

**To:** Council  
**Date:** 15 July 2024  
**Report of:** Head of Corporate Strategy  
**Title of Report:** Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board/ Health Improvement Board Partnership Report

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To provide the annual report on the work of the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing/ Health Improvement Board
<b>Cabinet Member with responsibility:</b>	CLlr Chewe Munkonge. Cabinet member for a Healthy Oxford
<b>Recommendation:</b>	That Council notes the annual update report of the work the City Council does to support the Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board and the Health Improvement Board

## Introduction and background

1. The Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board (“the HAWB”) is a partnership between local government, the NHS and the people of Oxfordshire. It includes local GPs, councillors, representatives from Healthwatch Oxfordshire, and senior local government officers. The HAWB provides strategic leadership for health and wellbeing across Oxfordshire and ensures that plans, such as the [Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy \(pdf format, 675 KB\)](#) (HWS), are in place and action is taken to realise those plans. The Council has been an active member of the HAWB since its inception in 2013.
2. The Health Improvement Partnership Board (“the HIB”) is a sub group of the HAWB and focuses on effective partnership working across Oxfordshire to meet people’s health and social care needs.
3. It aims to promote and use the [Prevention Framework \(pdf format, 2.3Mb\)](#) to deliver a range of initiatives that will PREVENT ill health, REDUCE the need for treatment and DELAY the need for care.
4. It aims to meet the performance measures agreed by the HAWB.

5. The Council last received a report on the activities of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health Improvement Board in March 2023.
6. Councillor Helen Pighills, Cabinet Member for community health and wellbeing at Vale of the White Horse DC, took up the role as Chair for the HIB in September 2023 and Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers took up the role as vice Chair of the HIB in September 2023. These roles have officer support from the Council's Policy and Partnership Team Manager. As Chair and Vice Chair of the HIB, Councillor Pighills and Councillor Filipova-Rivers have automatically taken the member seats on the HAWB.
7. Building on the reorganisation of the last two years, which saw the establishment of the Integrated Care Board, and the establishing of the Integrated Care Partnership, the City Council has taken on a more formal role in health partnership work.

### **The role of the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HAWB)**

8. The HAWB has a single unifying vision for the improvement of the health and wellbeing of Oxfordshire residents:
9. 'To work together in supporting and maintaining excellent health and wellbeing for all the residents of Oxfordshire'
10. 2023 saw the development of the HWS, with significant partner engagement over a period of months to ensure this was truly a joint strategy. The HWS was agreed by the HWB in December 2023, and further joint working to deliver the associated Action Plan took place Dec 2023-March 2024. The Action was agreed by HWB in March 2024

### **Health Improvement Partnership Board**

11. The Health Improvement Partnership Board (HIB) has reviewed its 3 priorities to align with the HWS, with the following key topic areas to focus on;
12. Alcohol and Tobacco Control
13. Mental Wellbeing
14. Healthy Weight and Physical Activity
15. Action on these priority areas is supported by an approach which is focused on addressing health inequalities and taking a preventative approach in all that it does.

### **Oxford City Council's work on Health**

#### Localities

16. The Council continues to implement its locality teams model, bringing together different service area staff to deliver solutions for better outcomes for residents through purposeful collaboration.
17. The locality managers coordinate and facilitate bimonthly meetings for each of the 4 quadrants to continue to improve collaboration between internal officers in providing holistic support for residents' needs.
18. Over the last year, £143k of Household Support Grants have been given out to support residents with energy, food and essential items, targeting

households that have families with children, pensioners, and people with disabilities.

19. The locality teams, through the Community Health Development Officers continue to attend and contribute to Health & Wellbeing Partnership meetings with stakeholders in key areas of tackling health inequalities.
20. The Council's Community Services continue to work with Oxfordshire County Council Public Health to address health inequalities identified in the following ward health profiles: Rose Hill, Barton, Littlemore, and City Centre, supporting the implementation of recommendations through our Community Health Development Officers.
21. Through the Youth Ambition programme, we continue to ensure that our settings are welcoming and safe for young people, which helps with their social wellbeing, offering physical activity at all the youth sessions as well as informal learning on healthy lifestyles, including health cooking, and providing resources to young people of other supported services they can use and access.
22. Our multisport session at the Leys Leisure Centre continues to be very popular, where we engage with 60–80 young people weekly.

### **Reducing inequalities and obesity through physical activity**

#### Social Media and Campaigns

23. Over the last year the Active Communities and Sport & Physical Activity Team has embarked upon a variety of digital campaign work to encourage and motivate residents to become more physically active and as a result improve their mental and physical health and wellbeing. We have contributed to the new Oxford City Council website by updating our pages to ensure all information is accurate and up to date, including the GO Active Outdoors and GO Active Families pages.
24. Alongside the use of various webpages there have been social media campaigns to help raise awareness of the different work that we do as a team. We have worked with Active Oxfordshire and Fortitude Communications on a campaign to raise awareness of the fantastic work of Move Together across the County. Targeted posts and adverts have been utilised to advertise the Move Together and You Move pathways to those likely to be experiencing greater health inequalities and who would therefore benefit most from including more physical activity in their day. We have also used social media to advertise our community health days at Blackbird Leys and Littlemore, and the funding available to community groups via the Community Profile Grant Funds.

#### Physical Activity and Health pathways/support

25. Move Together has been successful in securing continued funding for 2024-25. This is due to the continued partnership working across District Councils and Active Oxfordshire as well as the continued impact of the pathway as demonstrated through both KPI's and Case Studies. Move Together is a behavioural change support pathway based around motivational interviewing, goal setting and signposting to support those living with one or more long term health conditions to become more active.

26. You Move has also been successful in securing continued funding for 2024-25. This is due to the continued partnership working across District Councils and Active Oxfordshire as well as the continued impact of the pathway as demonstrated through both KPI's and Case Studies. You Move provides low cost or free sporting activities, as well as support with access to these activities for families facing the biggest barriers to physical activity.
27. GO Active Outdoors continues to host our physical activity programmes, sessions and activities. This year we have stepped away from our affiliation with The Ramblers for the delivery of our Health Walks and have instead developed our own training and onboarding process. The ability to have a more bespoke training has been advantageous in the development of The Leys Health Walk and allows for a condensed leadership training for health professionals.
28. We now have four Community Health Development Officers in post covering Rose Hill, Littlemore, The Leys, Barton and the City Centre with a fifth to be recruited in the summer of 2024 to cover Wood Farm. As part of this programme, we have completed four Community Insight Profiles across the different areas and are currently in the process of awarding £25k of Grant Funding per area to local community groups and organisations. This funding will be used to support local initiatives and projects which are designed to support the outcomes of the Community Insight Profiles as well as working to support wider health inequalities in each area.
29. This year our Community Champions have been working with Anchor Organisations across the city and now have seven linked to the programme (three of which have been funded to implement practical healthcare solutions). They have also facilitated 7 covid vaccine pop up clinics across the County, arranged a Black History Month event and worked with Reading Council to support the replication of a Community Champions Model.
30. School support continues with both the delivery of Continued Professional Development sessions for teachers using our partnership with Create Development, delivering training for lunchtime activators and facilitating interschool competitions such as the Chairman's cup rugby festival and school's athletics competitions.

#### Leisure co-location

31. Active Lifestyles Commissioning Group continues to meet regularly to discuss and progress the reimagining of our leisure centres as well as supporting the continuing improving link between Health, Leisure and Physical Activity. Two Leisure to Wellbeing Workshops have been held during 2023-24 including partners from Leisure, the integrated Care Board (ICB), Public Health, Active Partnerships, District Councils, Local Primary Care networks (PCNs), Sport England, Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) Trust and sport national governing bodies (NGBs).
32. Several projects have been piloted throughout 2023-24 to look at the opportunity to co-locate appropriate health services in leisure centres, to put services in the heart of the community and in a positive lifestyle setting. These

include but are not limited to Ice Creates Health Checks and Smoking Cessation Services, Age UK Footcare, MSK Connect Health<sup>1</sup> and a Preventative Physical Activity Pathway in partnership with South East Oxford Health Alliance (SEOXHa) PCN (and subsequently developed to include Achieve Oxfordshire and Dr Kathryn Brown).

33. We appointed a Leisure and Wellbeing Support Officer to support this work amidst a challenging time in our Leisure Contract and this role has developed a Women's only physical activity session at The Leys, a Multi-Sports session for Asylum Seekers and Refugees at The Leys, the planning and execution of two Health Promotion Days (in partnership with the SEOxHa PCN) in The Leys and Littlemore, and the installation of roller blinds on the pool windows at The Leys to allow for privacy during Women's only swimming sessions.

#### New Leisure partnership

34. A major procurement project was undertaken in 2023 to appoint a new leisure provider ahead of the end of the Fusion Lifestyle contract in 2024. This was a once in ten year opportunity to transform leisure services.
35. Health improvement was central to the new contract, with an ambition to move from leisure centres to active wellbeing centres, joining up with health, wellbeing and voluntary sectors.
36. The health system was involved from the start, with discussions with the health system on creating systemic change through leisure services. This led to the creation of an Active Lifestyles Commissioning Group, including Public Health and the ICS, to create a vision for active wellbeing centres. Co-location pilots demonstrated the potential of this approach.
37. A new leisure provider, Serco Leisure, was appointed in February 2024 and took over management of leisure centres in April 2024. The Council and Serco Leisure will collaborate with the Oxfordshire health system to ensure the leisure facilities continue to support public health.

#### Parks Tennis

38. Our award winning and nationally recognised tennis programme, in partnership with Courtside (formerly Premier Tennis), is now attracting over 6,000 unique players to tennis in Oxford's parks. The programme generates significant social value at £336k p.a. including £89k improved health, £170k personal well-being and £77k community development.
39. Oxford's parks tennis courts draw people locally and from deprived areas, across both genders and all age groups; 85% of people do not play at any other tennis venue. 2023 saw the award of a new long term contract to Courtside with the aim to ensure sustainability and drive more participation.
40. More recently, we have worked closely with our partners at the Lawn Tennis Association and a number of other external funders to draw in over £1m of investment to resurface and improve the tennis courts in Botley and Hinksey Parks and a new community café and multi-use games area in Bury Knowle

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<sup>1</sup> Connect Health is a leading community services healthcare provider and the UK's largest musculoskeletal (MSK) and pain independent healthcare provider.

Park. We are now looking to link in strongly with health partners and social prescribers.

### **Health Inequalities, Housing and homelessness**

41. In 2023 the Council published its new Housing, Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy. This recognised the impact of poor quality housing on physical and mental health, and in particular the health impacts for people experiencing homelessness. The strategy outlined a commitment to prevent homelessness and adopt a rapid rehousing response.
42. The Out of Hospital Care (OOHC) Model has delivered significant results - at a system level and in terms of life-changing interventions for individuals:
  - Practically eliminating the practice of discharging to street - local authorities and homelessness services report that, whereas prior to OOHC it was usual for people to present unplanned from hospital, this now rarely happens.
  - Reducing emergency department attendances by 56% and emergency admissions by 26% over 12 months, for people using our Step Down service.
  - Breaking decades-long cycles of readmission to hospital - Mental Health inpatient teams report that patients discharged through OOHC do not return to hospital, which is not always the experience for those discharged to other types of accommodation.
  - 200 planned discharges from hospital; only one person returned to rough sleeping.
  - Over 100 people at imminent risk of losing their accommodation supported to maintain tenancies and avoid homelessness.
43. Our multidisciplinary approach has enabled us to meet multiple needs in an efficient, coordinated response - extracting the most value from opportunities to engage with people who may have experienced years of exclusion and developed a mistrust of services.
44. The programme has been evaluated by Kings College London (KCL) and London School of Economics (LSE). In one case alone, LSE established that our intervention had seen public spending reduce from £118,500 to £43,900 - a saving of £74,600 pa, with costs redistributed from Health, Care, Criminal Justice to Housing.
45. By taking our services to where they are needed - hospitals, outreach teams, hostels - we have been able to increase planned, elective interactions with mainstream services and reduced the number and frequency of crisis interventions, evictions and hospital admissions.
46. The OOHC team has led on measures to improve the management of complex cases and risk, at the heart of which has been our promotion of collective accountability and the sharing of information. We have been a key partner in refining the Homelessness Mortality Review process and are hosting the Making Every Adult Matter Coordinator - delivering key learning and recommendations to the Homelessness Directors Group.

47. In terms of the experience of the people using our service, the client evaluation carried out by KCL/LSE - with exit interviews conducted by people with lived experience - identified that:
- 100% reported being treated with dignity and respect
  - 95% reported being as involved in planning / decision making as they wanted to be
  - 95% reported improvement with their mobility
  - 90% reported improvement with their self care
  - 88% reported improvement in ability to carry out their usual activities
  - 83% reported improvement with their pain/discomfort
48. We are one of only three sites to have survived from the original OOHC project and ours is the only one to have scaled up significantly and effectively.
49. We are nation-leading in this field - our model was evaluated as being high performing and highly cost effective by KCL and LSE, and our work helped to shape the latest government discharge guidance and is cited in the recent Urgent and Emergency Care Recovery Plan.
50. We have been chosen as lead partners to work with LSE in developing a new data management tool that will enable improved management of services and smarter commissioning of resources and which is generating national interest. We have also been chosen to work with KCL on a two-year project looking at the use of the Mental Capacity Act in homelessness settings - again, this will ultimately inform government guidance and national practice.

### **Home Improvement Agency**

51. The Home Improvement Agency (HIA) has worked to improve the service it offers with an 'every visit counts' ethos. In addition to the Disabled Facility Grants (DFG) multiple types of assistance and options are continually updated, and a grant has been added to enable repairs to support hospital discharge or to enable a DFG eg. repairing dangerous wiring.
52. The HIA team won DFG Home Adaptations Service of the Year 2023 at the National Housing Awards. The judging panel agreed that the HIA delivered an exceptional DFG adaptations service that better the lives of many. Strategically, the team has worked hard to identify emerging needs of the Better Care Fund including innovative hospital discharge solutions, winter planning and reducing the risk of falls.
53. The team also received commendations of excellence in two other categories, for Sustainability in Home Adaptations and Housing Occupational Therapist of the Year.
54. The team has also harnessed technology to deliver its services, with a portal for social care colleagues to send adaptation and repair requests directly into the Case Manager system, and a further portal to enable partners and clients to also refer directly into Case Manager.
55. The team has also been active in key local partnerships including the Better Care Fund (BCF) Steering Group, and has taken a strategic role in these

meetings to agree the BCF priorities for spending. Insights from the BCF Falls Working Group has helped identify merging needs around hospital discharge, winter and planning and falls reduction.

56. Marketing and outreach is also essential to reaching clients. As well as local advertising campaigns, the team has attended faith meetings, community groups and foodbanks. Promotional material is prominent across local hospitals, and information sent via the hospital intranet reaches 30,000 health professionals. Clients, families and partner organisations can subscribe to an online newsletter for updates on the latest support.

### **Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health**

57. The Public Health England (PHE) Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health aims to facilitate local and national action around preventing mental health problems and promoting good mental health. It provides a focus for cross-sector action to deliver a tangible increase in the adoption of public mental health approaches.
58. Over the last year, due to the Council's involvement with the Mental Health Concordat Partnership, insight and opportunities from these meetings have been shared across the Council where they are relevant to their work.
59. The Community Champions and Community Health Development Officers are working with Anchor Organisations to develop a series of Men's Health Workshops to be held across the city for 2024-25.

### **Oxford City Council future focus**

60. The Council is a delivery partner for the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the associated Action Plan, which have both been noted by Council. There is a key focus on active lives for physical and mental health, as well as taking forward work that delivers on the enablers of health, notably around housing and the local economy.
61. The City Council is actively engaged with the new Policy Lab initiative from the two universities and the County Council. Projects will be identified for university researchers to apply the expertise to Local Authority policy issues across the county, with health as a key focus.
62. Health inequalities have been given greater prioritisation as part of the Corporate Strategy 2024-28 and the Thriving Communities Strategy 2023-27, and work to deliver on these priorities will be taken forward by the Community Services team and others across the council.
63. Establishing the new leisure partnership in the first year of the contract, to move leisure centres towards becoming active lifestyle centres. This includes work to improve the centres themselves and the range of opportunities offered within them.
64. Young people's physical and mental health, through brand new state of the art Youth Hub at the Leys Pool and Leisure Centre which will be a one-stop shop for accessing positive activities, advice, and guidance to improve outcomes for young people in relation to mental and physical wellbeing and skills for life and work.

### **Financial implications**



65. There are no financial implications for this report.

### **Legal issues**

66. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

### **Conclusion**

67. The Council has made a huge contribution to work related to health this past year across all service areas, in particular in shaping the county-wide Health and Wellbeing Strategy that gives strategic direction for health partnerships around prevention.

68. Teams within the Council have delivered outstanding results, with work being recognised by sector experts. The OOHC has been shown to deliver significant results and savings, and the work delivered by the HIA has been recognised in national awards. Physical activity programmes are delivering results and have secured further funding, and the investment secured for a Youth Hub at Blackbird Leys enables a new level of youth engagement and support.

69. The Council continues to play a key role in influencing through partnerships, focusing on prevention work and ensuring its services are aligned with those of other agencies around shared objectives.

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**Background Papers:** None

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