

Report to: Health and Wellbeing Committee, 12th June 2023

Report of: Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities

Subject: WORCESTER CITY DISTRICT COLLABORATIVE – UPDATE REPORT

1. Recommendation

That the Committee:

1.1 Note the contents of this report.

2. Background

- 2.1 Since the [November 2022 Update Report](#) to this Committee on the work of the Worcester City District Collaborative ('the Collaborative'), the group has met 4 times. The most recent meeting was held on 26th May 2023 at Heart of Worcestershire College (St Wulstans Building) where an invite was extended to view the new Domiciliary Care Training Facility at the site.
- 2.2 District Collaboratives are place based partnerships formed by the organisations responsible for arranging and delivering health & care services in a locality or community. They are one of the foundations for of the new Integrated Care System arrangements and have been put on a statutory footing in the Health & Care Act 2022.
- 2.3 The Collaborative acts as the vehicle for delivering Worcester City Council's Health & Wellbeing priorities, in line with the Worcestershire H&WB Strategy (2022 – 32) priorities.
- 2.4 The group continues to have healthy attendance and a guest agency attends each meeting to present to the group, before attention turns to mapping how each agency is adding value to one of the three priority areas the collaborative is focussed on. This it is felt will be a useful piece of work to build on once recruitment to the Programme Manager post has been completed and future working arrangements are confirmed.
- 2.5 To recap, the priority focus areas of the Collaborative for 2023-24 are as follows:
- Tackling loneliness and social isolation - with key benefits of preventing early onset on diabetes and dementia.
 - Providing the best start in life during maternity and children's health – with key benefits of reducing childhood obesity and anxiety to provide better physical and mental health outcomes in later life.

- Targeted engagement where inequality and / or deprivation is linked to health outcomes – with key benefits of improved access to health checks and screening for prevention and early diagnosis of illness.

2.6 This report intends to set out the work undertaken by the group over the last 6 months as well as inform Members of the proposed working arrangements of the group moving forward.

3. **Information**

Recruitment Update

3.1 In November 2022 this Committee approved total funding of £184,000 (from a range of COVID-19 Reserves) to fund the following roles:

- 1 x Children & Families Social Prescriber (CFSP) - 2-year fixed term post
- 1 x Wellbeing & Emotional Support Practitioner (WESP) - 2-year fixed term post
- 1 x Vaccination Clinic (ABCD) Engagement Officer

3.2 A further role of Worcester City District Collaborative Programme Manager was funded for a 3-year period through £75,000 of Worcestershire County Council (Public Health) 'Being Well' funding.

3.3 Onside Advocacy who are appointing to the CFSP and WESP roles have confirmed that the CFSP commences in post on 5th June focussing on 7 – 11-year-olds. Onside have been able to recruit to half of the WESP post with the individual commencing on 10th July focussing on 16–20-year-olds. There are further interviews being held on 7th June for the remaining half of the post.

3.4 Worcester City Council are recruiting to the Programme Manager role and interviews are being held on 5th July.

3.5 Worcester Community Trust delivered the Vaccine Clinic Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) work between January 3rd and March 31st 2023. This provided one part time ABCD worker who provided a 'drop in' service at community COVID vaccine clinics across Worcester, to engage with the critical mass of people getting their vaccines. This engagement was intended to raise awareness of the services available across the District Collaborative, distribute materials and offer signposting. The Community Vaccine Clinics were discontinued in early January, so the project changed strategy to engage with people attending Warm Hubs across Worcester.

3.6 Places attended by the ABCD worker included The Lyppard Hub, The Hive and Warndon Library, alongside these events such as '**Community Living Room**' at KGV (Brickfields), '**Cost of Living**' at the Hive, and '**Winter Get Together**' and '**The Time to Talk Day**', supported by Time to Talk (now Stamping Out Stigma) at Warndon. Feedback from the hubs was that unless there was planned activity, i.e. coffee morning or kitchen, people weren't attending the hubs just to use the space. Where people were attending other events or services in the buildings i.e. computers at library, group session at a community centre, they were seeing clients come early, or stay later to make use of the warm spaces, free internet or tea stations.

- 3.7 Outside of the work exploring the Warm Hub, 63 learning conversations took place with people in the community who fed back on range of subjects. 16 instances of asset mapping took place within this period and 8 events were attended to engage with people. During learning conversations, one thing that resonated across the 63 residents was the level of knowledge and insight community members have of their area, how they appreciate the space, particularly green space, assets available and how often, and how they access the city centre. Cleanliness, green space and accessibility to amenities are high-topic themes.

Mapping of Services

- 3.8 The first meeting of 2023 commenced with a Worcester City Joint Strategic Needs Assessment presentation being delivered by Matt Fung (Worcestershire County Council – Public Health) and this enabled the collaborative to consider whether its 3 priority focus areas were still appropriate. The group deemed that they were and furthermore it was noted that in terms of the relative infancy of the group it was important that priority areas were not abandoned before developing plans for how the group could add value.
- 3.9 It was at the January meeting that the group started to map the services it offered and the role it could play having regard to the 3 priority focus areas. The initial focus in January was on 'starting well'. At the March meeting the focus shifted to mapping against the 'Ageing Well' priority. At the May meeting mapping of services against the 'inequalities' priority will be undertaken.

Guest Presentations

- 3.10 Over the course of the previous 4 meetings, the group has benefitted from 2 guest speakers. Millbrook Healthcare attended the March meeting where they explained their role as the Health Improvement Agency contractor delivering the Disabled Facility Grants service and Minor Adaptations Service on behalf the six Worcestershire District Councils and Worcestershire County Council.
- 3.11 At the May meeting the group received a presentation from Worcestershire County Council Public Health to raise awareness of the 'warmth on prescription' scheme. The scheme promotes working collaboratively with the Primary Care Network to identify vulnerable patients with long-term health conditions that could worsen by living in a cold home and who are struggling with energy costs. The scheme will provide payments directly to energy suppliers to encourage the use of heating systems to keep warm and reduce the risk to their health condition. Each District Collaborative area will have £50,000 (including admin) to deliver the Warmth on Prescription Project for winter 2023-24.
- 3.12 Worcester Primary Care Network will be arranging a working group to establish a referral route, process, management, monitoring and reporting.

Future Arrangements

- 3.13 At the May meeting a proposal was presented regarding the future working arrangements of the group conscious that an action plan for delivery against each of the priority focus areas requires development.
- 3.14 It was proposed to set up three Collaborative 'working groups' each focussed on one of the three priority focus areas. The role of the groups would be to develop a 12 –

24-month action to be approved by the collaborative with clear measurable outcomes and responsible agencies.

- 3.15 This will enable the collaborative to move to five meetings a year, four of which would focus on one or two of the priority focus areas at each meeting and receive updates on progress. A fifth meeting would be held as an annual strategic review meeting at which we would receive a Worcester City JSNA update from Public Health that would enable the group to challenge whether the collaboratives priority were still appropriate.

Ward(s): All
Contact Officer: Lloyd Griffiths (Corporate Director – Operations, Homes & Communities)
Tel: 01905 722371
E-mail: lloyd.griffiths@worcester.gov.uk
Background Papers: None