Yun (Public Health Registrar).

These notes indicate the outcomes of this meeting and those responsible for taking the agreed action. For background documentation please refer to the agenda and supporting papers available on the Council's web site (www.oxfordshire.gov.uk.)

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	ACTION
104 Welcome by Chair (Agenda No. 1)	
105 Apologies for Absence and Temporary Appointments (Agenda No. 2)	
Apologies were received from Caroline Green, substituted by Clare Keen, Cllr Chewe Munkonge, substituted by Cllr Louise Upton, Lisa Lyons and Karen Fuller. Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery had let it be known that he would arrive late, and Olivia Clymer was substituting for him until he arrived.	
106 Declarations of Interest - see guidance note below (Agenda No. 3)	
There were none.	
107 Petitions and Public Address (Agenda No. 4)	
There were none.	
108 Note of Decisions of Last Meeting (Agenda No. 5)	
David Munday, Deputy Director of Public Health, updated the Board on a Housing Needs Assessment arising from the homelessness update given to the Board in December and further work on housing within Oxfordshire. The Board agreed to the Note of Decisions of the meeting held on 5 December 2024 to be signed by the Chair as a correct record. The Chair, with the agreement of the Board, moved item 7: Marmot Place Update ahead of item 6: Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board – Update to Terms of Reference, to allow for	

Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery to arrive and participate in the discussion.	
109 Marmot Place Update (Agenda No. 7)	
David Munday gave an update on the Oxfordshire Marmot Place. Specific areas of work covered included health inequality, rural inequality and giving children the best start possible in life. There was also a brief update on the structure of the Marmot Place work, including on an Advisory Group. The Health & Wellbeing Board would be the primary body overseeing the work. Cllr John Howson, Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Young People's Services, asked if rural inequality was measured the same way as urban inequality as circumstances were different, using the availability of public transport as an example. He also raised representation from early years being included on the advisory board. David Munday agreed on the points raised surrounding the measurement of rural inequality and committed to look at the membership of the advisory board regarding early years representation. Ansaf Azhar, Director of Public Health and Communities, commented on the framework that shows the progress of work on becoming a Marmot Place and stated that the advisory board would evolve over time. The Board noted the Marmot Place Update.	
110 Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board - Update to Terms of Reference (Agenda No. 6)	
The Chair introduced the proposed changes to the Board's Terms of Reference, owing to recent changes at the ICB. The first change was that Dan Leveson would no longer be a member of the Board and would be replaced by Matthew Tait, ICB Chief Delivery Officer. The second change was that the Vice Chair, Dr Sam Hart, would be leaving the Board, and that Professor Sir Jonathan Montgomery would be taking over as Vice Chair of the Board.	

Cllr Nathan Ley, Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety, raised the issue relating to a representative from NHS England, given recent government announcements. Ansaf Azhar stated that conversations would continue, and it would be kept under review. It was noted that if the Board agreed to the changes of the Terms of Reference, it would be considered at Council in April. RESOLVED to: a) Approve the update to the Terms of Reference of the Board (see Annex 1).	
111 ICB Update (Agenda No. 8)	
Matthew Tait provided an update on the ICB to the Board. Firstly, he thanked both Dr Sam Hart and Dan Leveson for their contributions over their time on the Board. The ICB's priorities for 2025/26 were outlined and there was an acknowledgement of potential difficult decisions upcoming. Rob Bowen, Director of System Transformation and Development, gave an update on the strategic ambitions long-term of the ICB. The four areas of opportunity outlined by the report were: prevention, different models of care, addressing health inequalities and the efficiency and productivity of care. Cllr Louise Upton, Oxford City Council, highlighted the concerns with short-term savings causing long-term expenses and stressed the need to think about any reductions in prevention activity. Matthew Tait confirmed those very conversations were happening at the ICB at the moment, with savings being balanced against long-term strategic priorities. Cllr Rob Pattenden, Cherwell District Council, raised the issue of care for disadvantaged communities and asked how much the ICB was planning to work with District Councils. Matthew Tait confirmed that the ICB works with District Councils closely and wanted to build on the work to-date. Cllr Pattenden asked about section 106 funding of capital programmes for the ICB. Matthew Tait acknowledged work on this with local partners, noting the constraints relating to particular care models, for example.	

Veronica Barry, Executive Director: Healthwatch Oxfordshire, enquired about the monitoring of non-emergency patient transport services. Matthew Tait noted the robust transition plan in place and that challenges had been worked through, and that it would be an improved service for residents. Following on from the question regarding section 106 funding, Cllr Upton asked if the ICB had appointed a planning expert to unlock developer opportunities. Michelle Brennan, GP representative, confirmed that this position had been filled, and work was underway to address these issues, citing that closer cooperation on CIL funding would be welcomed. The Board noted the ICB Update.	
112 Implementation of Primary Care Strategy (Agenda No. 9)	
Louise Smith, Primary Care Director: ICB, presented the report on the implementation of the primary care strategy to the Board and raised the following points: - The importance of the sustainability of primary care and working in partnership with secondary care providers. - The national emphasis on the 'leftward shift' in the priorities of health, especially on prevention. - The need for co-production with citizens to drive forward services. Cllr Howson highlighted the issues of children in care having dental appointments post-COVID and audiology services, given the demographic situation of Oxfordshire. Louise Smith confirmed the need to engage further with Councils to tackle dental issues for children. Cllr Howson stressed the need to engage with childminders before children go to school as they are more impressionable. Cllr Nathan Ley and Veronica Barry both emphasised the need to move to a preventative culture, with the need to co-product models of care with neighbourhood teams to ensure their needs are being catered for. Sir Jonathan Montgomery asked for an update on the progress in Oxfordshire relating to digital, citing success in West Berkshire. Michelle Brennan noted that the Trusts needed to put data in for the tool to become useful and that implementation is difficult and expensive.	

Cllr Helen Pighills, Vale of White Horse District Council, raised the NHS app and highlighted that it was not user-friendly. Michelle Brennan acknowledged the concerns raised but noted that General Practices were limited by financial constraints. RESOLVED to: a) Note and discuss the progress made since BOB ICB initially engaged with system partners and the public on the Primary Care Strategy, including changes made to the document consequently, final themes and essentially implementation to date.	
113 Better Care Fund Update 2025-26 (Agenda No. 10)	
Ian Bottomley, Head of Joint Commissioning (Age Well), presented the report to the Board and raised the following points: - A clear focus in guidance on moving to prevention. - Reducing admissions into hospital needs to match Oxfordshire's success in discharging people from hospital. It was confirmed that officers were seeking a delegation from the Board to the Chair of the Board, in order to sign off the Better Care Fund plan once all of the technical details and signoffs had been confirmed. Stephen Chandler, Executive Director of People, noted words from the Secretary of State regarding 'checkers' of plans, which suggested less checks on how plans were put together would be needed in future. Cllr Louise Upton referenced homelessness as a health issue and praised the cooperation with City & District Councils. The Vice Chair asked if there was an opportunity to provide a revolutionary change in health outcomes through pursuing different models that blended the NHS & social care together. Michelle Brennan noted that the system needed to get behind a culture shift of admission avoidance to increase the capacity of intermediary services in the community. RESOLVED to: a) Note and approve the direction of travel set out in this report for the Oxfordshire Better Care Fund Plan for	

2025/26 and the decision-making process set out at paragraph 13. b) Delegate approval of the Oxfordshire Better Care Fund Plan for 2025/26 and decision on the assurance statements set out at paragraph 16 to the Chair of the Board for submission by 31 March 2025.	
114 Community Profiles - Latest Publications, Evaluation and Implementation Tools (Agenda No. 11)	
David Munday, Tom McCulloch, Katherine Howell and Erica Charters presented the report. Relating to the Witney Central Community Insight Report, Tom McCulloch reported that funding was an issue to continue these projects and gave a detailed insight into the number of residents spoke to, case studies and focus groups. It was noted that community-based services are vital in Witney, and that more support was needed for parents & health visitors. Children & young people in particular did not feel involved in local decision-making. Katherine Howell spoke to the Healthwatch Oxfordshire report into Wood Farm, Oxford. Community events were held and door-knocking in Wood Farm helped to receive opinions from local residents, as well as an art competition at the local primary school. Strengths of Wood Farm were identified as having green spaces, play parks, nearby shops; but experiences of this were unequal. One issue that arose was the lack of availability to healthy, affordable food to those who didn't have transport or were not able to be physically active. Some people who worked were found to be struggling in the cost-of-living crisis. Dr Erica Charters (Oxford University) evaluated the approaches of the preventative work undertaken in Witney & Wood Farm, which had been ongoing since the inception of the project. Time was spent in the community to understand their regular days, patterns and commonly visited places through Community Health Development Officers (CHDO's). It was found that both programmes were effective; in terms of the grants being dispersed and through engagement with local communities. There were 196 health and wellbeing activities organised across the 10 most deprived wards.	

One of the key concerns was the lack of consistent/secure funding, with new groups wanting to have new initiatives whilst the key for community groups was to focus on the sustainability of projects, rather than their novelty.

Key recommendations outlined by the University-led evaluation were:

- 'Rooted research' instead of 'parachute projects'.
- Prioritising sustainability and reliability over novelty.
- Interpersonal strengths of CHDO's and CCBs (social relationships) to encourage expectations of improved health and wellbeing, breaking down community indifference and distrust
- Supporting community trust and engagement with existing community resources.

Cllr John Howson noted this work was based in urban areas and stressed the importance of having a primary school in rural areas.

Cllr Louise Upton picked up on the 'parachute projects' being detrimental and Dr Charters noted the cynicism that was picked up around such projects in the communities, emphasising the need for stability.

Cllr Rob Pattenden noted the ongoing projects in Bicester and commented that it has to be long-term to see long-term benefits.

David Munday demonstrated the Community Insight Profile dashboard and toolkit with some short videos to the Board.

Cllr Nathan Ley asked about the Council's plans to ensure that these toolkits and dashboards would be kept updated. David Munday confirmed there was a data warehouse that would be continually updated.

RESOLVED to:

- a) **Use the findings and rich insight contained within the Community Insight Profiles for Wood Farm and Witney Community Insight Area (CIA) and their relevance to the Marmot Place programme of work to inform service delivery plans of partner organisations on the Board and support the promotion and sharing of the findings with partners and colleagues across the system.**
- b) **Support the promotion of the interactive Community Insight Profile (CIP) Dashboard and the Community**

Insight Profile (CIP) development toolkit that will serve as a legacy of the CIP programme of work. c) Support the promotion and sharing of the findings from the first phase of an evaluation of the Community Health Development Officer (CHDO) and Well Together programmes with partners and colleagues across the system.	
115 Director of Public Health Annual Report (Agenda No. 12)	
Ansaf Azhar and Jason Yun, Public Health Registrar, presented the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024/25, based on children and young people's mental health and wellbeing, raising the following points: - There had been a national rise in worklessness post-COVID in young people, driven particularly by mental health illnesses. - Healthy life expectancy in the UK was stalling, if not falling and people living with long term conditions is rising, whilst the growth of the workforce is increasing at a much lower rate. - These issues were evident in Oxfordshire, and work to tackle these issues currently was praised. - The main objective was to reframe the conversation around mental health and how schools/employers can help in this area. - The reasons for worsening mental health in children and young people were explained, including the rise of social media, lifestyle factors and the impact of COVID-19. - Poor mental health leads to prohibitive factors of employment, which can then lead to deterioration in conditions due to financial stress. The four recommendations outlined in the report were: - Strive to reduce mental health problems by addressing wider factors. - Prioritise opportunity, activity, independence and community. - Prioritising early and effective intervention. - Ensuring diverse career and training opportunities are available for all young people. Cllr John Howson stressed the need to dive down within secondary schools versus primary schools, as well as via parliamentary constituencies in Oxfordshire.	

It was confirmed that the full report would be published at the County Council meeting on 1 April. Veronica Barry noted sessions on this topic were scheduled with young people soon.	
116 Health & Wellbeing Strategy Update - Live Well (Agenda No. 13)	
Derys Pragnell, Consultant in Public Health, presented the report and raised the following points: - It was noted that whilst certain data points were green, that would not be the case for the entire county and thus, specific areas would need targeted provision to address this, and vice versa. - Physical inactivity in children was reported at 30% across Oxfordshire, but this ranges from 22% in Vale of the White Horse to 46% in West Oxfordshire. Cllr Helen Pighills noted that the ‘You Move’ programme had been extended to cover early years, which is opening the programme up to families and continued work in the Districts was ongoing. It had also been identified that home-schooled children lacked PE taught as a subject. Cllr Nathan Ley noted the concerns he has over physical inactivity and referenced the need to work with the highways department to deliver on schemes, such as the School Streets programme. The importance of e-bikes being rolled out across Oxfordshire was also highlighted. Cllr Louise Upton noted the difficulties relating to fast-food takeaways near to schools due to the compact nature of Oxford. RESOLVED to: a) Note the progress of the delivery of priorities 3 and 4 under the thematic domain of Live Well within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy along with key challenges.	
117 PNA Update (Agenda No. 14)	
Bethan McDonald, Consultant in Public Health, presented the report and raised the following points:	

- The public engagement survey had run from 27th January to w/c 3rd March, with 454 responses which are currently being analysed. - If approved, the draft PNA will be available for public consultation. - Following the consultation, the final PNA will come to the Board in September for sign-off. The approval for the draft pre-consultation and the final PNA was proposed by officers to be delegated to the Chair of the Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board and the Director of Public Health & Communities. The Board agreed to this delegation. RESOLVED to: a) To note that the process to produce a revised Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) by 1st October 2025 has commenced. b) To receive an update on progress and the project plan timelines on the production of the 2025 Oxfordshire PNA. c) To agree the approach to the approval of the final PNA.	
118 JNSA Update (Agenda No. 15)	
Bethan McDonald and Craig Miles-Clarke, Senior Research Officer, presented the report and gave a brief tour of the JNSA page on the Oxfordshire Data Hub. It was confirmed that the full JNSA would be brought back to the Board in September for approval. Veronica Barry encouraged the continued use of easy-to-understand language and accessibility throughout the page. RESOLVED to: a) Provide feedback on the proposed design of the 2025 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). b) Advise on the content of the 2025 JSNA and to highlight any additional topics/themes of research and intelligence interest that they would like to see included. c) Via relevant officers in their organisations, contribute	

information and intelligence to the JSNA to further its development and participate in making information more accessible to everyone.	
119 Report from Healthwatch Oxfordshire (Agenda No. 16)	
Veronica Barry presented the report from Healthwatch Oxfordshire, and noted several publications from Healthwatch since this report was published. Webinars around patient participation, following work with the ICB, had taken place to encourage sharing of good practice by different groups. The Board noted the report from Healthwatch Oxfordshire.	
120 Reports from Partnership Boards (Agenda No. 17)	
The report from the Place Base Partnership was in the agenda packs. Cllr Helen Pighills noted that the work of the Health Improvement Board had been covered under Item 11: Community Profiles – Latest Publications, Evaluation and Implementation Tools, but also referred to the focus on efforts to active lifestyles and how making people move was an investment to save in the future. Cllr John Howson noted the focus of the Children’s Trust Board on the education attainment data, children’s inactivity in rural areas and the government’s Children’s Wellbeing and Schools Bill, which was making its way through parliament. The Chair thanked all speakers for their updates on their respective Boards/partnerships. The Chair thanked David Munday on behalf of the Board for his tremendous contribution to the Board and the County Council over the past few years.	

..... in the Chair

Date of signing