



West Midlands Combined Authority

Wellbeing Board

Monday 6 March 2023 at 10.00 am

Minutes

Present

Councillor Karen McCarthy (Vice-Chair) Birmingham City Council
Pete Wilson West Midlands Fire Service

In Attendance via MS Teams

Councillor Izzi Seccombe (Chair) Portfolio Lead for Wellbeing
Mark Axcell Black Country Integrated Care Board
Councillor Julian Gutteridge Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough
Council
Councillor Jasbir Jaspal City of Wolverhampton Council
Sean Russell Universities West Midlands
Lisa Stalley-Green Birmingham & Solihull Integrated Care
Board
Dr Justin Varney West Midlands Association of Directors
of Public Health Representative

Item Title No.

31. Inquorate Meeting

The meeting was inquorate and therefore the recommendations contained within the minutes would be submitted to the WMCA Board on 17 March 2023 for formal approval.

32. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Gary Flint (Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council).

33. Declarations of Interest

Dr Justin Varney raised his declarations in regard to minute no. 40 and Mark Axcell noted his in relation to minute no. 38.

34. Chair's Remarks

The Chair noted that Dr Sue Ibbotson had now retired and wanted to place on record her thanks for Dr Ibbotson's contribution to the board.

35. Minutes - 5 December 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on the 5 December 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

36. Matters Arising

Dr Justin Varney suggested that the board consider holding a workshop with disabled communities at a future meeting to gain further insight into how better this community could be served.

37. Trailblazer Devolution Deal Update

The board received an update on the current position of the Trailblazing Devolution Deal from the Director of Economy, Skills and Communities. She highlighted that at a recent meeting of the Mayor & Portfolio Leads Liaison it was felt that the offer from Government was not in a position to yet be accepted and felt that a number of areas could be developed. There were some positives noted in business rates retention and affordable housing developments. The Chair echoed the comment made as she was in attendance at this meeting and felt that the latest position from Government was not good enough.

Councillor Karen McCarthy felt that new funds required new relationships especially with ICBs, and felt that more time was required to ensure that relationships were fully established.

Resolved:

- (1) That the update be noted.

38. Commonwealth Games Legacy Contingency Fund - Wellbeing Pillar Proposal

The board received a presentation from the Strategic Lead for Wellbeing and Prevention providing an update on the proposals to be considered under the Wellbeing pillar of the unsend contingency funding from the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. It was noted that the Wellbeing and Sustainability Pillar had allocated £4.07m with an amount of £2.78m allocated towards Wellbeing Projects. The Chair voiced her disappointment of the allocation and felt that a larger allocation would be able to achieve more and have a significant impact on addressing Wellbeing inequalities in the region.

Dr Justin Varney noted that in principle he was supportive of the submission, however noted that in terms of the extension of the Commonwealth Active Communities proposal that the interim evaluation demonstrated the values of further funding and suggested that a decision was not made on this proposal until the evaluation had been received.

Lola Abudu requested that the proposals for project funding ensured that they reached out to communities, made a difference to disadvantaged communities and helped close the gap.

Resolved:

- (1) That the overall process and funding allocations for each pillar in the Commonwealth Games Legacy Contingency Funding paper be noted.

(2) The comments made by member of Wellbeing Board in relation to the proposed process of business case approvals as well as project proposals be noted.

(3) The proposals funded through the Wellbeing portion of the Wellbeing and Sustainability Pillar be noted.

39. WMCA Sport England Partnership

The board received a joint presentation from the Strategic Lead for Wellbeing and Prevention and Adam Rigarlsford, Sports England outlining the shared outcomes of both the WMCA and Sports England moving forward. It was hoped that through a joined-up approach and aligning of Sports England 'Uniting the Movement 2021-2031 Strategy' and WMCA 'Plan for Growth' and 'Health of the Region Report' would set agreed priorities targeting cohorts in the region who were least active and seek to achieve gains and values from partnership working.

Dr Justin Varey hoped that this new programme would allow the region to work more collectively and collaboratively to address and champion physical activity in the region.

Resolved:

(1) That the presentation be noted.

40. West Midlands Mental Health Commission

The board received a report from the Chair of the Mental Health Commission and the Head of Mental Health Partnerships updating them on the work of the WMCA convened West Midlands Mental Health Commission. The report outlined the key findings, recommendations on a topic by topic bases with some indications of good practice as well as indication of areas of focus for implementation projects and outlined the next steps.

The Chair of the Commission thanked the WMCA officers who were supporting this commission and noted that a wide range of partners from various organisations had participated in engagement activities to progress the commission.

Both the Chair of this board and Councillor Jasbir Jaspal highlighted that the commission was making good progress and looked to establish good and clear partnerships with stakeholders to address mental health inequalities within the region. The Chair also highlighted the need to address the gap in confidence with middle age males and the older generation in coming forward and seeking support to address their Mental Health Needs.

The Director of Economy, Skills and Communities reported that this work had also been shared with the Mayor who was supportive of the work being undertaken. It was hoped that the Commission would be finalised in June 2023.

Resolved:

- (1) The comments made by members of the board be noted.
- (2) That the final report being developed and launched after May 2023 be noted.

41. Improving Health & Reducing Inequalities - Combined Authorities Programme

The board received a report from the Health Inequalities Policy Officer providing an overview of the work of the WMCA-led improving health and reducing inequalities sharing background details, purpose and the scope of the programme.

Both the Chair and Councillor Jasbir Jaspal welcomed the report and noted the positiveness of successfully securing £1.3m from the Health Foundation on behalf on the consortium of eight Combined Authorities to lead and deliver the 'Improving Health and Reducing Inequalities' Combined Authorities Programme. They also noted and felt that the embedded policy officer would generate new learning across the areas.

Dr Justin Varney suggested that work be undertaken to develop a plan that outlined key priority areas to be targeted first priority and the link between the health region taskforce.

Resolved:

- (1) That the progress made against the Combined Authorities Programme be noted.
- (2) Members comments and view on the initial and emerging plans be noted.
- (3) That the programme launches in June 2023 with a programme plan being shared with this board in due course.

42. Wellbeing Board High Level Deliverables Update

The Board received a report from the Head of Health and Communities outlining the progress made against high level deliverables previously agreed by the board in July 2022. An update was provided and noted by members of the board in relation to the West Midlands Mental Health Commission, Health of the Region, Thrive at Work and Thrive into Work.

Resolved:

- (1) The progress made to date on the 2022/23 High Level Deliverables be noted.
- (2) That the board continue to receive an update on the High-Level Deliverables at each future meeting.