

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

19 October 2023

Present:-

Councillors J McInnes (Chair), S Wollaston (Vice-Chair), R Croad,
A Leadbetter, F Letch MBE

S Brown, Director of Public Health
S Collins, Director of Children & Young People's Futures
T Forster, Director of Integrated Adult Social Care
S Lewis, Joint Engagement Forum
G McKenzie, Healthwatch Devon

Apologies:-

Councillor A Saywell
J Chandler, South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
G Ellis, Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service
C Tidman, RD&E NHS Foundation Trust

* 118

Minutes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2023 be signed as a correct record.

* 119

Items Requiring Urgent Attention

There were no items requiring urgent attention.

* 120

Devon Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Priorities and Outcomes Monitoring

The Board received the Report from the Director of Public Health, Communities and Prosperity on the performance for the Board, which monitored the priorities identified in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Devon 2020-25.

The Report monitored the four Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-25 priorities, and included breakdowns by local authority, district and trends over time. These priorities areas included:

- Create opportunities for all
- Healthy safe, strong and sustainable communities
- Focus on mental health
- Maintain good health for all

The latest Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Report was available on the [Devon Health and Wellbeing website](#).

Three indicators had been updated with new data, namely:

- Adult Smoking Prevalence, 2022
- Estimated Dementia Diagnosis Rate (65+), 2023
- Fuel Poverty (low income, low energy efficiency methodology), 2021

The Board discussed the district variations in Dementia Diagnosis rates (65+) and Dr Wollaston agreed to take back to NHS colleagues to explore further.

The Board were happy to note the Report.

* **121** **Smokefree Devon Alliance Strategy 2023-2028**

The Committee received the Report of the Director of Public Health, Communities and Prosperity (PH/23/01) on the new Smokefree Devon Alliance [Strategy](#) 2023-28, which set out the Aim, Priorities and Objectives of the Alliance for the next five years.

The Smokefree Devon Alliance had been providing a co-ordinated, multi-agency approach to tobacco control since 2010 and currently had a varied and active membership. The aim of the Strategy was to improve the health of Devon's population by reducing the prevalence of smoking and exposure to second-hand smoke, in doing so to reduce health inequalities and smoking-related illnesses and deaths.

The Report asked the Board to note the new Strategy and to support its delivery, by including it in the next Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and connecting it into other relevant strategies, policies and actions; and to also take an active role in the monitoring of the objectives outlined, including reviewing an annual update report, alongside the Torbay Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Director of Public Health also shared the Government presentation paper, 'A Smokefree Generation – Action to address smoking and vaping' (attached), and stressed the importance of responding to the consultation [Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping](#) on the Government's proposed legislation to tackle smoking and youth vaping.

Questions and discussion points included:

- Public Health had communicated with all schools in Devon regarding vaping and the associated risks, with information also available on the PHSE website for schools to access directly.
- Vaping was a new area and currently there was no national guidance in how to support a non-smoking young person to stop vaping, but it was

something that was being explored locally by Public Health's new service provider.

- The environmental impact and fire risk caused by disposable vapes not being disposed of correctly.
- The difficult balance of warning young people not to vape against encouraging smokers to try vaping instead.
- It was proposed that each of the Health and Wellbeing Boards submit a formal response to the [Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping](#) consultation, with this Board's response being circulated to NHS colleagues before final submission.

The Board agreed:

- to endorse the Strategy; and
- that a response to the Consultation be submitted on behalf of the Board.

* **122** **NHS Devon Update**

The Board noted the update from NHS Devon which provided Devon-wide and national developments within the NHS. It was intended to provide the Board with summary information to ensure Members were kept abreast of important developments.

The following points were highlighted:

- Operational challenges continued, but the long elective backlogs in Exeter and Torbay had been eliminated, with Plymouth hopefully by the end of the month.
- Urgent and emergency care remained extremely challenging; and nationally, Devon was the highest performing county in England for care home vaccinations.
- Although the latest period of industrial action had been suspended following talks with consultants, this did not apply to junior doctors and so remained a major challenge.
- NHS Devon had received £595,000 of funding to set up a Women's Health Hub provision in Devon.

As to Covid it was reported that:

- Current data, showed there had been a 2% decrease in cases, but a 20% increase in hospitalisations, mostly affecting the elderly and those people with immunosuppression.
- Eligible people were being encouraged to come forward for their vaccinations, which were key in reducing hospitalisation and harm.
- With Covid rates the highest since March, combined with flu, a challenging winter ahead was predicted

* **123** **Dates of Future Meetings**

Future meeting dates of the Board could be found on the Council's website - [Browse meetings - Health and Wellbeing Board - Democracy in Devon](#)

Next meeting: 11 January 2024

NOTES:

1. *Minutes should always be read in association with any Reports for a complete record.*
2. *If the meeting has been webcast, it will be available to view on the [webcasting site](#) for up to 12 months from the date of the meeting*

* **DENOTES DELEGATED MATTER WITH POWER TO ACT**

The Meeting started at 2.15 pm and finished at 3.18 pm



A Smokefree Generation

Action to address smoking and vaping

10/2023

The Case For Change

- Tobacco is the one of the most [preventable causes of ill health](#), disability and death, responsible for [64,000 deaths](#) in England a year
- Almost every minute of every day someone is [admitted](#) to hospital because of smoking
- [75,000 GP](#) appointments could be attributed to smoking each month
- It is estimated that the total costs of smoking in England are over [£17 billion](#) including £14 billion loss to productivity
- [Three-quarters](#) of current smokers would never have started if they had the choice again

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Smokefree Generation

- Children turning 14 or younger this year will never be able to be legally sold cigarettes
- This will mean effectively raising the age of sale by one year each year for this generation (born on or after 1 January 2009)
- This will not criminalise smoking nor will it mean anyone who can buy cigarettes now will be prevented from doing so in the future
- This will implement the recommendation from the independent Khan Review



Funding

- Additional £70 million per year for next five years to support LSSS - in addition to the PHG, doubles spending from £68 million to £138 million
- Exact funding allocations communicated to LAs through the grant agreement process. Indicative [funding allocations](#) as an annex to the Command Paper

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Funding uplift based on number of smokers in each LA - targets high prevalence areas

- Additional £5 million this year then £15 million per year after to fund new national anti-smoking campaigns
- Funding on top of national Swap to Stop scheme (up to £45 million over 2 years) & financial incentives to support pregnant smokers (up to £10 million over 2 years)



Youth Vaping – UK-wide consultation

Ensuring vapes can continue to be made available to current adult smokers is vital to tackle smoking – must take a balanced approach. However, rates have tripled amongst children. UK wide consultation looks at new measures to reduce appeal, access, affordability of vapes to children:

1. Restricting the flavours and descriptions of vapes
2. Regulating point of sale displays in retail outlets
3. Regulating vape packaging and product presentation
4. Considering restricting the sale of disposable vapes – Defra led
5. Introducing a duty on vapes - HMT led
6. Introducing product standards for non-nicotine vapes and other consumer products

In addition, we will look to ban free samples of vapes and introduce age of sale for non-nicotine vapes – without consultation



Enforcement

To help support proposals we will need increase enforcement activity across smoking and vaping. To do this, we will:

- Strengthen enforcement activity, through new funding (£30 million a year) to HMRC, Border force and local Trading Standards
- Introduce new powers to fine rogue retailers on the spot who sell tobacco products or vapes to people underage
- Enhance age verification online to stop the sale of tobacco products and vapes to underage people online

Next Steps

- 8 week UK wide consultation on new legislative proposals has been launched (closes 6th Dec)
[Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping](#)
 - Legislate when parliamentary time allows (Fourth Session Bill TBC in the King's Speech)
 - Scope of any Bill will likely follow scope of the [Command Paper](#)
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- SSS funding allocations to be confirmed, delivered through a section 31 grant
- Other funding – marketing and enforcement – to be worked through in the coming weeks
 - Expression of interest for first wave/pathfinder applicants opened 5/10/2023 for S2S
 - Commencing tender process for financial incentives delivery partner



