



**West Midlands
Combined Authority**

Wellbeing Board

Date	6 March 2023
Report title	Wellbeing Board High Level Deliverables Update
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Report has been considered by	Dr Julie Nugent, Director of Economy, Skills and Communities

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- (1) Consider the progress to date on the 2022/3 High Level Deliverables
- (2) Agree to continue to receive an update on the High-level Deliverables at each future Board meeting.

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper outlines the progress made against high level deliverables agreed by the Wellbeing Board in July 2022.

2. Health and Communities High Level Deliverables for 2022/23

2.1 The team operates within the Economy, Skills and Communities directorate and our focus is on reducing health inequalities and maximising the impact on health outcomes through the CA's current devolved responsibilities on transport, housing, skills and inclusive economic growth work. Operating in this directorate gives us a greater opportunity to address those underlying issues, the wider determinants of health and really exploring the link between health and wealth.

2.2 We are also working on obtaining a trailblazing devolution deal for health. This is a testament to our success in engaging with the local and regional health and care system and becoming a regional voice on health and health inequalities. In order to achieve our core mission of creating a healthier West Midlands we maximise the opportunities to enable, influence and delivery system change using the following principles:

- Using WMCA's **core functions** to galvanise action to ensure all economic investment in the region **supports better health outcomes**;
- Work with partners to **attract funding** from government and provide a **regional voice on health inequalities**;
- Work with partners to **maximise the economic opportunities** created by the West Midlands **health and care economy**;
- Champion specific issues and **deliver grant-funded programmes** where there is the **clear support** of the Combined Authority and its **partners** to do so.

2.3 In July 2022, the Wellbeing Board approved the High levels Deliverables below and provide an update on impact and progress against each deliverable, along with partners involved.

HLD	Associated Milestones
Conclude the Mental Health Commission and take forward the recommendations with internal and external partners	Develop a Commission report, which sets out key recommendations to support pursuit of a mentally healthier region;
	Develop and publish key outputs from the recommendations of the MH Commission by March 2023, including a Mental Health Work Programme and documented delivery arrangements
Develop and deliver a work programme to promote and enhance an evidence-based approach to preventing and tackling health inequalities in the WMCA and amongst other regional partners.	Work with Transport and Housing on embedding HiAP approach to impact health outcomes through monthly meetings, shared work programme and disseminate impact and evaluation reports to DsPH, OHID and NHSEI
	Pursue exemplar region in improving the health outcomes of disabled people by getting 2-3% more disabled people active and convening the system on disabilities related issues through workshops

	Promote wellbeing and prevention through implementing innovation pilots around social prescribing and developing a strategic sustainable relationship with Sport England on health inequalities through a shared agreement
	Deliver Health of the Region update report by April 2022, develop online data hub by October 2022, run HOTR Roundtable bi-monthly and establish working group for a new HOTR report to be completed in October 2023
	Support the promotion of health tech and drive investment for prevention in region through pursuit of remote diagnostics and Smart City region, through the Levelling Up work and Radical Health Prevention Fund as well as convening system through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monthly engagement with Smart City partners - Develop proposals for region with LA partners through Radical Health Prevention Fund - Procure/develop regional remote diagnostics
	Complete the design sprint projects, i.e. Accessible Housing Design, Digital Inclusion and Community Decision Making, by working with partners and setting out recommendations by January 2023 and presented to WB Board by March 2023.
	Co-produce a 'Race to Thrive' model with partners to contribute to addressing racial disparities in pathways into work and MH support at work.
Continue to deliver and extend the Thrive into Work programme and move to embed it as business as usual in primary and community care.	Form and support Coalition Panel led by an independent Chair by June 2022
	Apply for IPS Expansion Funding for funding beyond 2023 by submitting business case before August 2022
	Develop and deliver plans for sustainability of programme post grant funding by March 2023 to the Well-Being Board.
Continue delivery of Thrive at Work programme as it transitions to becoming a more self-sustaining and autonomous project	Review and refresh the Thrive at Work model, allied to other effective "health and work" initiatives like This is Me, MHFA and the broader refresh of MHPP by December 2022
	Develop a plan for the financial sustainability of the Thrive at Work model, in conjunction with MHPP by September 2022

3. Current Programme Updates

WM Mental Health Commission

3.1 Please see separate paper (final report) on the agenda for the Wellbeing Board meeting.

Health Inequalities and Health in all Policies

3.2 Health of the Region (HOTR)

a) On Wednesday 11th January, we held our first in-person HOTR Roundtable. The half-day event included an opening plenary session chaired by the Mayor, with a diverse panel drawn from across the West Midlands health and wellbeing system, and subsequent parallel sessions on developing an exemplar region for disabled people and the Mental Health Commission's work to support a healthier region. The in-person format proved a success, with approximately 70 attendees, and breakout

discussions led to an agenda for action by the HOTR Core Group to respond to the cost-of-living crisis. A full summary of the event can be found in the appendix.

- b) The HOTR Core Group has since met (13th February) to decipher its next steps in taking forward collective campaigning activity around the Real Living Wage via its networks across the region. This fits the Core Group's Terms of Reference and also aligns with core WMCA aims, whilst enabling a route into addressing issues around social value procurement next.

3.3 **Healthtech / Medtech**

- a) We are continuing to work closely with colleagues in WM5G (a subsidiary of the WMCA) around the Smart City-Region proposal, having developed a full business case for submission into DLUHC alongside inclusion of the proposal within the wider Trailblazer Devolution Deal ask.
- b) The West Midlands Innovation Accelerator's announcement of winning bids has been delayed and is now expected in the first week of March.

3.4 **Design Sprints**

- a) **Accessible Housing** – an agreed project plan has been developed which will be put out to Request for Quotation shortly. This work is part funded by WMCA's Health and Communities and Inclusive Growth teams and will aim to understand the good practice and the barriers in the region in providing accessible housing for disabled people, those with health conditions and elderly people through consultation with the community, housing providers and local authorities. This will include a deep dive analysis on provision with Birmingham CC in line with its Housing Strategy priorities.
- b) **Community Decision Making**: The CDM project is making steady progress, with the New Economic Foundation currently collecting data on the substantive decision-making process being explored (co-production of parent- / citizen- led roadmaps for children with additional needs and disabilities via Flourish, a community health collaborative who are on the Ladywood & Perry Barr Integrated Care Partnership).

3.5 **The Kings Fund Workshop Programme**

- a) Over the last 5 months, the WMCA in collaboration with The Kings Fund have been facilitating 4 events for senior leaders in Local Authority Public Health, ICBs, commercial, voluntary and community sectors to inform ways of working, understand how we can accelerate progress in addressing the barriers and scaling up opportunities from working together. In doing so, identifying collaborative and individual actions which will enable change.
- b) Over 140 delegates have attended the four events which finished on 22 February in Solihull covering homelessness and health; Inclusive Growth and Net Zero; collective action to reduce smoking as part of our joint work on health improvement and what levelling up means for disabled people in the region.
- c) There has been positive event feedback including "thank you very much for this series, it has been wonderfully helpful and a fantastic forum to engage with."
- d) A final report on the actions, learning and opportunities for the WMCA to convene and inform this collaborative health space will be presented at the next Wellbeing Board.

- 3.6 **Work with Transport for West Midlands and Housing on embedding HiAP**
- a) As part of the HiAP approach, the Health and Communities team has recently completed our response to the TfWM's Local Transport Plan Big Motives documents: Inclusive and accessible places, public transport and shared mobility; safe, efficient and reliable transport network; walk, wheel, cycle and scoot and the green transport revolution.
 - b) Using the strong evidence base for health and transport, our responses focused on influencing transport policies to be even more inclusive, accessible, and contribute to improving health and reducing the health inequalities. The TfWM Local Transport Plan is now going through the WMCA's governance process for approval.
 - c) Alongside this policy influence, the Health and Communities team have secured £75k from the DfT's Capability and Ambition Fund to work with Solihull MBC Public Health and Transport, North Solihull Primary Care Network and community walking and cycling providers to improve the health of patients with hypertension and those with muscular skeletal health conditions by getting more people prescribed walking and cycling. This is based on the progress made in Solihull on the DfT Feasibility Study bid as a social prescribing walking and cycling region. Updates will be provided at future meetings.
- 3.7 **Improving health outcomes for disabled people region**
- a) At the last meeting, the Wellbeing Board considered the West Midlands Citizen voice priorities and whether there are similar networks or appetite for in Local Authorities. The WMCA has contracted the Disability Policy Centre to work with Local Authorities to look at existing and make recommendations on establishing similar networks. Report will be provided at the next meeting.
 - b) Work continues to prepare the Pan Disability Strategic Needs Assessment. From our discussions locally and nationally such as the Government's Disability Unit, it is evident that in undertaking the needs assessment, the WMCA would be the leading data, intelligence and insight on and for disabled people in the UK.
 - c) The WMCA has been working with community and academic bodies to bid for Motability funding for research and delivery funding. The funding is only available for community or academic organisations, but is an excellent illustration as to how the WMCA convenes partners into co-ordinated action and also aims to use findings to influence future policy and practice.
- 3.8 **Implementing innovative pilots and embedding a strategic relationship with Sport England**
- a) The Sport England partnership is summarised in a separate presentation on the Wellbeing Board agenda.

4. Thrive at Work

- 4.1 Current performance** – There are over 300 organisations either in receipt of or pursuing accreditation at Foundation, Bronze or Silver levels respectively.

There were 9 new registered organisations in January, including Kind Consultancy, No Ordinary Hospitality Management, Crown Highways Limited, Coventry & Warwickshire Chamber Training and CFS Aeroproducts.

There were 6 accreditations in December 2022 and January 2023, including the University of Warwick, BID services and Siemens Energy Ltd.

Staff recruitment has been successful, with a new Engagement Officer and 2 Accreditation Officers starting and providing an important boost to team capacity.

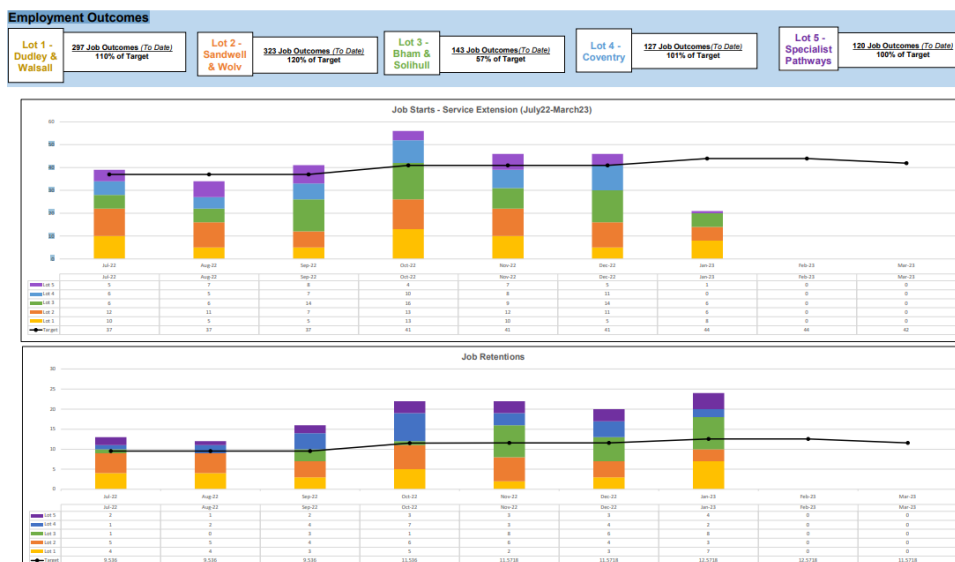
Work is ongoing to continue to refresh the programme, including:

- Developing a more 'place -based' approach – developing a respective staff focus on the 6 met local authority areas (except Coventry which has a Coventry City Council team supporting it) and developing stronger working relationships with the respective Chambers of Commerce and local authorities (and links to their respective support offers);
- A strengthened communication, marketing and engagement strategy and plan, linked to other ESC directorate and MHPP work, developing a better on-line presence and utilising the incoming WMCA customer relationship management (CRM) system;
- Refreshing the 'customer journey' and developing an updated articulation of the TaW offer;
- Work to confirm priority sectors / industries for an enhanced targeted approach.

5. Thrive into Work

5.1 We have remained on target with our programme, achieving 3,717 contacts and 1,101 job outcomes. Following our successful bid to expand and extend the IPS programme we received confirmation of a £7.9m funding allocation which will allow us to deliver through to March 2025. Through this funding round DWP have made clear the important association that this programme achieves in supporting inclusive growth and addressing health inequalities.

5.2 Current Performance



Due to late notification of funding the programme suffered from staff leaving and services began to ramp down as per their contractual obligation. This has reflected in performance outcomes. Despite these four out of five lots have either achieved or exceeded their targets.

We have now entered a mobilisation phase which will result in the release of a marketing campaign in April as the service again will open referrals. Work is being undertaken to facilitate place-based collaboration between our Local Authorities, NHS, local stakeholders, Delivery Partners and the WMCA. This will enable greater collective focus on where resources are allocated, pay attention to local needs, continued shaping of delivery and awareness of performance.

Our ICB's are especially critical in ensuring that the programme succeeds and their support over recent months has been significant in helping us secure additional funds.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 The WMCA budget was agreed in February 2022 has been built around these draft High Level Deliverables. There are no other direct spend or budgetary implications as a result of the recommendations within this report.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 It is a statutory requirement that the Combined Authority has an assurance framework in place. The assurance framework approved by the WMCA Board on 24 July 2020 stipulates the requirement of the Wellbeing Board to approve and monitor the deliverables of the portfolio. There are no additional legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

8. Equalities Implications to update

- 8.1 Portfolio Equality Impact Assessment identified key impact and considerations for high level deliverables. The composition of the Thematic Boards and other governance structures of the WMCA normally reflect the composition of the political leadership in constituent local authorities. To this extent, at the current time, they do not reflect the full diversity of the West Midlands region and decision-making might be skewed by unconscious bias. Where there is scope for local authorities to consider diversifying who might represent them on such Boards this could be considered and where there is scope for the Thematic Board to consider co-opting non-voting members on the grounds of their gender or protected characteristics then this too could be considered.

Positive equalities implication within these HLDs is around the improved inclusion of people with disabilities.

9. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 9.1 WMCA defines Inclusive Growth as *“a more deliberate and socially purposeful model of growth, measured not only by how fast or aggressive it is; but also, how well it is created and shared across the whole population and place, and by the social and environmental outcomes it realises for our people”*. Health and Wellbeing is one of the eight fundamentals for creating inclusive growth across the region. Reducing avoidable differences in health outcomes so that residents can live longer, healthier, and happier lives is vital. This work will help to achieve this given key objectives will contribute to improvements in mental health and wellbeing, increased levels of physical activity and greater inclusion of people with disabilities also sitting as key objectives. This work will also contribute to the following fundamentals:

- Inclusive Economy: Supporting people with health challenges to access employment opportunities in the region
- Connected Communities: Working with transport colleagues to ensure that residents can access opportunities in the region through reliable public transport and active travel. Equality: Ensuring that the drivers behind persistent inequalities are addressed so that all residents can thrive.
- Power, Influence and Participation: Ensuring residents have a voice in decision making to co-design solutions to challenges.

10. Geographical Area of Report's Implications

- 10.1 The work of the Wellbeing Board applies to relevant activity across both Constituent and Non-constituent areas.

11. Other Implications

- 11.1 None.

12. Schedule of Background Papers

- 12.1 Wellbeing Board Minutes July 2022 approving the 2022/23 HLDs and reporting

13. Appendices

- 13.1 Health of the Region Roundtable (11th January 2023) summary – to follow