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**ACTIVE, CONNECTED AND PROSPEROUS BOARD**

MEETING, 28<sup>th</sup> JULY, 2020

In Attendance

Councillor Greenhalgh – Leader of Bolton Council

Councillor Baines – Bolton Council

Councillor Peel – Bolton Council

Mr T. Oakman – Chief Executive, Bolton Council

Mr. D. Singleton – Bolton Vision

Mr. W. Bhatiani – Chair of Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group

Ms. C. Norman – Chair of Bolton Community Homes Partnership

Mr. I. Ismail – Chair of Bolton CVS

Mr. D. Knight – Chief Executive, Bolton CVS

Mr. R. Gauld – Chief Executive, The Octagon Theatre, Bolton

Mr. J. Fawcett – Bolton Health Watch

Mr. P. Mason – Bolton Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

Mr. D. Bagley – Bolton Voluntary and Community Sector Forum

Ms. N. Sharpe – Bolton at Home

Ms. S. Long – Accountable Officer, Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group

Ms. R. Tanner – Director of Adult Services, Bolton Council and Managing Director of the ICP

Mr. G. Gallagher – Head of Service, Policy - Performance & Communications, Bolton Council

Mr. M. Kane – Corporate Manager - Performance & Partnerships, Bolton Council

Ms. P. Applegate - Department for Work & Pensions (DWP)

Ms. L. Donkin - Assistant Director of Public Health, Bolton Council (Deputising for Helen Lowey, Director of Public Health, Bolton Council)

Ms. S. Bradshaw – Democratic Services, Bolton Council

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of;  
Canon Rev Dr. C Bracegirdle - Bolton Faith Leaders Forum

Mr. B. Webster - Bolton College

Dr. H Lowey - Director of Public Health, Bolton Council

Mr. J. Lord - Chief Executive of Bolton at Home

Councillor Greenhalgh and Mr. D. Singleton in the Chair.

#### 1. Welcome from the Chair

Councillor Greenhalgh, Chairman, opened the first meeting of the Active, Connected and Prosperous Board by welcoming all members and including a vote of thanks to all Partners who had played a part in the response to the Covid-19 pandemic emergency in Bolton.

A one minutes' silence followed in remembrance of those who had tragically lost their lives to the virus.

#### 2. Understanding the ACP Board Landscape:

a. The Chair was handed over to Mr. D. Singleton to provide a brief introduction to the development of the of the ACP Board in Bolton.

- The Active, Connected and Prosperous Board was founded (in shadow form) in January 2020 when the Vision Steering Group was joined with the statutory requirements regarding Health and Wellbeing.
- He noted that the Vision Steering Group was overseeing a strategic vision to 2030 that supported an Active, Connected and Prosperous borough.

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- The partnership including the council expected to be the enabler of change in respect of wellbeing, economy, and health for the borough.
- Among the change drivers identified were the maximising of assets, behavioural change, and an ability to engage and empower.
- Seven Thematic Task and Finish Groups; Active and Confident, Strong, and Engaged, Neighbourhood Models, Economic Prosperity, Social Value, Big Up Bolton and Skills and Aspirations were set up to align the vision to Bolton Council's Corporate Plan 2019-21 and the plans of the council's key partners. This in turn was aligned with Greater Manchester Strategy.
- The Thematic Groups report into the Vision Action Group monthly and will report into the Active, Prosperous and Economic Board on a quarterly basis.

b. The Chairman handed over to Bolton Council's Assistant Director of Public Health to provide an update on understanding the local impact of Covid-19.

- The direct and indirect impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic were noted together with the 'real potential for this to further amplify inequalities.

c. Updates were given by the Vision Thematic Leads:

The Chief Executive of the Octagon Theatre represented the Active and Confident Group, which has a remit to encourage people to be active and confident via creative and physical activities.

- Cultural regeneration via sport and general activities was required post Covid-19 to maintain the economy and cultural sector within Bolton.

## EE4

- Annual visitor numbers to Bolton's museum were some 1.2 million.
- The film festival will still take place but will be delivered online this year.
- The Octagon Theatre was re-opening later in the year.
- There was a hope for investment for the town centre to develop transformational activities.
- Regarding wellbeing, the Board were informed that a successful local pilot was being undertaken with two cohorts of 50 participants. The first would be those people who were already active and the second for those who were less active.
- Obesity was already being considered by national government and the Active and Confident Group intended to also look at this issue in more detail.

The Chief Executive of Bolton CVS addressed the meeting on behalf of the Social Value Group. The vision was for there to be a good engagement with local communities; the wider impacts of which related to social, environmental, and economical issues.

- Positive actions surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic in respect of social value centred around health, employment, and the economy.
- The new ways of working were significant to the vision of the Group.
- Financial grants had been established and goods, money and equipment had been donated by businesses. All of which would be utilised within Bolton.
- The social value challenge work had largely been suspended because of the pandemic across the public, private and volunteer sectors. It was anticipated this would recommence in September.
- It was vital that Bolton money remained within Bolton.

## EE5

Feedback from the Neighbourhood Models Group was presented by the Chair of Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group.

- Rachel Tanner was now in situ as the Managing Director of the ICP which was a key vehicle for delivery.
- Work was being undertaken to appoint an Independent Chair to the.
- The ICP connected the Covid-19 helpline and neighbourhood discharge hub.
- The neighbourhood model had been rapidly implemented to help communities with the issues faced because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- An integrated offer had been made with care homes.
- There was compelling evidence surrounding the impact of Covid-19 on both physical and mental health which also required great consideration.

Penny Applegate of the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) advised the Board on the progress made by the Skills and Aspirations Group. The Group consisted of representation from Bolton College, the Chamber of Commerce, Bolton at Home, the DWP and Bolton Council.

- The Group recognised that a key priority was digital inclusion. It was anticipated that this could be considered by the group in September.
- There was a great crossover between this Group and the Prosperity Group with whom greater links were being formed.
- The DWP had a huge agenda with an excess of seven million claims resulting from the pandemic.
- People had experienced severe disruption to their lives and career because of Covid-19.
- A youth hub was being set up to support young people together with other national initiatives including £2million of kick start funding, an expanded youth offer for 18-24-year olds, a flexible support fund and extra work coaches.
- Bolton at Home together with Bolton Council would make best use of the available funding.

## EE6

- There was a requirement to engage residents to participate and help support the new initiatives and to address people getting back to work.

The Chief Executive of Bolton Council addressed the Board as the Thematic Lead for the Big Up Bolton Group. The purpose of the Group was to promote and market Bolton to both private and public partners.

- A positive meeting had been held with Marketing Manchester to achieve an overarching narrative for live, visit, invest, study and work within Bolton.
- Storyboards were being prepared to promote Bolton.
- Thanks were given to all the partners and the Board advised that any contributions should be provided to Nicola Littlewood in the council.

Due to technical issues, the Strong and Engaged Group and the Economic Prosperity Group were unable to be represented at the meeting. It was agreed that information would be received from the Groups to be fed back to the attendees of the meeting.

Following the presentations, questions were taken from the attendees.

Councillor Peel noted that the Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the workstreams and queried whether priorities would change as a result.

Dave Singleton, Chairman, advised that the Action Groups had reacted strongly and positively, and the pandemic had amplified what the Groups set out to achieve.

The Chief Executive of Bolton Council echoed the Chairman's response advising that the pandemic had accelerated some things with people working more flexibly and creatively. The plans for Bolton were sustained but may be reviewed. There

would be continued investment in business to work with partners. The Groups would continually review, undertake process evaluations, and moderate what they did.

The Leader confirmed to the Board that whilst Covid-19 had a huge impact, it had shown up the inequalities and how to address these. It was vital to prioritise and measure any outcomes. It was noted that there had been good news as regards the digitalisation agenda, however this also provided challenges in respect of inequality as an example. Some services had found the lack of face to face interactions difficult. The focus was on how to work efficiently with homeworking noted to have a positive environmental impact. The Integration Agenda had also been pushed to the fore as Social Care was now held up with the NHS where it belonged.

Charlie Norman, Chair of Bolton Community Homes Partnership observed that working skills and mental health especially in young people had been impacted by the pandemic. Economic, education and employment issues needed to be considered together with whether SEND children had especially been impacted. The economy was linked to the Kick-Start and Apprenticeship programmes and work needed to be done on this.

This was echoed by the Assistant Director of Public Health for Bolton Council who acknowledged that the Covid-19 impact on children's wellbeing was significant. The Children and Young People's Board was a key link to the skills and aspirations of the Active Connected and Prosperous Board.

Penny Applegate of the DWP advised that the hub being set up for young people was a huge agenda and the inclusion of a Mental Health Partner would be welcomed.

The Leader of Bolton Council advised that the Groups feeding into the Active Connected and Prosperous Board needed a youth voice with life experience.

Resolved – That the updates be noted.

### **3. Bolton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Leadership Group**

The Leader of Bolton Council chaired this section of the meeting.

The Assistant Director for Public Health at Bolton Council advised the Board of the following:

- The establishment of a Leadership Group had been postponed due to Covid-19. A new date to meet was arranged for September 2020, to be jointly chaired by Councillor Baines the Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing and Mel McGuinness. The CCG and Local Authority would bear joint responsibility.
- A strong, solid evidence-based data was essential.
- The JSNA needed to be a accessible and usable statutory function with a collective understanding across all partners.
- Work had not ceased, and the website had been populated with core data relating to key statistics for People, Place and Health.
- One responsibility was a statutory Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment ensuring the needs of the local population were being met.
- A Covid-19 resource page comprising of data and analysis from Bolton Council and the NHS supporting the response, recovery and beyond was available.
- Focussed data relating to ethnic groups, disadvantages and inequalities and the impact on communities.
- Daily Covid-19 data updates.
- The website was freely available to all. The data could assist with bids for funding.

Comments were made by the Leader of Bolton Council praising the fantastic piece of work undertaken by the Public Health Directorate.

The Chief Executive of Bolton Council echoed the Leader's comments stating this would be a valuable tool for other Partners to also utilise.

Jim Fawcett, Bolton Health Watch, offered their intelligence reports to be included within the JSNA. This was actively welcomed by the Assistant Director of Public Health who encouraged all Partners to contribute.

The Chair of Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group observed the impact Covid-19 had on inequality. More data was required on ethnicity focussing on how that was utilised both at population and individual levels. It was key in moving forward for ICP work in the neighbourhoods to use data at community level.

Councillor Baines informed the Board that there was no data regarding the physiological effects on the survivors of Covid-19. Many sufferers had lost the confidence to move forward and re-join society in a valuable way. Data would be shared nationally.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

#### **4. Bolton's Fund**

The Chief Executive of Bolton CVS provided the Board with an update on Bolton's Fund which commenced in 2019 with an initial £2million donation from Bolton Council.

- The Bolton Fund was delivered through Bolton CVS.
- Grants ranged from £1,500 to £100,000.
- Grant decisions were made by the community with Assessors distributing the fund correctly.
- A Resilience Fund was set up in April 2020. 86 applications had been received with a 69% success rate.

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- 59 groups and organisations had been supported by the Fund.
- 59,000 hours of volunteering had been contributed.
- £270,000 was committed to children's funding.
- Bolton CCG had committed to add £200,000 to the fund on a recurring annual basis.
- The Bolton Fund aligned to the vision priorities.
- Digital inclusion had been identified as a key priority within volunteer groups. Funding needed to be aligned with this together with assistance from Partners.
- Barriers to access funding would be removed by introducing video and audio applications rather than just being paper based.

The Leader of Bolton Council commented that the Bolton Fund would join up with the JSNA to enable better funding decisions.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

### **5. Bolton's Covid-19 Outbreak Plan Overview including Governance and Engagement**

The Assistant Director for Public Health at Bolton Council gave a presentation on the Covid-19 Outbreak Plan.

- The number of cases had dropped and plateaued, but the virus remained.
- Monitoring of the infection rate and potential for the spread of the virus needed to be managed.
- The Outbreak Control Plan set out how TTCE would be used locally. Test – increase availability / speed of testing; Trace – identify and alert; Contain – use of data to understand the spread risk; Enable – improve knowledge to inform decisions.
- Community engagement in respect of contact tracing was being bolstered.
- Data analysis and intelligence to address the transmission events was part of the plan.

## EE11

- The focus was placed on certain settings such as schools and care home, etc. noted as being high risk places within the community.
- Proactive measures such as webinars for care homes and advice to schools / early years settings was being provided.
- Mapping of key contacts.
- Regular contact between businesses and environmental health.
- Priority testing for essential workers.
- Whole care home testing.
- Communications and engagement – key messages via local channels; clear outbreak plan amongst key stakeholders; rapid response in event of local outbreak.
- Weekly schedule for communications and public health messages.

The Chair of Bolton Clinical Commissioning Group advised the Board of the steps being taken;

- VCSE webinars.
- Development and engagement work with local faith communities;
- Work to address the impact on young people and children was ongoing and
- Network of Community Champions established.
- Work was being done with BAME and deprived communities.
- Good work had been done with risk assessments in hospitals and primary care settings.
- Risk reduction in communities especially those disproportionately affected.
- BAMER Alliance established – Bolton CVS, Bolton Council, CCG, Public Health, NHS Foundation Trust; Bolton at Home; Bolton College / University.
- Communities to work together and protect themselves.

The Chief Executive of Bolton CVS stated:

- People were the biggest asset to influence change.
- Need to understand community networks and build Community Champions.

The Assistant Director of Public Health at Bolton Council concluded that:

- The active sharing of the Outbreak Control Plan was to prepare for any scenarios and move to introduce measures if required.
- An exercise had been undertaken working through scenarios of the outbreak response.
- Proactive and reactive situation specific messaging for the public was being undertaken.
- Build trust and respect in Track and Trace and keep the message going over an extended period.

Councillor Peel questioned the ability to engage if people were uncooperative, stating this was the biggest challenge. There was a fear people were returning to normal and not obeying the rules for containing the virus.

The Leader of Bolton Council agreed that the slides from the meeting would be available to attendees. The blasé approach by a certain cohort was worrying and there remained a need to get the messages out. The toxic mix of the blasé cohort combined with the vulnerable cohort was concerning when the two groups began to come together.

Resolved – That the update be noted.

(The meeting started at 9:00am and finished at 10:55am)