

Staffordshire Health and Wellbeing Board – 08 September 2022

Healthy Start

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:

- a. Review the report and agree a way forward regarding the effective governance reporting for this work.

Background

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board has a priority 'Healthy Start' this priority seeks to improve health in pregnancy and infancy with a priority focus on reducing infant mortality.
2. This priority is one that features heavily across the partnership as the data for infant mortality is poor. Multiple boards have this as a priority including the Integrated Care System (ICS) Children & Young People's Programme Board, the Families Strategic Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board these partnership arrangements are complex and can be seen in Appendix 2.
3. Often this results in multiple reports being provided to multiple boards.
4. The Health and Wellbeing Board and other key partnerships agreed to support the partnership protocol. This sought to provide greater clarity on the lead partnerships for priorities and discussion with board chairs to enable collaboration and combined input.
5. This report therefore seeks a steer on where the priority for 'healthy start' is best placed to report.

Overview of the current governance arrangements

Health and Wellbeing Board

6. Ensuring a 'Healthy Start' is a priority for the Health and Wellbeing Board. How a 'healthy start' can be achieved is not outlined but as the current priority focusses on reducing infant mortality it has been requested that the Children's Public Health team report on progress.
7. The Families Strategic Partnership Board was established as a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board. This group was developed to raise

awareness and action in relation to the issues that impact on children, young people and families.

8. The priorities of the Families Strategic Partnership Board have always aligned with the Health and Wellbeing Board as such they have an Early Years Advisory Board which has a partnership plan to improve the outcomes in the Earliest Years of a child's life. This plan has a range of activities which have been and continue to be delivered to improve infant mortality.
9. This board report regularly to the Families Strategic Partnership Board on progress.
10. Regular reporting from the Families Strategic Partnership Board to the Health and Wellbeing Board has previously been delivered through an annual report. This has not happened since 2019/20.

The Integrated Care System

11. The Integrated Care Board has a Maternity Transformation Programme. The maternity transformation programme is a national programme based on the recommendations from the review (Better Births) of maternity services which has five priorities. One of their priorities is to improve the health and wellbeing of women and babies. This priority has a clear focus on infant mortality and the contributory factors that increase its prevalence.

Staffordshire Safeguarding Children's Board

12. The Local Safeguarding Board is required to make arrangements for Child Death Reviews.
13. The purpose of a review is to identify any matters relating to the death, or deaths, that are relevant to the welfare of children in the area or to public health and safety, and to consider whether action should be taken in relation to any matters identified. Responsible for reviewing information on all unexpected child deaths.
14. The Child Death Overview Panel regularly review infant deaths and provide information on modifiable factors, raise awareness of these issues and produce an annual report for child death review partners on local patterns and trends in child deaths, any lessons learnt, and actions taken, and the effectiveness of the wider child death review process in order to assist child death review partners to prepare their report.
15. There are clear links to infant mortality and the modifiable factors identified in this review process.

Current Challenges

16. There is a lack of clarity about the different roles of the Integrated Care System and the Health and Wellbeing Board and therefore the role and relationship between the boards on key priorities like this.

Potential Solution

17. Should this be a 'test' for the new partnership protocol and if so can the chair raise this as a priority area for discussion and agreement on the proposed lead board and seek agreement of how those with a stake seek assurance for example through an annual report. A business case regarding the development of a Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Infant Mortality Steering Group has already been presented at and endorsed by the ICS Children & Young People's Programme Board and the Maternity & Neonatal Partnership Board (of the Maternity Transformation Programme). Clarity is now required on which board this steering group is accountable to.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Appendix 1: Partnership Protocol

Appendix 2: Governance Map

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