

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Health & Wellbeing Board Minutes



Monday 23 June 2025

PRESENT

Committee Members

Councillor Alex Sanderson (Deputy Leader with responsibility for Children and Education)

Dr James Cavanagh (H&F GP)

Carleen Duffy (Healthwatch H&F)

Dr Nicola Lang (Director of Public Health)

Jacqui McShannon (Executive Director of People's Services)

Sarah Bright (Director of People's Commissioning, Transformation and Partnerships)

Susan Roostan (H&F ICB Borough Director)

Sue Spiller (Chief Executive Officer, SOBUS)

Nominated Deputy Members

Councillor Natalia Perez (Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Accountability Committee)

Councillor Helen Rowbottom (Chair of Children and Education Policy and Accountability Committee)

Nadia Taylor (Healthwatch, H&F)

Guests

Chris Miller (Chair of the North West London Child Death Overview Panel)

Navneet Willoughby (NHS)

Officers

David Abbott (Head of Governance)

Anna Carpenter (Head of Safeguarding)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Bora Kwon, Katharine Willmette, DCI Mark Staples, Caroline Farrar, and Toby Lambert.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES AND ACTIONS

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2025 were agreed as an accurate record.

4. BETTER CARE FUND (BCF) QUARTER 4 REPORT 2024-2025

Sue Roostan (H&F ICB Borough Director) and Sarah Bright (Director of People's Commissioning, Transformation and Partnerships) presented the Better Care Fund paper which set out the Council and the H&F Integrated Care Board quarter 4 report. She highlighted the underspend at the end of Quarter 4 of £385,993 and noted that two of the targets had not been achieved. The report had been submitted to NHS England on 6 June 2025.

RESOLVED

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board ratified the BCF end of year quarter 4 report for 2024-2025 (Appendix 1).
2. That the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health ratified an end of year report outlining the outcomes of each scheme and the difference it has made for residents of H&F.

5. PHARMACEUTICAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2025-28

NOTE: This item was given priority on the agenda to accommodate a guest presenter.

Dr Nicola Lang (Director of Public Health) presented the item that outlined the process of refreshing the borough's Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA), which assessed whether the current provision of pharmacies and the commissioned services they provided met the needs of local residents and whether there were any gaps.

Dr Lang noted the last PNA had been completed in 2022 and the process for this version was similar. The assessment would map current pharmaceutical services against local health needs, identify gaps in service provision, inform commissioning decisions and market entry for new pharmacies, and support service development to address local health priorities and reduce inequalities. The work would be done by the Council's Public Health and Business Intelligence teams, with some specialist work being done by a specialist third-party provider.

Councillor Natalia Perez asked how the recommendations in the 2022-2025 PNA fed into the process for this year's Assessment. Dr Lang said the key purpose was to look at how many pharmacies there were in the borough, what services they provided, and if they met the needs of NHS partners and the local population.

Councillor Perez noted that the last time this was discussed, provision in College Park and Old Oak ward was relatively low and asked if that would be addressed. Dr Lang said part of the Assessment would be looking at the distance to the nearest pharmacy for all residents in the borough to find gaps. She noted that the exercise carried out in 2022 showed the distribution of pharmacies met the distance requirements.

Councillor Helen Rowbottom asked about marketplace for pharmacies and their relationship with the Council and health services. Dr Lang said that, in recent years, some national pharmacy chains had been taken over by large multi-national corporations; however, there were still smaller providers in the market. She reported a constructive relationship with providers and noted that there was a local pharmaceutical committee which maintained a good dialogue with the Council and NHS partners. She said there had been some closures, but they were not worried at the moment. However, she also noted that there were ongoing issues around NHS funding for community pharmacies.

Susan Roostan (H&F ICB Borough Director) said the NHS had commissioned a range of services from community pharmacies and this had been enhanced since the Covid-19 vaccination roll-out. She said the PNA would show hotspots and gaps and said it would be linked back to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) to ensure even coverage.

Councillor Rowbottom asked how intelligence from community pharmacy was captured. Dr Lang said pharmacies used two main systems called Pinnacle and Sonar to keep records and they also interfaced with some of the Council's commissioning systems.

Councillor Perez asked how the patient's voice would be incorporated into the PNA process. Dr Lang said the PNA would go out to consultation for a long period and would be disseminated widely in a range of formats to encourage engagement. She noted that they tried to over-sample certain clients such as homeless people and drug and alcohol clients.

Sue Spiller (Chief Executive Officer, SOBUS) asked if there was any flexibility to tailor consultation questions to the local community. Dr Lang said there was a lot of flexibility and she was willing to work collaboratively on the questions. Carleen Duffy (Healthwatch H&F) noted that Healthwatch were also willing to be involved to help reach as many people as possible.

The Chair asked how the PNA was reviewed post publication and what, if anything, could trigger an early reassessment. Dr Lang said it was possible, if for example there were closures in areas with very sparse provision or significant reductions in provision.

RESOLVED

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board noted and commented on the approach.

Additional update item – Highlights from the People's Department

Jacqui McShannon (Executive Director of People's Services) gave a short presentation showcasing some recent highlights from the People's Department including Dementia Awareness Week, Parentsactive's 25th Birthday, Foster Care Fortnight, the Jack Tizard School installing 270 solar panels with H&F Community Energy, and an Insights Event on severe mental illness.

6. CHILD DEATH OVERVIEW PANEL NORTH WEST LONDON 2023-24 ANNUAL REPORT

Dr Nicola Lang (Director of Public Health) introduced the item. Chris Miller (Chair of the North West London Child Death Overview Panel) then gave a presentation summarising the findings and learning from the cases the North West London Child Death Overview Panel reviewed in Hammersmith and Fulham and North West London in 2023-24.

Chris Miller explained that the Child Death Overview Panel (CDOP) was a statutory entity, comprised of professionals who reviewed all child deaths to identify potential preventable factors and improve child health, safety, and well-being. The panel aimed to learn from these deaths to prevent future occurrences and ensure all children received the best possible care.

Chris Miller noted that there were around 140 child deaths a year in North West London, with the majority being those aged under 28 days due to perinatal or neonatal events, or chromosomal, genetic and congenital anomalies.

Councillor Helen Rowbottom asked about the common factors across deaths and if there was anything that could be done through research and development and commissioning to help mitigate them.

Chris Miller said it was a complex picture but there were some key areas such as whether the mother was vaccinated, whether there was mould and damp in the home, whether there was domestic abuse or neglect and on a safeguarding

pathway, and whether overweight mothers were on an aspirin pathway. Chris Miller felt that intensive work with communities in Lower Layer Super Output Areas could make a real difference. He highlighted the Pimlico Community Health Workers project which placed community nursing assistants in communities to act as a bridge between health workers and residents. They visited people in their homes and could support people proactively when needed. The project had reduced instances of strokes, heart attacks, and emergency service attendance. He said the Panel were interested in working with them.

Councillor Rowbottom said her other role was as H&F Industrial Strategy Ambassador and she wanted to use the research and development engine in the borough to improve local people's lives. Chris Miller said he was interested in having a longer conversation about the opportunities in this area.

ACTION: Councillor Rowbottom to discuss opportunities with Chris Miller

Councillor Natalia Perez referred to the recommendation around interpreting services and asked how the implementation of recommendations to other organisations was tracked and followed up. Chris Miller said recommendations were acted on – in the case of interpreters, NHS Trusts were well aware of the issue and had put a range of measures in place but in emergencies medical professionals sometimes had to rely on translations from friends or family.

Sue Spiller (Chief Executive Officer, SOBUS) asked if there was data showing cause of death broken down by ethnicity that could be used to inform preventative information and guidance. Chris Miller said that information was available, though he noted that ethnicity data was often not specific enough for very targeted information campaigns.

Anna Carpenter (Head of Safeguarding) noted that themes from the Panel were fed through to the Local Safeguarding Children Partnership which led to awareness campaigns around the relevant child safety issues.

The Chair thanked Chris Miller, officers, and members of the Board for their contributions.

RESOLVED

1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board noted the findings of the North West London CDOP 2023-24 report.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

The item was noted.

8. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The following dates of future meetings were noted:

- 10 September 2025
- 3 December 2025
- 18 March 2026
- 22 June 2026

Meeting started: 6.31 pm

Meeting ended: 7.44 pm

Chair

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