

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTH & WELLBEINGBOARD
Minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2023 at 1.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, The Forum, Towcester

Present:

Councillor Matthew Golby (Chair)	Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Wellbeing, West Northamptonshire Council
Cllr Fiona Baker,	Cabinet Member, Childrens and Families, West Northants Council
Cornelia Andrecut	Director of Children Social Care, Northamptonshire Childrens Trust
Eileen Doyle	Chief Operating Officer, NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board
Carella Davies	Chief Executive, Daventry Volunteer Centre
Sally Burns	Interim Director of Public Health, West Northants Council
Anna Earnshaw	Chief Executive, West Northants Council
Stuart Lackenby	Executive Director for People Services, West Northants Council
Miranda Wixon	Chair, VCSE Assembly
Professor Jacqueline Parkes	Professor in Applied Mental Health, University of Northampton
Cllr Wendy Randall	Opposition Leader, West Northants Council
Dr David Smart,	Chair Northampton Health and Wellbeing Forum
Racha Fayad via Teams	Public Health Principal, West Northants Council
Dr Phillip Stevens	GP, Chair Daventry and South Northants GP Locality
Colin Smith	Chief Executive, LMC
David Maher	Deputy Chief Executive, Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
Russell Rolph	Chief Executive, Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire
Wendy Patel via Teams	Healthwatch Northamptonshire

Also, Present

Ashley LeDuc, Assistant Director Commissioning and Performance, West Northants Council
 Cheryl Bird, Health and Wellbeing Board Business Manager
 Claire Baxter, Northampton Parent Forum Group
 Jodie Low, Managing Director, Free 2 Talk
 Julie Curtis, Assistant Director PLACE Development, West Northants Council
 Ben Pearson, Assistant Director Education, West Northants Council
 Sarah Stansfield, Chief Finance Officer, NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board
 Rebecca Wilshire, Deputy Director Childrens Services, West Northants Council

25/23 Apologies

Dr Andy Rathborne, Primary Care Network
Colin Foster, Chief Executive, Northamptonshire Childrens Trust
Heidi Smoult, Chief Operating Officer, Northampton General Hospital
Michael Jones, Divisional Director, EMAS
Naomi Eisenstadt, Chair, NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board
Wendy Patel, Healthwatch Northamptonshire
Dr Santiago Dargallonieto, Chair, Northampton GP Locality
Toby Sanders, Chief Executive, NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board

26/23 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

None received.

27/23 Declaration of members' interests

None received.

29/23 Chairs Announcements

The Chair and Director of People recently visited the Woodford Halse Food Larder which serves 26 villages in the surrounding area. The West Northants Anti-Poverty strategy needs to become more proactive to make tackling poverty and deprivation more sustainable.

The Chair advised the Warm Welcoming Spaces (WWS) project has been helpful in tackling social isolation and will morph into Welcoming Spaces during the warmer months, with the aim to deliver wrap around services from these spaces. There were 52000 attendances to the WWS across West Northamptonshire during January – March 2023.

The Chair welcomed the following new members to the Board:

- David Maher will be the Northamptonshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (NHFT) representative, replacing Jean Knight
- Carella Davies, Chief Executive of Daventry Volunteer Centre and Miranda Wixon, Chair of the VCSE Assembly have recently been elected as Co-Chairs to the Daventry and South Northants Health and Wellbeing Forum and therefore are invited join the Board.

30/23 Minutes from the Previous meeting 23rd March 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes from the previous meetings held on the 23rd March were agreed as an accurate record.

31/23 Action Log

The Board reviewed the actions from the previous meeting:

- More information is to be circulated to the Board about off rolling. **The Assistant Director for Education will provide an update later in the meeting.**
- Combatting Drugs Partnership action plan and breakdown of grant to come to the next meeting. **This has been circulated to the Board.**

- The Professor in Applied Mental Health will liaise with the Head of Community Safety around the work University of Northampton are completing around the Live Your Best Life ambitions. **This has been completed.**

32/23 Voluntary Sector Spotlight – Free2Talk

The Managing Director, Free2Talk gave an overview of the work completed by the organisation and highlighted the following:

- Free2Talk was created in 2008 to deliver youth work in communities and is funded through the National Lottery, Youth Music and various smaller grants. All the grants received by Free2Talk are on a 12-month basis.
- Free2Talk has an Advisory Board made up of representatives from health, housing, communities, local businesses and youth workers. There are also five Directors four of which are community workers and one from a housing background. Included in the organisation structure is a team leader, youth workers, a counsellor in training, parenting worker, volunteers and students. Some of the youth workers work alongside the WNC Neighbourhood Teams.
- Free2Talk provide strength-based activities for 8-18 years, outside of the home environment, working at a neighbourhood level with communities, providing open access youth groups, with youth workers are trained to understand what young people are telling them. Young people are looking for events to be a part of and organise, to have a voice and be part of social action.
- Part of the outcomes desired is critical thinking for young people to recognise their belonging in the community, coaching them to make good decisions with their peers.
- Free2Talk work with music education and also a broadcasting programme enabling them to develop self-awareness, confidence and self-esteem.
- There is a youth van for work with hard-to-reach communities, which has a music studio, gaming studio and podcasting recording space.
- Free2Talk previously ran a home office project around exploitation, which has enabled them to develop safety mapping techniques. The WNC Community Safety Team commissioned Free2Talk to complete some safety mapping at a secondary school within Northampton. Safety Mapping should be part of an universal offer to schools, to enable young people voices to be heard, as some school environments can be challenging for students and staff.
- A Free2Talk music event at the Roadmender saw approximately 100 young people attend.
- An assessment centre has been created for youth workers and community workers to deliver level 2 and 3 training for skills and education work.
- They also provide a 1:1 mentoring service for young people living in Bellinge, Blackthorn and Northampton Town Centre and run open access groups across Northampton.
- Many of the referrals into Free2Talk are for children and young people without diagnosis, who are unable to attend school due to their needs not being met by universal services and not getting targeted support. Free2Talk are looking at running targeted group work to help these young people develop coping strategies.
- Free2Talk is involved in the N4 Local Area Partnership Education Subgroup, which is looking at how to address the high number of exclusions and suspensions within the area.

The Board discussed the overview and the following was noted:

- The Youth Offer Board has commenced, which includes a representative from Free2Talk. Most organisations on this Board commission or are engaged with some form of early help or youth provision, but the scope of youth early help services is fragmented.

- Northamptonshire Childrens Trust have circulated a questionnaire to agencies asking them to provide information on their early help offer.
- Asset mapping will help identify work being completed in communities by smaller organisations.
- There is a national and local shortage of youth workers. The National Youth Association (NYA) are asking for the number of youth workers that are required in Northamptonshire.
- 50% of adult mental health issues are diagnosed during teenage years, with early intervention initiatives vital for the prevention agenda.
- Contextual safeguarding is working in partnership to create children safe environments and is everyone's business. The Northamptonshire Childrens Safeguarding Partnership has a exploitation subgroup looking at contextual safeguarding and community practice around exploitation.

RESOLVED that:

- **A link to a webinar hosted by Professor Jonathan Campion around children mental health to be circulated to the Board.**
- **The Board noted the update.**

33/23 Northamptonshire 5 Year Forward Plan

The Chief Finance Officer, NHS Northamptonshire ICB provided an update on development of their 5 Year Forward Plan and highlighted the following:

- ICBs have a statutory duty to produce a Joint 5 Year Forward Plan (5YFP) which needs to align with the Integrated Care Northamptonshire Strategy, local Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies, Operational Plans and NHS Trust strategies.
- The Plan will open with the Integrated Care Northamptonshire vision statement, which will frame the 5YFP.
- The 5YFP is committed to delivering the four aims of an Integrated Care System (ICS) which is framed in a set of local and national priorities and will also include multiple benefit interventions, delivery partnerships and enabling blocks.
- The 3 national priorities for the 5YFP are:
 1. Recover our core services and productivity, these are urgent and emergency care, community health services, primary care, elective care, cancer, diagnostics, maternity and neonatal services, and use of resources.
 2. As we recover, make progress in delivering the key ambitions of the [NHS Long Term Plan, which frames a number of ambitions](#). These are mental health, people with learning disability and autistic people, embedding measures to improve health and reduce inequalities, investing in our workforce, digital and system working
 3. Continue transforming the NHS for the future. As an ICS we will continue to transform our services to meet the needs of our population and deliver a safe, sustainable health and care system through integration – better care, better outcomes = better value.
- There are also 3 local priorities from the Live Your Best Life ambitions:
 - Best start in life
 - Opportunity to be fit well and independent
 - Access to health and social care when needed.
- There are 5 interventions to deliver against the national and local priorities:
 - Digital – joining up information for a patient to tell their story once. Population health management to look at having one version of data.
 - Children and young people – focusing particularly on mental health and wellbeing and health checks for 2-3 years.

- Recovery of independence – making sure people can live in their own residence, with a particular focus on falls, how beds and capacity is configured across the system for patient pathways.
- End of life – improvements in delivery of end-of-life pathways for patients and carers.
- Access to the right services at the right time – enabling access to emergency care and elective pathways. Access and capacity with primary care and community health services. What services are available and what services are most appropriate.
- The interventions will be delivered through several delivery partnerships service based workstreams.
 - Maternity and neonatal
 - Children and young people
 - Primary care
 - Urgent and emergency care
 - Elective care
 - Cancer care
 - Mental health, learning disabilities and autism
- A framework has been created for how we will deliver on our priorities:
 - Integration
 - Health equity
 - Co-production
 - Population health management
 - Quality improvement
 - Clinically led approach
- Once the 5YFP is finalised work will begin on the enabling strategies
 - Supporting our People
 - Enhancing Digital
 - Research and Innovation
 - Improving estates and the environment
 - Aligned communication
 - Community engagement

The Board discussed the update and the following was noted:

- Public Health and Adult Social Care have been engaged and involved in every stage of the development of the 5YFP.
- The challenge is to ensure pathways drill down into a place level and the wider determinants of health are woven through.
- There is an over reliance on beds which can lead to poor outcomes, people need to be supported to regain and retain independence.
- The recruitment challenges in adult social care have started to reduce, which has led to fewer people waiting for care and improved rates of hospital discharge. There are still workforce challenges in place due to the sector being mostly minimum wage and there is a need to consider how to make a career in adult social care more valued by society to enable the service to be more sustainable.
- A recent survey of the social care market including care homes showed in April there were 421 new recruits and 187 resignations.
- Data sharing across the system is a real challenge, due to statutory barriers and information governance. The Northamptonshire Care Record and Northamptonshire Analytical Reporting Platform should help to overcome some of these barriers.

RESOLVED that the Board noted the update.

34/23 Director of Public Health Annual Report

The Director of Public Health gave an overview of the Directors of Public Health Annual Report 2022/2023 and highlighted the following:

- Directors of Public Health have a statutory duty to produce an annual report on the health of their population.
- The 2022/2023 report demonstrates the impact the cost-of-living crisis and poverty has had on the physical and mental health of residents within West Northamptonshire.
- The report covers both rural and urban settings and includes work being completed by the Anti-Poverty Working Group against outcomes included the West Northants Anti Poverty Strategy Action Plan. The report also highlights work being undertaken in communities led by the VCSE and community sector, Household Support Fund and food larders.
- A few minor amendments are needed before the report is ready for publication.

The Board discussed the report and accompanying videos and the following was noted:

- The Director of Public Health address should be at the end of the video to enable viewers to see the content first.
- Voluntary Impact Northamptonshire will start discussions with partners around the Poverty Truth Commission providing an update to the Anti Poverty Oversight Group.
- The Board acknowledged the report highlights co-working with partners and the VCSE sector thanked the Public Health Team for their work and connective working with the VCSE sector.

RESOLVED that the Board endorsed the Directors of Public Health Annual Report 2022/2023 for publication.

35/23 Better Care Fund Annual Report 2022/2023

The Assistant Director Commissioning and Performance presented the Better Care Fund (BCF) Annual Report 2022/2023 to the Board and highlighted the following:

- The Better Care Fund is an agreed plan between health and social care commissioners, and Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBBs) have a statutory requirement to have oversight of their local BCF arrangements.
- The BCF Plan 2022/2023 was signed off by the HWBB on the 19th September 2022.
- The NHS contribution to adult social care was in line with minimum contribution.
- The BCF policy objectives are to enable people to stay safe, well and independent at home for longer and provide the right care in the right place at the right time. The schemes contained in 2022-2023 plan support these objectives.
- There are national metrics to support the objectives:
 - **Avoidable admissions to hospital.** There was a target of 4160 avoidable admissions with 4136 achieved. Schemes included in the 2023/2025 plan aim to improve performance against this metric.
 - **% of people discharged from hospital to their normal place of residence.** The target was 94.7% returning to their normal place of residence with 93.5% achieved. This is a reduction in achievement from 2021/2022, where delays with pathway 0 meant patient discharges were supported using pathways 1 and 2 and not returned to their normal place of residence. The additional winter pressures funding has helped to improve reducing the delays for pathway 0.

- **Rate of admissions to residential care per 100000 population achieved.** 479 achieved against a target of 549.
- **Proportion of older people still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital or rehabilitation services.** 80.7% was achieved against a target of 79.2%, which is an improvement on 2021/2022 figures. Pathway 1 services have increased and it is expected for improvement to continue during 2023/2024.
- The first draft of the 2023/2025 plan for West Northamptonshire will be presented at the next Health and Wellbeing Board meeting for sign off. Future commissioning for schemes within the BCF are moving to separate place based, West and North Northamptonshire. Where services can be aligned with North Northamptonshire these opportunities will be undertaken, but they are likely to be outside of BCF planning arrangements.

RESOLVED that the Board:

- **Approved the final return template for the Better Care Fund schemes (2022/23).**
- **Noted the proposed timelines for the Better Care Fund plan for 2022/23**

36/23 Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Director of Public Health gave an update on development of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWBS) and highlighted the following:

- Health and Wellbeing Boards have a statutory duty to produce a JHWBS detailing how to collectively improve the health and wellbeing of the local population.
- Development of the JHWBS is ongoing and the draft strategy will be brought to the next meeting for feedback.
- Engagement with communities and partners is a golden thread running through the Strategy, with previous engagement completed by partners across the system was used and built upon. Digital engagement is underway with elected members and parish/town councils. The key themes from the engagement will be woven into the strategy:
 - Children and young people
 - Children and young people mental health
 - Loneliness
 - Social isolation
 - People feeling safe in their communities
- Specific needs assessments are also being completed as part of the JSNA work which will feed into the JHWBS.
- Feedback from discussion within the Local Area Partnerships have also been woven into the JHWBS.
- Engagement feedback has been aligned to the Live Your Best Life ambitions.
- A workshop will take place in June to engage with more diverse communities.

RESOLVED that the Board noted the development of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and endorsed the direction of travel.

37/23 Emerging priorities from Local Area Partnerships

The Assistant Director PLACE Development gave an update on the emerging priorities from the Local Area Partnerships (LAPs) and highlighted the following:

- All nine LAPs are now operational and each have held several individual meetings.
- The LAP has a core leadership team who have local community knowledge comprising of:

- Elected members;
- Local GPs;
- VCSE;
- Public Health;
- WNC Director;
- Police,
- Northamptonshire Childrens Trust
- WNC Community Development Workers
- WNC Adult Social Care
- The LAP leadership team were asked to review the Local Area Profile and discuss insights intelligence from their local communities to identify what are the emerging issues a LAP should start to focus on.
- All the emerging priorities from the LAPs will be mapped to the Live Your Best Life priorities.
- N3 has the highest proportion of children under 16 (25%) with the second highest pupil exclusion and suspensions. This LAP will have an education subgroup created to try and address this. There are also high level of crime spots within the LAP area and the worst level of connectivity with communities.
- In N4 there is a high level of exclusions and suspensions from school. An Education Subgroup has been created to work on how best to address this issue.
- DSN1 has the highest level of rurality across West Northamptonshire with larger urban areas such as Moulton and Brixworth. The LAP has a high proportion of elderly population and also has poor community connectivity. The emerging priorities are frailty, isolation and transport.
- DSN2 identified that Woodford Halse is one of the most deprived rural areas in West Northamptonshire and a Task and Finish Group will be created to see how to improve the deprivation and poverty being faced by some residents.
- The collective emerging themes from the 5 Northampton LAPs are;
 - Crime
 - Lack of connectivity with communities
 - COPD
- The collective emerging themes from the 4 Daventry and South Northants LAPs are:
 - Social isolation
 - Rurality
 - Access to services.
- The collective themes emerging from across all 9 LAPs are:
 - Drugs and anti-social behaviour
 - Children and Young people mental health
 - Young families
- Some of the activities taking place within the LAPs are:
 - One Stop Shop pilot in St Lukes Medical Centre, there is potential to One Stop Shop roadshows across West Northamptonshire.
 - Access to community space for youth provision – working with Free2Talk on developing this activity.
 - New community forum in Castle ward
 - Mental Health Workers for children in general practice; training for Social prescribers around children
 - FLARE APP promoted
 - Police Environmental Visual Audit of St James and Spring Boroughs
 - Development of Welcome Pack for new residents.
 - Identification of lone males for targeted social isolation interventions
 - Family hubs in Towcester, Daventry, Northampton
 - Teen Clinic pilot in Daventry
 - School Ambassadors and Youth Forum

- Mental Health services in schools
- Asset mapping and youth offer mapping
- Access to digital training for those suffering from digital isolation

The Board discussed the update and the following was noted:

- NHS Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board representatives sit on the West Executive PLACE Board (WEPB) where the emerging priorities from the LAPs are shared.
- The WEPB will drive the collaborative delivery across the live your best life ambitions.
- Police data, birth and death data and Census data will all be valuable as an evidence base behind the emerging priorities.
- Where good practice has been identified this can be replicated across other LAPs.
- There is a need to consider how we can align the enabling strategies within the 5YFP to the LAP action plans.

RESOLVED that the Board noted the update.

38/23 Children and Young People Needs Assessment

The Public Health Principal provided an update on development of the Children and Young People (CYP) Needs Assessment and highlighted the following:

- This needs assessment forms part of the of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) refresh being completed by the Public Health Team and provides an overview of the priorities for West Northamptonshire.
- The JSNA refresh will drill down into the 10 Live Your Best Life ambitions and the CYP Needs Assessment aligns with the Best Start in Life and Access to Best Available Education and Learning ambitions.
- The CYP needs assessment will be presented in 6 chapters and filter into the re-commissioning of the 0-19 years' service:
 - **Demographic chapter** will describe the ethnicity and diversity of the 0-19 population in West Northamptonshire. In 2011 Census data 0-19 population was 24.8% of the overall population in West Northants, in 2021 census 0-19 population this is 24.7% of the population. The proportion of white British has fallen to 75% from 83.9% in the 2011 census.
 - **Maternal and infant health chapter.**
 - ❖ There were 4,647 live births in West Northamptonshire in 2021, significantly higher than East Midlands and England. Between 2019-21 there were 58 stillbirths in West Northamptonshire, rate of 4.2 per 1,000 similar to the East Midlands rate of 3.8 and the England rate of 3.9.
 - ❖ 11.3% (479) of women who gave birth in West Northamptonshire were smokers at the time of delivery in 2021/22, down from 12.3% in 2020/2021. This was similar to the East Midlands average of 11.8%.
 - ❖ It is estimated between 466 and 932 mothers in West Northamptonshire experienced perinatal mental health problems in 2021.
 - ❖ Nearly 6 out of 10 babies (58.8%) were totally or partially breastfed at 6-8 weeks in West Northamptonshire in 2021/22, which was 2,551 babies. A total of 41.2% were not breastfed – 1,784 babies. The proportion of babies breastfed at 6-8 weeks was significantly higher than the averages for North Northamptonshire (46.6%), East Midlands (49.6%) and England (49.2%).
 - **Early years chapter 0-5 years.**
 - ❖ 97.5% of babies in West Northamptonshire received a face-to-face new birth visit from a Health Visitor within 14 days of birth in 2021/22, which was significantly higher than the averages for the East Midlands (92.4%) and England (82.7%).

- ❖ In 2021/22, 98.5% of babies received a 6-8 week review, significantly higher than the East Midlands (91.1%) and England (81.6%);
- ❖ at 12 months, 77.4% of babies received a 12 month review in West Northamptonshire, significantly higher than the East Midlands average of 70.1% but significantly lower than England (82.0%).
- ❖ 49.6% of 2 to 2½ year olds received a health visitor review in 2021/22, significantly lower than the East Midlands and England.
- ❖ 96.4% of 2 to 2½ year olds received an Age Stage Questionnaire-3 in 2021/22, significantly higher than the East Midlands and England.
- ❖ 78.3% of 2 to 2½ year olds met the expected levels of development across all five domains of the ASQ-3 in 2021/22.
- ❖ 22.1% of five year olds suffered from tooth decay in 2021/22, similar to the East Midlands and England.
- ❖ 65.8% of children achieved a good level of development by the end of Reception in 2021/22, similar to the East Midlands and England.
- Work is still being completed on the **Primary School Age chapter**.
- **Secondary Age Children.**
 - ❖ 31,879 young people aged 10-15 years in West Northamptonshire.
 - ❖ Based on a Schu Survey completed by 8 secondary in West Northamptonshire 2.6 % of secondary school pupils suffer with social, emotional, and mental health needs in 2021/22 (England value was 3.2%).
 - ❖ The secondary school exclusion rate (0.04%) was lower than the East Midlands region (0.046%) and England (0.052%) rates for Autumn term 2021/22.
 - ❖ NHFT received around 500 CAMHS referrals per month in 2018, but recently referrals are above 1,000 per month with 1,165 referrals made in January 2023.
 - ❖ Self harm rates for ages 10-14 were significantly better than England. Girls rates by 10-15 years were highest of all East Midlands regions and 28th highest of the all England table.
- **Transition into adulthood.**
 - ❖ There were 75 hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions among under 18s in 2018/19 – 20/21 similar to the East Midlands and England.
 - ❖ 165 hospital admissions due to substance misuse among 15-24 year olds in 2018/19 – 20/21 was significantly higher than the East Midlands and England.
 - ❖ 225 admissions to hospital among 15-19 year olds due to self-harm in 2021/22 significantly higher than the East Midlands and England.
 - ❖ 2020 estimates for 18-24 year olds show there were 813 adults with a learning disability.
 - ❖ 2.3% of 16-17 year olds were not in education, employment or training (NEET) in 2021, significantly lower than the East Midlands and England.
- There were 1207 Children in Care by May 2023.
- The CYP assessment is due to be completed by end of July.
- Public engagement is currently taking place for the CYP and Sexual Health needs assessment which started on the 20th May and will be completed by 24th June.
- Free2Talk in partnership with HomeStart Daventry and NHFT engagement team have been commissioned to complete engagement with young people. There are a series of workshops/focus groups planned in person and virtually between now and the end of June.
- Fact sheets will be completed for each chapter to give a snapshot of what the data tells us at a LAP level.
- More analysis will be completed on the engagement and surveys, the final report will have highlight the strategic implications for each chapter describing what are the needs and what is needed to address gaps.

The Board noted the update and the following was noted:

- NHFT are seeing a high prevalence of eating disorders was not reflected in the assessment, especially with girls.
- Could contextual safeguarding issues be driving the high prevalence of self harm and drug misuse.
- The performance of the 2½ year health check is flagged as an indicator in the 5YFP. The improved performance of this indicator would need involve partners across the system rather than just NHFT .

RESOLVED that the Board noted the update

39/23 Peer challenge Review

The Director of People gave an update on the recent West Northants Youth Service provision peer review undertaken by LGA and National Youth Association and highlighted the following:

- West Northants Council (WNC) was one of three local authorities in the country chosen to take part in this peer review.
- WNC recognised the current youth offer is inadequate to meet the needs of young people in West Northamptonshire.
- There is a need to consider how to use the messages in the peer review letter to enable the Youth Offer Board to develop and take forward a programme of work.
- A cross partnership bid was submitted to the National Youth Endowment fund for £500k to support a voluntary sector collaborative to recognise and take forward youth interventions. This will be structured in the first instance around N4 and DSN2, with the aim for this approach to be replicated in other LAPs. An update will be brought back to the Board once the result of the submission is known.

RESOLVED that:

- **The peer review letter to be circulated to the Board.**
- **An update to be brought to the Board once the result of the submission to the Youth Endowment fund is known.**

40/23 Off Rolling

The Assistant Director Education advised off rolling is when schools encourage parents to move their child to another school which is illegal. This tends to be prevalent with children who have additional needs and vulnerabilities, misbehaving at school, or not likely to achieve the outcomes the school would like the child to achieve. When schools become academies WNC may not always know a child is being off-rolled, but if WNC are informed the Assistant Director for Education speaks to the school directly to raise concerns. Where there is a pattern of off-rolling concerns this will be raised during with regular meetings with OFSTED and the Department for Education. The governing body of every school should be provided with information about students who have started and left the school midway through, and the governors should be asking why children are leaving part way through their education.

RESOLVED that the Board noted the update.

41/23 N4 Education Sub Group

The Assistant Director for Education advised the N4 LAP Education Subgroup looked at the risks to young people and permanent exclusion or temporary suspensions. Education data

has been overlaid with police data, fire service to target families and children to prevent them from being excluded. The rate of exclusion in N4 was twice as high as other LAP areas in West Northamptonshire, and last year children excluded or suspended missed a total of 12.5 years of education. There are six education providers within the N4 area willing to look how services support for families can help to reduce the rate of exclusions.

RESOLVED that the Board noted the update.

42/23 SEND Strategy

The Assistant Director Education gave an update on the SEND Strategy and highlighted the following:

- There is a new [Area SEND Inspection Framework and Handbook](#) published by Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission on the 1st January 2023
- West Northants will be inspected as a local partnership areas, with the areas of focus being all services for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 years.
- Evidence will need to be provided to show we know the outcomes children and young people with SEND are achieving in education, health, care, leisure, employment, transport, housing, voluntary activities and what we are doing to support young people to become successful adults. There is a specific focus on alternative provision and children out of school
- In March the Department for Education (DfE) launched a SEND Alternate Provision Improvement Plan, with the expectation local partnerships will support children with additional needs. Within 2 years there will be national standards everyone should be working towards, developed by the DfE in collaboration with local areas, with no new funding attached. The areas of focus is around early identification, how children move through the education system, how we develop our workforce and what alternative provision looks like.
- In West Northamptonshire and nationally the demand and level of complexity is increasing, with 19% increase of children with Education Health Care Plans (EHCP) in Northamptonshire during 2022. This is significantly higher than the national average.
- The COVID pandemic has had a negative impact on the level of anxiety some children are feeling about returning to school.
- There is lack of capacity to undertake assessments for children, which causes significant delays for children not being able to have their needs met.
- WNC have recruited a new team of SEND Improvement professionals and there is a West Northamptonshire SEND Improvement Board to develop a new approach and investment to drive early years work.
- SEND Ranges is a descriptive tool for teachers to identify additional needs in the classroom.
- There are 5 key priorities:
 - Accessibility where children and young people are welcomed and included
 - Resources – how best to use existing resources
 - Identification and assessment – this must be completed at an earlier stage
 - Training – wide range of training and development for everyone
 - Working together
- There are 3 golden threads throughout the SEND strategy
 - Co-production
 - Thrive
 - To be more inclusive
- The aim is for SEND children to be better educated and more accepted in society

The Northamptonshire Parents Forum (NPF) representative gave an overview of the Co-Production Charter and highlighted the following:

- Co-production is a legal requirement within the Children and Families Act 2014 – all agencies must demonstrate how they co-produce SEND strategy especially with children and parents.
- The Co-production Charter will embed co-production as a standard way of working together for families and across agencies that support families (settings, school and services). All schools will be asked to sign up to this charter.
- The NPF has been working with WNC to launch a new Co-Production Charter for September 2023.
- A series of engagement events across West Northamptonshire have taken place, to ask parents, carers and professionals for their thoughts on co-production and what this should look like. There will also be specific children and young people events to ensure their views are heard in terms of co-production and outcomes. It has been recognised that more engagement needs to take place with children from underrepresented groups.
- Communication transparency and respect have all come out as the most prominent feedback during the engagement events.
- The Co-Production Charter will go to WNC Cabinet 11th July for approval.

The Board discussed the update and the following was noted:

- There will be a detailed action plan sitting underneath the strategy monitored by the SEND improvement Board and the Board will hold all partners to account.
- The VCSE Disability thematic group are engaged in developing opportunities for children with disabilities, their families and carers at main streams schools.
- There is a need to ensure health are engaged in the SEND progress and engagement.
- There is a need to ensure the targeting of health inequalities is included in all strategies

RESOLVED that the Board noted the update.

43/23 Corporate Parenting Board

The Deputy Director for Childrens Services gave an update on the West Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board and highlighted the following:

- The Children and Social Work Act 2017 says that when a child or young person come into the care of the local authority or is under 25 and was looked after by the authority for at **least 13 weeks after their 14th Birthday**, the authority becomes the 'Corporate Parent'.
- Corporate parenting relates to how everyone has a responsibility for children in care and care leavers to ensure children in care and care leavers needs are met.
- There are 7 legal principles which serve to define the corporate parenting role:
 - To act in the best interests, and promote the physical and mental health and wellbeing, of those children and young people
 - To encourage those children and young people to express their views, wishes and feelings
 - To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of those children and young people
 - To help those children and young people gain access to, and make the best use of, services provided by the local authority and its relevant partners.
 - To promote high aspirations, and seek to secure the best outcomes, for those children and young people
 - For those children and young people to be safe, and for stability in their home lives, relationships and education or work; and
 - To prepare those children and young people for adulthood and independent living.

- West Northamptonshire Corporate Parenting Board had its inaugural meeting on the 24th May, prior to this there had been a countywide Corporate Parenting Board. This will allow better understanding of local needs, ensuring local provision and support is available to children who need it most and how this can align with the PLACE Operational model.
- OFSTED will also be completing separate West and North NORTHAMPTONSHIRE inspections.
- Children experiences in care vary, their health and safety and can be managed better on a more local footprint.

RESOLVED that the Board noted the update.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 3.30 pm.