

Contact Officer: Jenny Bryce-Chan

## KIRKLEES COUNCIL

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

**Thursday 28th November 2024**

- Present: Councillor Beverley Addy (Chair)  
Councillor Carole Pattison  
Rachel Spencer-Henshall  
Carol McKenna  
Karen Jackson  
James Creegan  
Chief Supt Jim Griffiths  
Catherine Riley  
Alasdair Brown  
Warren Gillibrand
- In attendance: Alex Chaplin, Strategy & Policy Officer  
Cllr Jo Lawson, Chair of Health and Adults Scrutiny Panel  
Lucy Wearmouth, Head of Improving Population Health  
Chris Lennox, Interim Chief Operating Officer, South-  
West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust  
Steve Brennan, Kirklees Place Programme Director  
Hannah Morrison, Team leader, Planning Policy  
Jill Greenfield, Service Director, Service Director  
Communities and Access Services
- Apologies: Tom Brailsford  
Richard Parry  
Michelle Cross  
Stacey Appleyard  
Christine Fox  
Nicola Goodberry Kenneally  
Liz Mear  
Sean Rayner  
Len Richards  
Dr Vanessa Taylor

#### **1 Membership of the Board/Apologies**

Apologies were received from Tom Brailsford, Richard Parry, Sean Raynor, Len Richards, Nicola Goodberry Keneally, Stacey Appleyard, Christine Fox, Liz Mear and Vanessa Taylor.

Matt England attended as sub for Len Richards.  
Chris Lennox, attended as sub for Sean Raynor.

**2 Minutes of previous meeting**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024, be approved as a correct record.

**3 Declaration of Interests**

No interests were declared.

**4 Admission of the Public**

All agenda items were considered in public session.

**5 Deputations/Petitions**

No deputations or petitions were received.

**6 Public Question Time**

No public questions were asked.

**7 Kirklees Safe zones**

Chief Superintendent, James Griffiths, provided information regarding how and why Safe Zones were developed. He explained that the aim is for the Safe Zone logo to be seen at different places around Kirklees and encouraged Board members to look out for the logo.

In summary, the Board was informed that Safe Zones were developed in December 2019 and was borne out of a discussion as part of a focus group with young people from a school in Huddersfield as part of the former Kirklees Children's Safeguarding Board. The discussion focused on what they would like the police to do for them, and the response from one young person was "there is nowhere to go if you are feeling unsafe". Although things stalled as a result of the pandemic; it has now been picked up and is widely developed across Kirklees.

The ambition of Safe Zones is:

- to create a network of these safe places, where women and girls particularly, are provided with a place that they can use as a momentary retreat, although not solely just for women and girls, it did fit into the violence against women and girl's agenda.
- It can also be for vulnerable adults and for others who can use these areas if they feel unsafe. They just need to call in if they need some help, or if they are lost
- To work with partners sharing our knowledge and experience of the risks children and young people face. This was an opportunity to give people better training around risks.
- To ensure our Safe Zone partners feel confident in recognising, responding, and reporting safeguarding concerns.
- To support and empower partners to help keep all women and girls safe (Active Bystanders).

The Board was informed that West Yorkshire Police are committed to creating an environment where women and girls can feel safe within the county, free of fear and harassment. As part of the Force's commitment to reducing Violence Against

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Women and Girls, it has launched its Strategy, outlining how it intends to ensure that women and girls are safe and feel safe.

The three key priorities are:

- Pursuit of perpetrators,
- Creating safe spaces (in private, public, and online),
- Increasing trust and confidence in policing.

The Board was informed that in terms of how Safe Zones are trained, it involves explaining about the active bystanders, raising awareness, and looking at how Safe Zones are provided for women and girls in a complex world. It also includes the following:-

- Making sure that people understand and have an awareness of child exploitation both sexual and criminal exploitation, debunking some of the myths around county lines exploitation
- An awareness of grooming and that can include both grooming there and then, or non-recent grooming and how people may find that somewhere like a Safe zone may be the first place where they open up
- Knowing the signs across a whole range of incidents and crimes, and behaviour that people may suffer from, and the complexities of what stalking is and the differences between stalking and harassment
- Domestic abuse, a whole range of training around domestic abuse, from very early signs right through to controlling and coercive behaviour also learning from domestic homicide reviews
- Exploring the 'Safe Zone' process because it may not be right for everybody, for example, some people attend the training thinking that they might be able to run a Safe Zone and perhaps then realise it is not for them, as they may not be able to commit to it and decide to step away, which is also fine

In terms of what Safe Zones might be use for could include:

- Feeling Unsafe
- Being followed
- Lost
- Bullied
- Missing
- Violence Against Women and Girls (VWAG)

The Board was informed that there are different levels of support that individuals may find when they go into these Safe Zones. For example, a low need, may be someone who just needs momentary support, a friendly face, someone to talk to. A medium need may be where some assistance is required and those individuals may need signposting to some other safety point, some other place, or call in another agency. There is also an emergency response where there is a high need, an immediate threat, it is urgent and there is likely going to be a crime committed. The expectation would be that the individual in the Safe Zone would be ringing the police via 999, and the police would get to those people within 15 minutes which is a requirement

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Information was provided on what is expected from Safe Zones, as follows:

Record – Keep a log: note down details about Safe Zone visitors, action taken and any concerns (what did you noticed, name, time, description etc.).

Report- Share any concerns with as much information as you can recall about the Safe Zone visitor (name, age, others, threat, or patterns of behavior that concerned you).

Respond- Pass on information and concerns that you have witnessed. Become an active bystander.

The Board was informed that currently there are nearly 200 Safe Zones across Kirklees as follows:

- 38 Rural
- 43 Batley and Spen
- 50 Huddersfield
- 35 Dewsbury and Mirfield
- Libraries
- GP surgeries
- Pub chains
- Walksafe App – work is currently being undertaken with the Walksafe App, which will allow individual to locate a Safe Zone using the app.

In response to the information presented, the Board asked questions and made comment, including some of the following:

- How can people get involved, do they approach the police directly?
- There was a report on the BBC recently which was regard to “ask for Angela” scheme and how few pubs were aware of this even though they advertised it publicly. If organisations are signing up for Safe Zones, what do they need to do, bearing in mind staff turnover or the passage of time that they remain up to date in terms of all their staff knowing what is required?
- In terms of data, if people are recording the sort of things that are causing issues for people, how can that information be used to be more preventative which could then be used to get key messages out to communities, for example common themes. It would be useful to consider how this information can be shared in terms of the themes that emerge
- There is a role in this for the voluntary sector, third sector leader, Youth Alliance, the KAL sites they should all be signing up to Safe Zones
- From a social care perspective there are lots of buildings across Kirklees, such as care homes and wonder how some of those can be opened up to become much more integrated into the community and become Safe Zones
- Are there specific types of buildings that have not yet come on board, for example shops

**RESOLVED:**

That Chief Superintendent, James Griffiths, be thanked for providing an update on the Kirklees Safe zones; and that further information on how to sign up to Safe Zones be circulated to board members.

**8 A paper to Health and Wellbeing Board on the update of the Kirklees Local Plan**

Lucy Wearmouth and Hannah Morrison, provided the Board with an update on the Kirklees Local Plan, advising that in terms of the Local Plan, it is currently in the early engagement phase and there is still plenty of time to feedback through the process. The aim of the discussion at the Board is to enable members to find out more about the Local Plan, particularly if there has been no prior involvement and also to update Board members on how to can get involved.

In summary, The Board was reminded of the vision, priorities and ambition within the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy (KHWS) and that Healthy Places, which is one of the priorities in the KHWS, is an important theme within the Local Plan. The vision for the Healthy Places priority is: “The physical and social infrastructure and environment supports people of all ages who live, work or study in Kirklees to maximise their health opportunities and to make the healthy choice the easy choice”.

The Board was informed that there are strong connections between Planning, Public Health and Health, and referring to the presentation slide entitled how the planning system can support health outcomes, the Board was advised that a great deal of work has already been undertaken with colleagues from Planning.

The planning system can contribute towards improving the health and wellbeing of the Kirklees population in several ways, for example:

- The Local Plan through a spatial strategy which supports sustainable development and through planning policies which seek to support healthy placemaking, by promoting healthy and safe communities.
- Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) – this is guidance produced to support Local Plan policies and of specific reference to health includes: Hot Food Takeaway SPD and Open Space SPD.
- Health Impact Assessments as part of the determination of planning applications.

In reference to Hot Food Takeaways, the Board was informed that Public Health provide Planning with a tool which brings together a number of health indicators, which helps to understand health within a particular local area. For example, if an application for a new hot food takeaway is received, a postcode of where the takeaway intends to be located, allows information to show what is happening in the area, in terms of levels of obesity, cardiovascular disease and diabetes, things that have an impact on health and wellbeing, which are related to obesity. If an area hits a range of different indicators, the advice would be to carefully consider that application.

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The other aspect to bring to the Board's attention is health impact assessments, which is already taking place. When a new application for a major planning development within Kirklees is received, colleagues in the Public Health Team will assess the application, according to health. For example, does the planning application consider access to green spaces, is it considering the community around it, questions are also asked regarding air quality, a broad audit of the application is undertaken, and advice is given to the developers in order to improve health outcomes.

The Board was informed that in terms of the Kirklees Local Plan update, the current Local Plan was adopted in Feb 2019, with an update started in Nov 2023 following approval of Full Council. The reasons for the update are:

- is to ensure that the Local Plan aligns with revised national planning policy guidance.
- To align the Local Plan with new council priorities/strategies.
- To be more ambitious in the use of planning policy to support climate change ambitions.
- To update housing/employment requirements to meet the needs of Kirklees.

The Board was informed that one of the key roles of the Planning Policy Team is the production of up-to-date planning guidance, in the form of a Local Plan. The plan has several purposes including a vision for Kirklees, allocating land for development needs, in addition to identifying designation land to be protected for example, urban green space sites, local green spaces and core walking and cycling routes. The plan also provides a framework to guide decisions and planning applications. There are many elements that feed into the review of the Local Plan.

Guidance is provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), that is what policies in the Local Plan are based on. The guidance in the NPPF, is that the Local Plan should enable and support healthy lifestyles, through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

During the summer, the government consulted on an updated version of the NPPF. The chapter on promoting healthy and safe communities, there was no significant changes proposed to that chapter of the NPPF. The consultation has now closed, and the government is assessing the responses. The consultation asked the following question:

'How could national planning policy better support local authorities in (a) promoting healthy communities and (b) tackling childhood obesity?' The Council provided a response to the government on that question.

Early engagement has been opened on the Local Plan and through that engagement, views are being sought on whether health can form a golden thread throughout the plan, and in all policy considerations. It is important to ensure that the Local Plan aligns with the council's top tier strategies and the Local Plan will consider the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy when policies are being formulated.

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There are a number of health-related policies in the Local Plan, and as part of the update there is an opportunity to review the existing policies to include further or additional policies or guidance. As part of the update there is a requirement to gather an extensive evidence base. The Board was provided with information which outlined the Local Plan timetable, with a submission date to the Secretary of State in March 2027.

In response to the information presented, the Board asked questions and made comment, including some of the following:

- It is important to understand the impact on partners for example primary care in having a big new housing development and what that would mean in terms of practice population, and how the planning of that could be looked at going forward. This is an area that the Board might want to consider both in terms of public health prevention and the potential changes to services that might result from some of the proposals in the Plan. The Board would want a further conversation on understanding what that might do to the local landscape.
- A key focus should be ensuring there are preventative health and wellbeing measures in terms of housing development and how housing areas can be made as healthy as possible, by ensuring meaningful provision.
- Where would information be found to help understand how much of the Local Plan in 2019 had been actioned against what had been set out at that point?
- With regard to the hot food takeaways and health impact assessments against planning applications, is there any information to show if it actually makes any difference, and are there numbers of how many planning applications may have been turned down as a result of those impact assessments?

### **RESOLVED:**

That Lucy Wearmouth and Hannah Morrison be thanked for providing an update on the Kirklees Local Plan, and that a further update be provided at a future Board meeting.

## **9 Inclusive Communities Framework**

Jill Greenfield, Service Director, Community and Access Services, provided the Board with an update on the Inclusive Communities Framework (ICF), advising that it is one of the council's four top tier partnership strategies. Overall, it is a commitment to work better with communities and in order to achieve this there is a need to change the way things are done, it is a partnership commitment to be inclusive and to really focus on inclusion across the district. When the ICF was developed, it was undertaken in collaboration with a number of partners including the voluntary and community sector.

The Board was directed to the presentation slides, which outlined a refresh of the ICF, and advised that it is acknowledged that some people in the community do not

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always feel like they belong, and that what matters to them is not important to other people and they do not know how they can get involved in their communities.

The ICF offers an opportunity to give a framework to be able to create safer and more cohesive communities, to enable people to feel like they belong and that they can play a part. The focus is not on communities getting things done, the focus is on how organisations and institutions can work alongside communities.

The ICF has been designed to be used across the whole of Kirklees and it has been a challenge making it relevant to every organisation and particularly strategic partnerships. It offers a guide on how that can be done across services and partners, community groups and initiatives. It is important that there continues to be a focus on the best practice.

The ICF is made up of three guiding principles:

1. Belief - That communities have solutions to problems; they have skills and knowledge that organisations do not have.
2. Belonging - Building trust and promoting belonging in local places. People may be different, but they have shared interests and challenges.
3. Care - Care more about what communities' care about and showing this through action.

The ICF sets out five inclusive approaches:

### Connecting

Whether that is working in partnership with local people or creating more connections in and between communities.

### Communicating

Communicating more and better with communities.

### Equalising

Creating opportunities to work alongside local people sharing knowledge and resources.

### Trusting

Trusting communities more.

### Celebrating

Celebrating communities.

In terms of what the ICF has to do with the Kirklees Health and Wellbeing Strategy (KHWS), the Board was informed that, it is one of the key enablers for achieving the KHWS priorities around mental wellbeing, connected care and support, and healthy places. For mental wellbeing the ICF does support the idea of connecting with and giving to others. It is well evidenced around mental health in terms of life satisfaction being closely linked to social interaction and participation and that is a



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real part of the ICF to foster that social and community life pride in community and social connection. Healthy Places, ensuring that there are community activities and opportunities for people to be active, and to stay socially connected.

The work undertaken to date has been to co-produce the ICF, launch the toolkit and upload it to the website, carry out numerous briefings and conversations and attend a number of boards and asked people to undertake the self-assessment. There is an online platform where the self-assessments can be submitted, and the aim of the self-assessment is that this can become a dynamic framework and not a paper-based strategy.

After the first year of receiving the self-assessment information, the expectation is that this will provide the baseline for monitoring progress in subsequent years. It will also help to identify collective priorities. The framework is a guide to how things will be done. Work is being undertaken on the self-assessment tool to make it better.

The ICF can be worked with and help, and support is available to help organisations and partners work with this, and it can make the difference across Kirklees.

The following questions were posed to the Board:

- What is your role in implementing the ICF?
- How do you hold partners to account with the different initiatives that come to the Board, does the Board ask how are you assured that the ICF is supporting that?
- How can the Board use its influence with others to consider the ICF and how can the Board champion that?

It is more important than ever that there is an understanding of the lived experience of local communities, and there is an understanding to enable organisations to work alongside them in a way that matters to them and can co-create those solutions.

In response to the information presented, the Board asked a number of questions and made comment, including some of the following:

- What types of organisations have already signed up to this framework?
- It would be positive for an update to be provided to the Third Sector Leaders Board.
- Are Healthwatch connected into this work?
- That information on the ICF be circulated to Board members and will serve as a prompt for internal and external partners.

### **RESOLVED:**

That Jill Greenfield be thanked for providing an update on the Inclusive Communities Framework and that further information on the ICF be circulated to Board members.