

CUMBRIA HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Meeting date: 17 June 2022

From: Director of Public Health

CUMBRIA PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE UPDATE

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report gives the Health and Wellbeing Board an update on the development of the Cumbria Public Health Alliance/Outbreak Engagement Board (PHA/OEB), its links to the Locality Forums and the mechanisms for ensuring two-way influence and dialogue between the Board and each locality through agreed strategic aims and locally identified priorities.
- 1.2 This report updates members on the recent meetings of the Public Health Alliance, held on 12 May 2022 via Microsoft Teams.
- 1.3 Members are asked to note the Alliance agenda which had the following items:
 - Final Public Covid-19 Dashboard – *standing item*;
 - Health and Wellbeing Locality Fora – *update*;
 - CYP Mental Health – *workshop item*.

2.0 LINKS TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

- 2.1 The LGA review of the Health and Wellbeing System clearly identifies the PHA role in respect of influencing the preventative elements of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 2.2 The PHA has had significant input into the Cumbria Health and Wellbeing Strategy and is an integral part of the overall delivery plan.
- 2.3 The PHA is now receiving regular performance updates in respect of assigned outcomes in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 ***That the Board notes this update from the Cumbria Public Health Alliance and any identified plans for future activity.***
- 3.2 ***That the Board notes that each item in this report relates to the pertinent section of the Cumbria Joint Public Health Strategy.***

4.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY MESSAGES FROM THE PUBLIC HEALTH ALLIANCE

Public Covid-19 Dashboard – standing item

- 4.1 Members considered the final report on data up for Weeks 13 (2022) and raised the following points:
- The reduction in widespread testing meant that it was more difficult to monitor the situation;
 - A weekly report would no longer be produced by the Performance and Intelligence Team, but a verbal update would be provided on a monthly basis to the Health Protection Board;
 - Issues that will continue to be monitored include: the number of Covid cases; the ongoing situation in hospitals, care homes and schools; Covid-related deaths; vaccination rates.
- 4.2 Whilst 600 Covid cases were reported in Cumbria in the last 7 days, this is a record of those who were testing, so not a true reflection of case numbers, with Cumbria's rate just above the national average. Meanwhile hospitalisations in north and south Cumbria were stable with a reduction in positive Covid patients in beds and Covid admission to hospitals.
- 4.3 Vaccination numbers for Cumbria were just above the national average for people aged 12 years and over, with vaccination rates slowing for the first and second booster. Whilst there was no data for the spring booster yet, there remained more than 12,000 unvaccinated in Cumbria. The highest unvaccinated population in Cumbria was for males in the 20-40 age group.
- 4.4 In light of the changing patterns of transmission and the national approach to living with Covid-19, the Alliance agreed to step down its function of acting as the Outbreak Engagement Board. This can easily be re-established should the need arise.

Children and Young People's Mental Health Workshop

- 4.5 The Alliance received an introductory presentation from Lindsey Ormesher, the Children and Families Public Health Lead, which outlined the need for a 'whole system' approach to supporting children and young people's mental health, encompassing health, schools, councils, services and partners.
- 4.6 With new pressures emerging and changing need, part of the initial approach would be surveys and mapping, along with the 'Think Family' approach. The presentation explored: risk factors for CYP mental health; the 'THRIVE' model and associated services; the Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Pathway for parents and carers on the local offer website; supporting young people to thrive; 5 ways to foster wellbeing in young people; and services available to support young people's mental health.
- 4.7 The workshop session focused on what other good practice members were aware of, what were the gaps in provision, what could be jointly developed and what could the various partners offer or recommend.
- 4.8 The workshop was undertaken as one large group, with the following key points raised by the session:

- The current cost of living crisis would add to existing issues;
- There was a need to explore the impact that Covid had had on young people's lives;
- Early interventions were not early enough and led to longer term problems – without a diagnosis, what support was available?
- There was a need to ensure that children and young people understood that not feeling happy all the time was quite normal;
- A recognition that active children were more likely to have higher levels of emotional wellbeing and mental health;
- The need to ensure that children and young people had safer environments to grow up in, with the need to tackle various social issues.

4.9 Suggestions for further actions included:

- Could 'Every Life Matters' adopt a peer support model;
- Targeted support was needed for children with disabilities and young carers;
- Use social media platforms for countywide campaign to support CYP's emotional health and wellbeing in similar way to recent safeguarding campaigns;
- Use of screening and intervention with nurture groups and confidence building rather than diagnosis;
- Good work going on in individual localities could be rolled out elsewhere.

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APPENDICES

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background papers

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