



**Wellbeing Board**

**Friday 22 January 2021 at 10.00 am**

**Minutes**

**Present**

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Chair)	WMCA Wellbeing Portfolio Holder
Councillor Paulette Hamilton (Vice-Chair)	Birmingham City Council
Councillor John Beaumont	Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Councillor Les Caborn	Warwickshire County Council
Councillor Stephen Craddock	Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Karen Grinsell	Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Councillor Farut Shaeen	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Guy Daly	Universities (Coventry)
Rebecca Farmer	NHSE
Lina Martino	Public Health England
Stan Silverman	Systems STP Leader NHS
Steve Vincent	West Midlands Fire Service

**In Attendance**

Lynne Bowers	New NHA Alliance
Mubasshir Ajaz	West Midlands Combined Authority
Ed Cox	West Midlands Combined Authority
Simon Hall	West Midlands Combined Authority
Tatum Matharu	West Midlands Combined Authority
Sean Russell	West Midlands Combined Authority
Lola Abudu	Public Health England
Ruth Tennant	Public Health Solihull
Deborah Fox	Transport for the West Midlands
Madeleine Freewood	City of Wolverhampton Council

**24. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Barlow, Councillor Jaspal, Wayne Brown, Andy Hardy, Paul Jennings and Alison Tonge.

**25. Nomination of Substitutes**

The following substitutes had been received:

Stan Silverman for Paul Jennings, Rebecca Farmer for Alison Tonge, Steve Vincent for Wayne Brown and Madeleine Freewood for Councillor Jasbir.

**26. Minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2020 were agreed as a true record.

## **27. Chair's Remarks**

### **(i) Welcome Tatum Matharu**

The Head of Wellbeing and Prevention, Mubasshir Ajaz, introduced Tatum Matharu to the committee; Tatum Matharu would be covering Sean Russell's role as the Head of Thrive for the next 6 months whilst Sean focused on the Covid-19 situation.

### **(ii) Covid-19 Update and Overview**

Sean Russell provided an update on Covid-19 in the region including infection rates, hospital admissions, transmission of infection and the vaccine roll-out. In relation to the vaccine roll-out, Sean Russell undertook to circulate details of how colleagues could support the NHS by volunteering.

## **28. Health of the Region (HoR) Report**

The committee received a presentation from the Director of Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform, Ed Cox and the Head of Wellbeing and Prevention, Mubasshir Ajaz on the Health of the Region Report. A copy of the report including the executive summary and summary of the key challenges had been circulated with the papers for the meeting. The report had been approved by the WMCA Board at its recent meeting.

The Director of Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform outlined the background to the report and explained how the health inequalities in the region had been exacerbated by Covid-19 especially on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BMAE) communities.

The report set out a 'Call for Action' and a framework for tackling the 4 key challenges (improving outcomes for BMAE communities, tackling the wider determinants of health, widening access to health and care services and enabling people powered health) with more than 50 commitments from partners and 12 recommendations to Government.

The Head of Wellbeing and Prevention, Mubasshir Ajaz reported on how the WMCA would take forward its commitments with partners to progress including the action plan and the social media campaign that would be launched next week to promote this work.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

## **29. Post HoR Wellbeing Programmes Update**

Further to consideration of the last agenda item, the Health of the Region Report, the committee received updates on the Health of the Region Wellbeing Programmes that have been developed by the WMCA and partners to have a long-term impact on the key priority areas.

Rebecca Farmer, NHSE, reported on the work of the Midlands Inequalities Group, a working group of the Strategic Transformation and Recovery (STaR) Board and referred to the draft report circulated. It was noted that the working group was developing a toolkit to make it easier for other organisations to share and adopt others' learning to address health inequalities.

Sean Russell reported on BMAE Thrive and the work being undertaken to tackle structural racism in the workplace. It was noted that the toolkit was being refreshed to ensure this was robust for use by businesses.

Simon Hall outlined the lifestyle scoping work being undertaken to improve physical activity levels in the West Midlands and the emerging WMCA deliverables for 2021/22 that have been developed to add value and complement existing practices.

Lina Martino, PHE reported on the Intelligence Hub and advised that key projects have been retained and integrated with the Health of the Region work programmes which included the Wellbeing Board dashboard.

The Director of Inclusive Growth and Public Service Reform, Ed Cox informed the committee of the exciting collaborative approach being undertaken with the Combined Authorities of the M9 Metro Mayors Group including a secondment which would provide the opportunity for the WMCA to learn from other areas.

The Chair conveyed her thanks to health colleagues for taking this partnership work forward noting that it would take years of work but would be of benefit to all residents of the West Midlands and was linked to the State of the Region report.

Resolved: That the updates be noted.

**30. Working Together to promote active travel and health - West Midlands Active Travel Fund**

The committee considered a report from the Strategic Physical Activity Lead, Simon Hall that outlined the progress made in integrated transport and health priorities and encouraging behaviour change in communities most impacted by Covid-19.

The committee also received a presentation from Deborah Fox, Head of Demand Management, TfWM, and Simon Hall on the West Midlands Active Travel Fund 2020-22.

The presentation included details of the walking and cycling infrastructure projects delivered by the 7 West Midlands local authorities and 12 partner organisations for tranche 1 of the Emergency Active Travel Fund (£17.5 awarded to the West Midlands) during July to September 2020 and the announcement of further funding (£13.1m) for infrastructure schemes to be implemented by 31 March 2022.

Resolved:

1. That progress of this work in integrated transport and health priorities and encouraging behaviour change in communities most impacted by Covid-19 be noted and
2. That the presentation be noted.

**31. Presentation: Commonwealth Games Legacy**

The Strategic Physical Activity Lead, Simon Hall, provided an update on the work being undertaken to create a physical activity and wellbeing legacy from 2022 Birmingham Commonwealth Games.

It was noted that physical activity and wellbeing legacy strand is embedded into the Games' 5 pillars of bringing people together, improving health and wellbeing, helping the region to grow and succeed, being a catalyst for change and putting the West Midlands on the map.

Simon advised that 5 priority areas, namely, cycling and walking, active environments, children and young people, workforce and volunteering and Games physical activity legacy have been identified by the Physical Activity and Wellbeing Legacy and updates would be provided to this board as proposals develop and progress.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

**32. Thrive at work Update**

The committee considered a report of the Head of Thrive that provided a high-level overview of the Thrive at work programme and sought support to amplify the programme to businesses across the West Midlands.

The Head of Thrive, Sean Russell provided an update on the Thrive programme which seeks to improve productivity and increase awareness of mental health in the workplace.

It was noted that there are currently 369 active organisations committed to the programme which has been a vital tool in supporting employees during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the current climate has also proved challenging to recruit and retain businesses who are struggling financially.

Sean Russell reported that he was seeking the board's support to help recruit a total of 842 businesses within the next 16-18 months which equated to 6 businesses per month across 8 areas. He added that there were 3 potential opportunities that could help lever support for the programme; organisations involved in 2022 Commonwealth Games; anchor institutions (large companies to lead by example) and the procurement pipeline whereby companies demonstrate through the social value approach their commitment to workplace wellbeing.

Councillor Hamilton considered that local authorities could also assist by advising organisations of the Thrive Programme when they seek advice on financial support for Covid-19.

Councillor Grinsell reported that the Chambers of Commerce, Growth Hubs and local authority communications/engagement teams could also help promote the programme to businesses.

The Chair asked that colleagues to take-up the challenge and do all what they can to help amplify the programme to businesses through their organisations/contacts.

Resolved:

1. That the report be noted;
2. That the approach going forward be approved and
3. That the programme be amplified to support organisations across the West Midlands be endorsed.

**33. Items for future meetings**

The following agenda items were identified for the next meeting.

- NHS consultation on Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) and what it means for the region and
- High deliverables for the next 12 months.

**34. Date of the next meeting - 26 March 2021 at 10.00 am**

The meeting ended at 11.57 am.