

Minutes of: HEALTH and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting: 11 November 2025

Present: Councillor T Tariq (in the Chair)
Councillors S Arif, E FitzGerald and J Southworth

Also in attendance:

Public Attendance: No members of the public were present at the meeting.

Apologies for Absence: Councillor L Smith, Councillor S Walmsley, Councillor T Pilkington and Councillor A Arif

HWB.122 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence are noted above.

HWB.123 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor E Fitzgerald, declared a declaration of interest in relation to the culture strategy update

HWB.124 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions asked at the meeting.

HWB.125 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was agreed:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 4th September 2025 be approved as a correct record.

HWB.126 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

HWB.127 WIDER DETERMINANTS OF POPULATION HEALTH

a PUBLIC SECTOR LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE

Chris Woodhouse provided an update on the evolving approach to neighbourhood working in Bury, which is central to the *Let's Do It* strategy.

The model focuses on integrating five neighbourhoods through multi-disciplinary teams, improving collaboration between public sector, health, and VCFE partners. Work is underway to build on existing teams, create specific neighbourhood structures, and strengthen networks to improve access for communities.

Key priorities include targeting high-demand cohorts, early intervention, and using data triangulation from active casework and neighbourhood priority meetings to deliver tailored

support. Examples of current initiatives include the Family Hub in Redvales and local responses to issues such as substance misuse in Radcliffe and social isolation in Whitefield.

The discussion highlighted opportunities for co-production with the voluntary sector and the need for intentional collaboration across partners. Members raised questions on data use, health spend integration, and how to address emerging issues such as cuckooing, which will return to the Board in a future meeting.

The PSLT will continue to take stock of progress under challenging conditions, expand work in schools, and strengthen links with the Live Well agenda and PSR Steering Group. Bury's locality model was noted as a national example of good practice, and future updates will focus on neighbourhood working outcomes and targeted interventions.

It Was Agreed:

- Report be noted

HWB.128 THE OPERATION OF THE HEALTH AND CARE SYSTEM

a SAFEGUARDING ANNUAL REPORT

This item was deferred to the next meeting in January 2026

b BCF QUARTER 2 UPDATE

Adrian Crook Director of Community Commissioning provided the Quarter 2 update on the Better Care Fund (BCF), a statutory pooled budget between the NHS and the Council aimed at reducing hospital and residential admissions. Bury has met its targets, achieving reductions in admissions and remaining below the threshold for residential placements. The report includes 31 graphs, with page 32 confirming that spending is on track. Performance for over-65s is strong, with Bury ranked as the fourth-best hospital in Greater Manchester, and the BCF has been a significant enabler of proactive care. Improvements have also been noted in the length of time people spend in care homes, with better outcomes compared to last year.

Members discussed whether the BCF has addressed health inequalities and the flexibility of spending within the fund. Adrian Crook confirmed that spending must align with national targets and policy reviews, with updates expected at the end of November. Questions were raised about long-term admissions and data accuracy, with clarification that figures have improved and remain above average compared to previous years. It was noted that care homes are not inherently negative, and the focus remains on balancing admissions with quality care. Future updates will consider the impact on health inequalities and long-term sustainability.

It Was Agreed

- Update be noted
- The Health and Wellbeing Board Endorse the Better Care Fund

HWB.129 BEHAVIOUR AND LIFESTYLE DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

HWB.130 OBESITY AND HEALTHY WEIGHT UPDATE

Lee Buggie provided an overview of the obesity and healthy weight agenda item, highlighting the complex and multi-faceted causes including genetics, environment, access to green spaces, and food advertising. A whole-system approach is being adopted, with prevention strategies and school-based interventions such as the Daily Mile, PE clubs, and active travel initiatives. Current data shows 22.6% obesity prevalence in Reception and 38.8% in Year 6, with significant inequalities across wards.

Childhood obesity has risen nationally from 17% to 21% (2019–2024), and Bury ranks 13th among large authorities. Adult obesity remains high, with only a small proportion meeting dietary recommendations. Tier 3 specialist weight management pathways are under pressure, with 16,000 people on waiting lists across GM.

The Board discussed the need for a local obesity working group, prevention from pre-birth, and tailored strategies for different neighbourhoods. Members stressed the importance of co-production, early intervention, and addressing stigma, particularly in deprived and diverse communities. Links were made to wider public health priorities, including diabetes in South Asian communities and the first 1001 days of life. Initiatives such as the *Let's Get Bury Moving* strategy, school catering achieving Food for Life Gold, and VCFE engagement were noted. A future update will return with proposed principles and a locality-wide approach to reducing obesity and improving healthy weight outcomes.

It Was Agreed:

- Update be Noted

HWB.131 THE EFFECT OF PLACE AND COMMUNITY ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING

a CULTURE STRATEGY UPDATE

Jackie Veal provided an update on Bury's Culture Strategy, originally launched in 2023 following its designation as the first Town of Culture in 2020–21. The strategy runs until 2026 and aligns closely with the *Let's Do It* approach, focusing on five key pillars and collaboration with creative practitioners to drive economic growth and community engagement. A refresh of the strategy is planned, supported by Arts Council feedback and upcoming funding opportunities in April. To date, over £500,000 investment has supported initiatives such as Crucial Crew and strengthened connections with diverse communities.

The update highlighted the emerging Creative Health Strategy, which integrates arts and culture into health and wellbeing, supported by evidence from the World Health Organization. Examples include social prescribing programmes, art and music therapy, and cultural events to tackle social isolation. Work is underway to map community spaces and explore funding streams to sustain activity. Members agreed that cultural engagement is a vital component of health improvement and endorsed continued development of the strategy, including co-design with partners and links to Live Well and VCFE networks.

It Was Agreed:

- Update be noted

HWB.132 GM POPULATION HEALTH BOARD FEEDBACK

There was no update at this meeting

HWB.133 URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

COUNCILLOR T TARIQ
Chair

(Note: The meeting started at 4.30 pm and ended at 6.30 pm)