

Public Document Pack
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Health & Wellbeing Board

Date: Tuesday, 5th March, 2024

Time: 5.00 pm

Place: Committee Room 1

Contact: Robert Harris

Email: committeesection@southend.gov.uk

A G E N D A

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Declarations of Interest**
- 3 **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 14th December 2023** (Pages 3 - 6)
- 4 **New SEE Alliance Director, Rebecca Jarvis**
Welcome and introduction
- **** **For Decision**
- 5 **Health Protection Updates** (Pages 7 - 10)
Report of Director of Public Health
- **** **For Discussion**
- 6 **Options for the Procurement of Domestic Abuse Services** (Pages 11 - 18)
Report of Domestic Abuse Strategy and Commissioning Manager
- 7 **A Better Start Southend Progress Update** (Pages 19 - 30)
Joint report of the ABSS Chair and Director
- 8 **Feedback from the HWB Informal Session held on 23rd January 2024**
Presentation slides to follow
- 9 **Forward Plan 2024/25** (Pages 31 - 32)
Draft Forward Plan
- **** **For Information**
- 10 **Social Prescribing Link Workers Annual Report** (Pages 33 - 40)
Report of Director of Public Health

This page is intentionally left blank

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

Meeting of Health & Wellbeing Board

Date: Tuesday, 12th December, 2023
Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite

3

Present: Councillor J Moyies (Chair)
Councillors H Boyd, M Davidson, A Jones and M Sadza
H Patel (Vice-Chair), M Harvey, O Richards, M Eni-Oluto, N Thomas,
R Davis, A Quinn, M Marks.

In Attendance: R Harris, Dr S Morris and G Halksworth

Start/End Time: 5.00 pm - 6.50 pm

23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from M Atkinson, C McCarron, J Gardner, K Ramkhelawon and Councillor Mulroney (no substitute).

24 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.

25 Public Questions

The Board was informed that the public question was submitted to the meeting of the Board in June. However, the answer required additional information from external organisations, namely the SEE Alliance and the answer should have been provided and included on the Health and Wellbeing Board Agenda on 6th September.

The Chair read out the question and the response.

26 Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 6 September 2023

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 6 September, be confirmed as a correct record.

27 Southend Strategic Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report

The Board considered a joint report of the Executive Director (Adults and Communities) and Executive Director (Children and Public Health) presenting the Southend Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2022/23.

The Board asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the Southend Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report 2022/23, be noted.

28 Slipper Swap Project

The Board received a powerpoint presentation from the Executive Director (Adults and Communities) presenting an overview of the SEE Alliance Falls Prevention Programme, Slipper Swap project.

The Board asked questions which were responded to by officers. The Board commended the success of the project, the significant difference it has made to people's quality of life and the opportunities for broader partnership involvement in the future.

Resolved:

That the presentation on the Slipper Swap project, be noted.

29 A Better Start Southend Update

The Board considered a joint report of the Independent Chair and Director, A Better Start Southend (ABSS) presenting an update on key developments since the meeting of the Board held on 6th September 2023.

The Board asked questions which were responded to by the Independent Chair.

Resolved:

1. That the submitted report, be noted.

2. That the distinct work relating to the below areas, be noted:

(a) Now: Continued delivery of projects.

(b) Next: Preparation for contract and grant end, and legacy initiatives.

(c) Beyond 2025: Discussion regarding project and service sustainability.

30 JSNA - Housing and Health

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director (Children and Public Health) presenting the Housing and Health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Board asked questions which were responded to by officers.

Resolved:

That the Housing and Health JSNA be published and added to the SmartSouthend platform.

31 Health Inequalities Insights

The Board received a powerpoint presentation from Dr Sophia Morris, System Clinical Lead for Health Inequalities, presenting an overview of the MSE ICP strategic approach to health inequalities and the improvement activity across the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Partnership, with a focus on the SEE Alliance.

The Board asked questions which were responded to by officers and health colleagues.

Resolved:

That the health inequalities insights presentation, be noted.

32 Smoking Cessation and Vaping in Southend-on-Sea

The Board considered a report of the Executive Director (Children and Public Health) presenting proposed plans to support a further reduction in the prevalence of smoking and vaping in Southend.

Resolved:

1. That the local priorities for smoking cessation and vaping, be endorsed.
2. That the Southend Smoking Cessation and Vaping Action Plan, be endorsed.
3. That a Smoking Cessation and Vaping Working Group be established, in conjunction with Regulatory Services and the Youth Council, to progress the Action Plan.

33 SETDAP Minutes held 27th April 2023

The Board received the minutes of the SET Drug and Alcohol Partnership held on 27th April 2023, for information.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the SET Drug and Alcohol Partnership held 27th April 2023, be noted.

34 Health Protection Update

There were no health protection updates to report at this meeting.

35 Community Diagnostic Centre Update

There was no further update at this stage concerning the Community Diagnostic Centre.

36 Appointment of new SEE Alliance Director

The Board noted that Rebecca Jarvis had been appointed as the new Director of SEE Alliance Director.

Chair: _____

This page is intentionally left blank

Meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board
Date: Tuesday 5 March 2024
Classification: Part 1
Key Decision: No
Title of Report: Health Protection Oversight in Southend on Sea.

Executive Director: Michael Marks, on behalf of Krishna Ramkhelawon (Director of Public Health)
Report Author: Dr Margaret Eni-Olotu, Public Health Consultant
Executive Councillor: Councillor James Moyies

1. Executive Summary

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, two sub-committees, namely the Health Protection Board and the Health Protection Oversight & Engagement Board, were established for local governance for all Health Protection matters in Southend.

Since 1st April 2013, the Council, through the Director of Public Health (DPH), has been devolved the statutory responsibilities to advise on and promote local health protection plans across agencies, which complements the statutory responsibilities of UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA – previously known as Public Health England), NHS England (NHSE) and the local NHS and the Mid and South Essex's Integrated Care Board (MSE ICB – previously Southend CCG).

The purpose of this report is to inform the Board that this statutory responsibility will be maintained through the DPH, in collaboration with UKHSA, and the Council's Chief Executive and Cabinet. We are proposing to initiate a joint surveillance and advisory group in partnership with our neighbouring Councils, namely Essex County Council and Thurrock Council. The group will be led by experienced Public Health Consultants and supported by key local partners, including the NHS (ICB and Providers) and UKHSA.

Decisions about the robust public health response to health protection matters is the responsibility of the DPH, in consultation with Southend-on-Sea City Council's Chief Executive Officer and the respective portfolio holder in the Cabinet.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Health and Wellbeing Board discuss and provide their endorsement for this collaborative approach to Health Protection surveillance and advice, to support the DPH in discharging its statutory function.

3. Background

Two Southend-centric Boards were formed at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 and each had distinct roles and responsibilities:

Southend Health Protection Board (HPB) - It was set up in March 2020 as a multi-agency senior executive Board to facilitate information sharing, planning and emergency response across the system and in response to the COVID 19 Pandemic outbreak.

The Health Protection Oversight and Engagement Board (O&EB) - This provided political ownership and leadership and public-facing engagement and communication for outbreak response and responsible for scrutiny and assurance.

These two were subgroups of the Southend's Health and Wellbeing Board and both were supported :

- **UKHSA and the Health Protection Team** - they provided expertise in communicable disease control, epidemiology and outbreak management, while also acting as the conduit with the regional and national advice and support teams.
- **Essex LRF Strategic Co-ordinating Group** - the Southend Health Protection Board also worked with the Essex Resilience Forum to support with co-ordination, across Greater Essex and for a direct link into national government.

In March 2022, at the bequest of the Director of Public Health, the HPB **and** the Health Protection Oversight and Engagement Board unanimously approved that the two Boards will continue to operate as an established governance for all Health Protection matters in Southend and this was endorsed by the Southend Health and Wellbeing Board in June 2022.

In February 2023, the Health Protection Operational Group (HPOG) was formed to manage the response to a wider range of health protection issues. As a result, the HPB stopped meeting and agreed key decisions virtually for the HPOG to implement. All localised outbreaks are managed through an Incident Management Team meeting, led by the UKHSA.

In December 2023 – it was felt in light of re-emerging infectious diseases such as Measles, there was a need for better collaboration and partnership working across

the Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Councils, as we share same resources such as support from UKHSA and the MSE ICB.

The purpose of the health protection surveillance and advisory group (the final naming of this group will be agreed in March) is to bring focused attention to health protection issues of concern with a view to inform the respective Directors of Public Health of any local action needed to reduce risks and improve outcomes for residents. It is expected that most time will be focused on issues such as infectious disease outbreak, anti-microbial resistance, health care associated infections and improving the uptake of immunisation and screening programmes.

4. Reasons for Decisions

- 4.1. The 3 Health Protection Boards across SET, their partners, UKHSA, the MSE ICB are committed to working together in protecting our residents through active surveillance and being data driven, thereby developing a more effective and strong leadership forum for information sharing and planning between public agencies that have responsibilities for health protection across SET.

5. Other Options

Retaining the Southend HPB - We feel that this will cause duplication in terms of attendance from partners as limiting our ability to co-ordinate surveillance and response more effectively.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. No additional financial or resource implications . It will lead to improved efficiency

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report, with no changes to the DPH's statutory responsibilities.

8. Policy Context

- 8.1 Whilst the health protection function is a statutory responsibility, there are no emergent expectations on members of the Health and Wellbeing Board in the local responses. Where necessary, the DPH will seek support OR provide assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

9. Carbon Impact

- 9.1. There are no carbon impact implications from this report.

10. Equalities

This approach will serve the entire Southend population with an additional focus in reducing inequalities and protect the health of our most vulnerable citizens, tourists and students through preventative programmes.

10.1.

11. Consultation

11.1. Not required

12. Appendices

12.1. None

13. Report Authorisation

This report has been approved for publication by:		
	Name:	Date:
S151 Officer	Joe Chesterton	26/02/2024
Monitoring Officer	Susan Zeiss	n/r
Executive Director(s)	Michael Marks	26/02/2024
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr James Moyies	n/r

Southend-on-Sea City Council

6

Report from Communities

to

Health and Wellbeing Board

on

05 March 2024

Report Prepared by: Tracy Harris and Katrina Edwards

Options for the Procurement of Domestic Abuse Services

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 This report covers the procurement of Domestic Abuse (DA) Services – and options related to the recommissioning of these services.

1.2 This report seeks agreement to the following areas:

- The future procurement for the Domestic Abuse support services for the city
- What we require as necessary requirements from any service for the city

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board approve the recommended procurement option and agree a set of requirements for the city of Southend to be included in the tender specification.

3. Background

3.1 Southend are part of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock Domestic Abuse Board (SETDAB). In 2016 Southend commissioned their own domestic abuse support services for the local area, as well as jointly commissioning perpetrator and IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) support services. We have extended our current commissioned support services so that we are aligned with our SET partners with all contracts due to end March 2025.

3.2 This extension to our contract allowed us to partake in workshops with SETDAB who have undertaken a discovery exercise, commissioned through the external consultancy organisation TONIC, to explore the current domestic abuse landscape and opportunities for improved collaboration across the three Local Authority areas. The aims of this work

have been to design an entire system response to domestic abuse across Southend, Essex and Thurrock.

- 3.3 The introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act (2021) included children as a victim group, as well as placing additional duties on local authorities in relation to accommodation for victim/survivors of domestic abuse.
- 3.4 As required under Part 4 of the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act, we have undertaken a comprehensive Domestic Abuse needs assessment for the city leading to the production and sign off at Cabinet of our Domestic Abuse Strategy for which we are now coproducing an action plan. This work has been closely overseen by the Southend Domestic Abuse Partnership Board.
- 3.5 Both pieces of discovery work show that there is a high prevalence of domestic abuse across Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) with a significant increase having been seen in the last 18 months. Southend has the highest number of cases across the whole of SET.
- 3.6 The Domestic Abuse service has been included in the procurement plan for 23/24 as approved by Cabinet.

4. Current Situation

- 4.1 The current service has a Single Point of Access (Compass – run by Safe Steps) which covers the whole of SET. This service is commissioned and run by Essex County Council for the whole of SET. Provision for IDVAs (Independent Domestic Violence Advocates) for the High-Risk Service are also commissioned through this and managed by Essex County Council. In Southend this has been subcontracted to Safe Steps.
- 4.2 Support for safe accommodation and in the community for victim/survivors of domestic abuse is currently local authority specific and in Southend this is run by Safe Steps. This provision has been bolstered by the DLUCH funding which is specifically for accommodation-based support which is currently available as a separate fund until March 2025. Safe Steps are also responsible for the management of our Refuge, which consists of 7 beds. In addition, we have further units of dispersed accommodation at Southend Essex Homes.
- 4.3 There is also a limited offer of support for perpetrators of domestic abuse across SET with this currently being offered by The Change Project, the contract of which was procured by the PFCC. We will contribute £18,000 per annum towards this project for 2022/3 and 2023/4.
- 4.4 Southend has an inhouse MARAC function which is funded by Childrens Services, Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board and the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex as shown in the table below in 4.8, shaded light grey. This function would remain the same and will **not** be included in the commissioning exercise.
- 4.5 The DA MARAC hears high risk cases. In the year 2021-22 they received 424 referrals, 386 of which were heard at MARAC. 271 of these referrals contained children in the household. In the year 2022-23 they received 454 referrals, 414 of which were heard at MARAC. 284 of these referrals contained children in the household.

4.6 In Southend Safe Steps are currently commissioned to deliver our community support and outreach service to victim/survivors of domestic abuse. For 2022/23 Safe Steps received a total of 462 new referrals, with a further 66 referrals seeking information, advice, and guidance only. 362 of these referrals received support from Safe Steps for more than six months. Most of these victim/survivors were female, with 13 male victims/survivors.

4.7 Safe Steps are also commissioned to provide support to children and young people through “Fledglings” and “Break the Cycle.” We have greater provision for children currently than other authorities. In 2022/23 Safe Steps received a total of 151 new referrals, with 277 linked children. 31 of these referrals received support for over six months.

4.8 The current contract for Southend consists of the following funding sources:

Council Department	Annual funding	Description
Public Health	£25,000	Contribution to Essex-wide pooled high risk IDVA service.
Communities (via Supporting People)	£255,078	Commissioning of community support and refuge accommodation
Children Services	£120,863	MARAT (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Team) including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) social worker post 2. 2 MARAT administrator posts (jointly funded with PFCC (Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner)) 3. MARAT manager post (jointly funded with PFCC and ICB (Integrated Care Board))
External Source	Annual Funding	Description
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)	£380,583 (variable ¹)	An annual allocation to support Local Authorities to meet our duties under the DA (Domestic Abuse) Act (2021) around support within safe accommodation only in line with the Act’s definitions.
Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board	£22,983	Funding towards the Southend MARAT manager post.
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex	£49,103	Funding towards the Southend MARAT manager and 2 administrator posts.

¹ This annual fund has been varied (although a similar amount) year on year since we started to received it in 2021/22. This is our 2023/24 allocation; our 2024/25 allocation increases slightly to £387,764.

5. Financial Envelope

5.1 We are proposing to include a **proportion** of the following three funding streams for procurement of a new service:

- Public Health - £25,000
- Communities (via Supporting People) - £255,078
- Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) - £380,583.

The proportion that we retain will continue to be used to fund existing posts within the local authority which form part of the domestic abuse processes.

6. Options for Consideration

There are four options which have been put forward by SETDAB:

6.1 **Option 1 – Pool funding – joint commissioning across SET**

This would include pooling **all** funding for the following services:

- SET central point of contact;
- Support in safe accommodation – Support for victims and families;
- Community based support for families;
- Community based support for victims - Adults and Children;
- Community based support for perpetrators.

Pooled funding could have the following advantages:

- There would be a consistency of offer across SET for all Essex residents;
- There would be a consistency of access to services across SET;
- Streamlined SET approach to high-risk domestic abuse;
- We would benefit from the economies of scale and cost efficiencies from procuring as SET, including better value for money;
- More interest and competition in tenders for smaller LAs in SET
- Larger and longer contracts will encourage the charitable sector;
- Collaboration with SET would allow us to benefit from innovative pilot projects such as male IDVAs to support male victims of DA;
- Convenience of a potential single contract (pending commercial approach) and performance framework;
- Convenience of a potential single contract.

Pooled funding could have the following disadvantages:

- Larger contracts may attract national providers – need to ensure local specialist providers are included;
- LAs (local authorities) may lose baseline funding and not get this back;
- Current funding for IDVAs is from core funding and grants – risks to meeting future demand without core funding.

This is the recommended option. We would retain some funding to cover existing posts within the authority but pool the remaining funds for the pooled commissioning of services.

6.2 Option 2 – Align – agree on a consistent DA offer across SET and commission separately

This would have an agreement with SET to carry out our own procurement of these services, based on the same models.

Alignment could have the following advantages:

- There would be consistency of offer across SET for all Essex residents.

Alignment could have the following disadvantages:

- Potentially limits high risk victims to stay local to SET in safe accommodation;
- Not cost effective;
- The cost of a procurement exercise for the authority;
- Missed opportunities to find economies of scale.

6.3 Option 3 – Own footprint – local offer commissioned on own footprint

This would allow us to develop a model specific to Southend and commission it independently.

Commissioning services on our own footprint could have the following advantages:

- Freedom to commission according to local need;
- Opportunity to develop bespoke support specific to Southend.

Commissioning services on our own footprint could have the following disadvantages:

- Services are not consistent across Essex;
- Costs more money to do less;
- Cost of a procurement exercise for the authority;
- We would lose the benefit of the economies of scale by procuring as a whole.

6.4 Option 4 – Partial pooling – joint commission core elements across SET with some local offer commissioned on own footprint

This would allow us to jointly commission some elements, whilst commissioning some of our own local services.

Partial pooling could have the following advantages:

- Consistency of central point of contact, SISA, perpetrators and lived experience;
- Local community and family offer developed based on local need within each LA
- Place based for community support and families;
- Current successful local service offer can continue;
- More interest and competition in tenders for smaller LAs;
- Larger and longer contracts will encourage the charitable sector;
- Consistent outcomes framework to work within;

- Local community and family offer may encourage smaller 'By and for' development;
- Provides opportunities for local providers and to diversify the market for more specialist provider.

Partial pooling could have the following disadvantages:

- Extended families living across different areas in SET may experience a different offer;
- Value for money;
- Current funding for IDVAs is from core funding and grants – risk to meeting future demand without grant funding.

7. Options for a future service to be considered.

7.1 Currently the service provided by Safe Steps has two offices and a refuge based in Southend. One of the offices is a small shop front used solely for the support of children. It should be noted that Southend leads with the support of children, other services across Essex do not have such a level of provision.

7.2 As Southend as the highest prevalence of Domestic Abuse across Essex we would like to **recommend that we continue to have a suitable office base in the city** as part of the SET contract for support services that include victim/survivors, families, and perpetrators.

7.3 The current refuge in the city has 7 rooms; we would recommend that any new contract **retains a refuge within the city with increased bed spaces as well as dispersed accommodation and an improved move on offer for victims/ survivors and their families.** We would also like the provider to explore the provision of accommodation for perpetrators so victim/ survivors can remain in their own homes.

8. Reason for Recommendation

8.1 There is a high prevalence of domestic abuse across SET with a significant increase having been seen in the last 18 months. Southend has the highest prevalence of domestic abuse across the SET. Pooled funding would benefit Southend as it would offer us the opportunity to benefit from greater resource across SET, alongside opportunities for innovation and development. As we have the highest prevalence of DA we would benefit from greater resource.

8.2 As a member of SETDAB we can influence the development of the specifications to ensure that there is provision for the residents of Southend, whether this is support for perpetrators to reduce the number of victims of domestic abuse, or support for victims during and after domestic abuse has taken place. As part of this we will insist on a local base for both victim and perpetrator services, as well as priority for Southend residents in need of a refuge space within SET.

9. Financial Implications

There is potential for some savings to the current budget of £660,661 consisting of the below three pots, however cuts to Domestic Abuse services carry risks for the victim survivors:

- Public Health - £25,000
- Communities (via Supporting People) - £255,078
- Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) - £380,583.

10. Legal Implications

We already pool some funding for Domestic Abuse with SET so there should be no legal implications, however, would set up a partnership agreement before proceeding.

11. Policy Context

This work aligns with the priority and associated outcomes in our Corporate Plan: A safe city with a good quality of life for all.

Outcomes:

- safe, inclusive communities and neighbourhoods
- people live well, age well and care well
- children and young people, including those in care, feel and are safe at home, school and in their communities.

12. Carbon Impact

Design for a service specification will consider carbon impact.

13. Equalities

An impact equality assessment has been undertaken.

14. Consultation

As a group SETDAB made a commitment to explore opportunities to rethink the design and delivery of pathways to support for victim/survivors and perpetrators of domestic abuse, including jointly commissioning DA Discovery Work, resulting in the report from TONIC.

14.1 The TONIC Report identified areas of good practice, what is doing well across SET and what is valued, alongside several areas for improvement including:

- Identification of those in need
- Pathways to support
- Accessing support
- The quality of support
- Opportunities to work together to co-design the offer and strategic approach going forward.

14.2 When developing the Southend Domestic Abuse Strategy, we developed an online survey for professionals across Southend with feedback from 58 professionals who shared their experiences of working with domestic abuse. This professionals survey included exploration of the participants' knowledge and awareness of domestic abuse. We also held a workshop with stakeholders.

14.3 Victim/survivors in Southend were invited to share their needs and what they think a good service should look like through a focus group and survey with a total of 97 responses.

Southend Health and Wellbeing Board

Report by

Alex Khaldi, Independent Chair, A Better Start Southend

to

Health & Wellbeing Board on 5th March 2024

Report prepared by:

Nia Thomas, Director, A Better Start Southend

	For discussion	X	For information only		Approval required
--	----------------	---	----------------------	--	-------------------

A Better Start Southend - update

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update from the Chair of A Better Start Southend (ABSS) on key developments since the last meeting.

2 Recommendations

HWB are asked to:

1. Note the content of the report and raise questions or comments with Alex Khaldi, Independent Chair of A Better Start Southend (ABSS).
2. Note the distinct work related to
 - **Now:** continuation of high-quality service delivery to families, with the appropriate promotion and impact monitoring
 - **Next:** the period before and after March 2025 which relates to the tapering and/or close-down of contracts, including work to generate a long-lasting legacy alongside parents.
 - **Beyond:** the preparatory work to upskill delivery bodies and meet their support needs, and instigate project sustainability into April 2025 and beyond, which involves discussions with potential future funders.

3 Governance

From April 2024, ABSS will transition to a new Governance structure, with the newly established Executive Programme Board (EPB), meeting monthly. The establishment of the ABSS EPB sets the stage for a focused and efficient approach to the exit phase of the programme. This strategic shift ensures streamlined forums, heightened oversight, and a collaborative framework, aligning with the programme's Legacy and Sustainability plan, as it moves toward closure in 2025.

Both the ABSS Partnership Board and Parents' Group will continue to meet quarterly.

The ABSS Programme continues to benefit from strong Partnership engagement, with positive participation at a range of levels for all core Partners, including:

- Early Years Alliance (EYA)
- Southend City Council (SCC)
- Essex Police
- Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust (MSENFT)
- Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT)
- Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Board
- University of Essex
- Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS)
- City Family Community Interest Company

All committees and groups include the active participation of engaged parents, with Terms of Reference stating that no meeting is quorate unless there is parent and Partner presence at each forum.

4 ABSS Legacy and Sustainability

The Programme is approaching its final 12 months of delivery, with The National Lottery Fund's grant ceasing in March 2025. ABSS is actively working with strategic leads in health and the local authority to consider priorities, funding and continuation of ABSS projects beyond next year.

4.1 City Family and Transfer of Direct Delivery Services

In 2022, ABSS' legacy vehicle City Family CIC was established. Over the past few months, the three direct delivery teams that were employed by ABSS (Creche, YourFamily and Talking Transitions) have been transferred to City Family. This has given these services the best possible opportunity to be sustained beyond March 2025, given that City Family is not restricted to working within the geographical and age group parameters set by the Lottery. ABSS no longer delivers any direct services and functions as a commissioning unit for the Lottery grant.

4.2 Dissemination of ABSS Learnings

Alongside the University of Essex, ABSS' Research, Evaluation and Impact team (REI) have created a Publication and Dissemination Plan, which sets out the different ways that learning from ABSS will be disseminated. This ranges from vlogs, presentations, case studies and cartoons to reports, papers and academic posters.

A key part of the learning dissemination includes ABSS' 'Stories of Impact' – a way of bringing together learning and evidence from all different sources into themed 'chapters' to tell the story of ABSS and its impact. This will include some new research by the REI team into what has been learnt through the delivery of ABSS – the story of running a complex multi-project ten-year programme, as well as the impact and evidence coming from the programme. The aim is to launch this at a public event in December which will provide an opportunity for staff, partners, Parent Champions and others to celebrate ABSS, and for this to stand as a lasting resource beyond March 2025.

A schedule of in-person Learning Events is also in delivery, which now includes lunchtime webinars. These are aimed at practitioners but also open to interested Parent Champions and parents. Topics include fundraising, measuring impact, cultural diversity and inclusion, and why early intervention matters. These will be recorded and available online as an ongoing resource.

4.3 Continuation of ABSS Funded Services

The Project Management Office (PMO) is working with Delivery Partners to identify support required to aid in sustaining service provision post-March 2025.

- Phase 1 focussed on Delivery Partners articulating the aspirations for their service and partnership working, staffing and resource considerations, impact on beneficiaries, and ongoing funding needs to secure future sustainability.
- Phase 2 is currently in progress and involves Delivery Partners setting out their support requirements to be April '25-ready. This may include resources such as business development funding to scope out future proposals and bids, or funding to upskill the workforce to provide the service with additional means to generate income beyond the end of the Programme. The PMO will be meeting frequently with Delivery Partners to discuss sustainability support, which will culminate in budget proposals being presented at governance groups for formal approval. This is a positive step towards supporting projects in delivering on their sustainability aspirations.

5 Research and Evidence

5.1 Overall Programme Engagement Figures

ABSS engagement data for December 2023 is currently incomplete due to an unexpected vacancy in the Southend City Council Data Entry Team. Figures provided below are for the rolling 12-month period to 30th November 2023, with comparisons to the 12 months to 30th November 2022.

New beneficiaries continue to take part in ABSS activities, with a total of 7,105 unique beneficiaries engaging with ABSS to 30th November 2023. The rate of engagement with new beneficiaries has slowed, leading to a small fall in the numbers of beneficiaries who engaged with ABSS, from 2,296 in the 12 months to 30th November 2022 to 2,163 in the 12 months to 30th November 2023. In the same periods, overall reach among eligible people fell from 52.1% to 49.1%. However, the proportion of those eligible for ABSS and living in areas with the highest levels of deprivation (0-10% IMD) who engaged with ABSS rose from 52% to 53.4%.

12 months to 30th November 2023		
Description	Amount	12-month comparison
Unique primary beneficiaries	2,163	2,296 (down 133)
Reach among eligible people	49.1%	52.1% (down 3 percentage points)
New beneficiaries	1,050	1,196 (down 46)
Taking part in more than 1 project	43.5%	41.5% (up 2 percentage points)
Highest reach ward – Shoeburyness	59.6%	71.6% (down 12 percentage points)
Lowest reach ward – Westborough	35.3%	45.8 % (down 9.5 percentage points)
Reach in highest deprivation (0-10% IMD)	53.4%	52% (up 1.4 percentage points)

5.2 Evaluation Partnership with the University of Essex

The University of Essex Research team has continued their Formative Evaluation reporting through qualitative interviews with beneficiaries and project partners. Summary reports replaced highlight reports for nine projects and present an integrated analysis of KPI, interview and survey data across all of the university's previous reporting. The team continues to provide 'snapshot' highlight reports for six projects typically over a quarterly or six-monthly period. The team has joined ABSS working groups, specifically the Learning Events and Data and Legacy groups and is actively seeking opportunities to disseminate academic findings. Additionally, they are in the process of processing revisions on a Research paper co-authored with ABSS colleagues on organisational challenges and community resilience during COVID-19.

5.3 Summative Evaluation

Following the Phase 2 report of the Summative Evaluation produced by RSM, actions have been included in ABSS business plans to ensure that the recommendations are delivered. The three recommendations focus on an improved marketing and communications strategy, the introduction of more 'whole family' activities, identifying other ways to connect with groups that ABSS has struggled to engage with, and a mapping exercise to understand service provision in Southend. Action against each of these recommendations is being monitored. Plans are also being developed by RSM, in discussion with ABSS, for the data collection for Phase 3 of the evaluation. It is likely that this will rely less heavily on survey data and will explore themes around legacy and the ongoing impact of ABSS.

6 ABSS Workstream Spotlight

The ABSS Programme is structured into five workstreams:

- Communication and Language
- Diet and Nutrition
- Social and Emotional (Development)
- Community Resilience
- System Change

This report provides an update on the Diet and Nutrition workstream:

In 2022, the HENRY Healthy Families (HHF) service departed from Southend, discontinuing its services, and creating a gap in the 0-5 diet and nutrition pathway. Subsequently, a comprehensive mapping exercise was initiated to thoroughly review all services in the 0-5 Diet and Nutrition space in Southend. This is a collaborative effort between the Children, Young People and Families Public Health (CYP&FPH) Team, A Better Start Southend (ABSS), the Public Health Midwife (PHMW), Family Centres (FC) and key partners in Southend. The core objective is to identify current service gaps, assess available interventions for various age groups, and ascertain future needs, linking into the wider public health agenda, particularly Core20Plus5. This ultimately results in the increased capability to initiate conversations about maintaining a healthy weight in the early years, ensuring that families become informed and empowered to make healthy choices.

As part of this process, the Healthy Weight, Healthy Nutrition (HWHN) Ambassador Training was set up. This training, rooted in evidence-based practices, is designed to cater to a diverse skill set. The training aims to raise awareness about essential aspects of Healthy Weight, Healthy Nutrition (HWHN), including physical activity and oral health. A survey conducted following the first training session in January 2024, received a positive response. Before the training, only 5% of participants reported understanding the context of healthy weight and healthy nutrition. Post-training, this figure significantly increased to 71%. Participants also reported an increase from 29% to 94% in their confidence and awareness of the significance of maintaining healthy eating habits before, during and after pregnancy. Ambassador training materials have been secured for four years, meaning that the latest evidence-based information will be accessible for HWHN Ambassadors leading the training programme. Further training sessions are being scheduled to disseminate and enhance knowledge among both Southend's workforce and the community.

Details of all ABSS projects currently being delivered are attached in Appendix One

7 Reasons for Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Note the contents of the report and raise opportunities with Nia Thomas, ABSS Director or Alex Khaldi, Independent Chair of A Better Start Southend (ABSS).
2. Note the distinct work related to
 - **Now:** continuation of high-quality service delivery to families, with the appropriate promotion and impact monitoring
 - **Next:** the period before and after March 2025 which relates to the tapering and/or close-down of contracts, including work to generate a long-lasting legacy alongside parents.
 - **Beyond:** the preparatory work to upskill delivery bodies and meet their support needs, and instigate project sustainability into April 2025 and beyond, which involves discussions with potential future funders.

8 Financial / Resource Implications

In January 2024, the first Commissioning Summit was held, which brought together key commissioners to discuss the implications of ABSS ceasing in March 2025 and consider the most viable options to integrate or evolve the services impacted. Acknowledging funding challenges in the early years, participants affirmed the importance and value of early intervention, as delivered by ABSS.

Funding discussions will continue over the coming months and a prioritisation methodology is being considered, as a way to inform decision-making. Conversations with the Integrated Care Board are being pursued and a task and finish group has been set up with Southend's Public Health team to identify specifics around priorities, impact and costs to inform next steps. Conversations with Education colleagues from SCC are also planned.

9 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications for this report.

10 Equality & Diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications for this report.

11 Appendices

All ABSS projects currently being delivered - Appendix One

N.B. Please note that there is a vacancy in the SCC team responsible for completing ABSS' data entry. This has impacted the ABSS Programme Activity Summary, which has not been included in this report due to incomplete data entry for December 2023 – February 2024. SCC are currently recruiting to fill the role.

Dr Nia Thomas, Director, ABSS

5th March 2024

Appendix One - ABSS Project Names and Workstreams

Project ID	Project Title	Delivery Partner	Project Overview	Delivery Status
ID020	Let's Talk	EPUT	Let's Talk aims to reduce the demand for statutory speech and language services by providing a universal preventative speech and language pathway/offer for children aged between 0 and 4. It delivers a model of best practice whereby all agencies work together to help resolve the underlying issues causing language delay, early opportunities for development through play, quality language-promoting environments and quality support.	In Delivery
ID036	Work Skills	SCC	Work Skills began in January 2017 and aims to assist parents of children under the age of 4 in ABSS wards to develop the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to re-enter employment/training. A free onsite creche is also available to those with childcare needs.	In Delivery
ID040	City Family Explorers (Creche)	City Family CIC	City Family Explorers offer a pop-up creche service, which aims to eliminate childcare obstacles that might otherwise prevent parents or caregivers from accessing development opportunities. For example, parents participating in Work Skills sessions, can use the complimentary childcare service whilst they attend the course.	In Delivery
ID046	Engagement	SAVS	The purpose of the SAVS Engagement contract is to manage the relationship with parents within the ABSS wards. Parents are empowered to contribute to systemic changes through the establishment of a co-production model.	In Delivery
ID049	Specialist Health Visitors for Perinatal Mental Health	EPUT	The Specialist Health Visitors for Perinatal Mental Health address the mental health needs of women and their families during the perinatal period. There is a particular focus on early intervention, prevention of mental health difficulties, and the promotion of positive relationships between parents and their infants.	In Delivery
ID050	Family Nurse Partnership	EPUT	Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) is a voluntary intensive home visiting programme for first-time young mums. FNP ADAPT is part of an initiative by the FNP National Unit to improve the FNP programme in England. In September 2023, it was agreed to disinvest in the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) project and reinvest in the Southend City Council (SCC) Little Steps programme. This transfer and transition process will involve a gradual closure to ensure sufficient support for parents, in line with the national process for service close-down.	In Delivery (being decommissioned 07/24)
ID052	Group Breastfeeding	SYMCA	The Group Breastfeeding team offer support to all mothers interested in breastfeeding. This includes those who engage in the group during the antenatal period to address pre-birth inquiries, new mothers seeking postnatal support and encouragement, as well as mothers who have recently started breastfeeding after previously not considering it as an option. The group places special	In Delivery

			emphasis on supporting mothers who choose to breastfeed beyond the six-month mark.	
ID053	3 - 4 Month Contact	SCC	The 3-4 Month Health Visitor Contact seeks to enhance the likelihood of children entering Reception with a healthy weight. This is accomplished by enhancing parental awareness regarding the timely and suitable introduction of solid foods, appropriate portion sizes, and support with breastfeeding.	In Delivery
ID054	121 Breastfeeding	MSE Hospital Trust	121 Breastfeeding provides individualised breastfeeding support to mothers during the 6 weeks following birth. This service is provided by Breastfeeding support workers, from Southend Hospital. Support is offered in the maternity ward and in the mother's home.	In Delivery
ID056	YourFamily	City Family CIC	YourFamily serves as a welcoming local community where families come together for mutual support, access expertise from experienced teams on childbearing and parenting, and discover the full range of opportunities available in Southend. Recognising the inherent strengths within all families, YourFamily acknowledges that some may require additional support at various stages of their parenting journey. Through a collaboration between Southend parents, community groups, A Better Start Southend, and Southend-on-Sea City Council, YourFamily is a co-produced programme that aims to provide timely assistance and advice to prevent families from reaching crisis points. Functioning as a facilitator of change, YourFamily works alongside families as they articulate their goals, whether it's enhancing their children's well-being or contributing their knowledge, skills, and experiences to the community as volunteers.	In Delivery
ID059	Peer Support Workers for Social and Communication Needs	EYA	The Peer Support Workers for Social Communication Needs project offers assistance to families residing in the ABSS areas with a child currently on the Multidisciplinary Assessment waiting list or exhibiting concerns related to development in at least two of the following areas: communication, interaction, and imaginative play.	In Delivery
ID064	Engagement Fund	SAVS	This fund supports ABSS parent champions in evaluating small projects that can make a positive impact within their communities.	In Delivery
ID078	SCC Data Analysis	SCC	Support provided by the SCC Operational Performance and Intelligence team to produce data analysis reports and dashboards.	In Delivery

ID081	Welcome to the UK	Welcome to the UK	<p>"Welcome to the UK" offers free English language lessons to individuals for whom English is a second language and supports people newly arrived in the UK to understand and access services available to them. ABSS contribute to this service by providing a creche service during Friendship Fridays as an in-kind offering. Since 2023, ABSS has provided funding for Welcome to the UK to extend the Friday group to more families. This ensures a secure environment for children under 4 years old whilst their parents attend English lessons.</p>	In Delivery
ID082	WellComm Screening	City Family CIC	<p>This initiative, developed in collaboration with the Let's Talk Speech and Language Therapy offer, encourages early years providers to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhance their comprehension of the pivotal role they play in fostering and expanding young children's language development. - Provide improved support to parents and carers, helping them grasp the crucial role they play in their child's language development. - Disseminate essential information to parents and carers regarding children's speech, language, and communication development. - Direct parents and carers to the Let's Talk Speech and Language Therapy team and the array of speech, language, and communication courses and support services available to them. - Enhance the precision of their referrals into Speech and Language Therapy (S&LT) services. 	In Delivery
ID084	CID Fund (Process and applications)	ABSS	<p>This fund is in place to support community groups, individuals and small organisations, who have a great idea about how to improve lives for Southend's young children and their families, assisting them to put their creative ideas into practice. Community groups can get in touch with ABSS PMO to meet to discuss the fund and its aims; complete a one-stage project proposal (including a budget) alongside due diligence considerations and upon receipt of approval through ABSS processes, organisations can access funds and support for putting their plans into action. Current examples are:</p> <p>Sunshine Baby Bank - a family hub for families in the Westborough Ward offering community support packaged within a professionally led playgroup for early years children. Planned by an Educational Psychologist with a specialism in the Early Years.</p> <p>Families Growing Together - delivery of Families Growing Together project in outdoor area at Centre Place Family Centre in the Kursaal estate.</p> <p>Welcome to the UK Cost of Living & Talking Heads – support for people</p>	In Delivery

			<p>attending Welcome to the UK and funding to produce 30 videos in 5 languages around speech, language and communication development, the Healthy Start Scheme and ABSS Projects.</p> <p>The One Love Project - promotes a healthy sustainability lifestyle by encouraging self-sufficiency e.g. cooking skills and budgeting skills.</p> <p>The Iron Works Minis club - provides sensory-led sessions for children aged between 0-4 years/.</p> <p>Yoga4All – provide weekly yoga sessions supporting parents and young families within ABSS wards, particularly supporting physical and mental health for pregnant mums; mums and new babies and parents with toddlers.</p> <p>Dad's Connect – ABSS & City Family CIC work with early years fathers who are experiencing multiple disadvantages that impact the wider determinants of health, social mobility, and ability to raise children to thrive.</p>	
ID088	Infant Feeding Supervisor Lead	SCC	The Infant Feeding Supervisor Lead project is delivered by SCC and serves as a liaison between ABSS, Specialist Feeding Advisors and Public Health to promote positive feeding practices in both health and community settings.	In Delivery
ID090	Programme Evaluation Partnership	UoE	The Programme Evaluation Partnership is a partnership between EYA & University of Essex, in which the university undertakes the responsibility of hosting, managing, and overseeing ABSS Programme Researchers.	In Delivery
ID091	Talking Transitions	City Family CIC	Talking Transitions enhance the social and emotional readiness of children in ABSS wards for school entry at 3 years 11 months. Additionally, they aim to improve the transition process for children entering the Reception year from their early years providers and school nurseries. This is accomplished by elevating practitioners' skills and knowledge to better support children's communication and language development. The project also involves delivering Elklan training courses to early years settings and schools.	In Delivery
ID092	ABSS Parent, Family and Community Hub	ABSS	The ABSS Parent, Family and Community Hub is a space designed by parents where families can access ABSS or community services and opportunities. The Hub is staffed by City Family to ensure a presence should a family drop in for signposting, advice or support.	In Delivery
ID097	Public Health Midwife	SCC & MSE Hospital Trust	The Public Health Midwife is employed by SUH (Southend University Hospital) and jointly funded by SCC (Southend-on-Sea City Council) and A Better Start Southend (ABSS). The Public Health Midwife oversees pre-conception care for	In Delivery

			women with long-term conditions, monitors outcomes and performance, facilitates integration and collaboration across the system and manages the Antenatal Support Initiative.	
ID098	Information Governance Specialist Consultant	Data Protection People	The Information Governance Specialist Consultant offers Support Desk and Training Services to assist with compliance with the UK GDPR and relevant data protection laws in the United Kingdom.	In Delivery
ID099	Data Input - ESTART	SCC	ABSS provides funding to SCC to manage several data collection and entry processes. This includes data entry into eStart and capturing details from the Joint Registration and Consent Forms.	In Delivery
ID101	Storysacks	SAVS	Southend Storysacks' produces story sacks for families living within ABSS wards. These can be borrowed for 2-3 weeks at a time and are suitable for babies and children from 6 months to 4 years of age. The 'Storysacks' aim to support and promote parental interaction and communication with their children through the reading of books.	In Delivery
ID102	Umbilical Chords	SYMCA	Early Years Music Group for children (0-2 years) and their parents/carers, to encourage communication skills, musical development and socialisation.	In Delivery
ID104	Early Years Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (EY IDVA)	Safe Steps	The EY IDVA service provides individual support and/or advocacy for parents of children aged under four years who have been exposed to domestic abuse (DA) living in Southend. The service provides individual assessments with families to ensure they receive the appropriate level of support and provides domestic abuse and risk identification training to professionals working in Family Centres, YourFamily team and other agencies across the City.	In Delivery
ID106	RSM Summative Evaluation	<u>RSM</u>	Independent summative evaluation that provides evidence of programme-wide outcomes and impact of the ABSS Programme. This is in line with the ABSS Outcomes framework.	In Delivery
ID107	Families Growing Together	Trust Links	This project offers the opportunity to improve outcomes for babies and young children by improving the resilience and mental wellbeing of parents. This is achieved through engaging young children and parents together in learning opportunities, designed to build cohesion and aid social interaction.	In Delivery
ID108	Digital Strategy (Inform)	SCC & ABSS	Inform 2 is a customer relationship management system currently used by YourFamily to capture beneficiary data, case management recording and outcomes.	In Delivery
ID109	Sparkles Sensory Story Time	Chaos and Calm	Sparkles Sensory Storytime is a programme designed to improve early learning, literacy, communication and social outcomes for children with disabilities and their families. It is specifically designed to introduce families to alternative and augmentative communication methods that may be needed by their child in a supportive, friendly and fun environment. It has also been designed to become a support network for families who may be going through similar experiences.	In Delivery

ID110	FOOD Club	Family Action	The FOOD Club membership costs just £1 per year for families. It provides them with the opportunity to purchase a bag of food items valued at approximately £15 for only £3.50. By becoming club members, families not only gain access to these cost-effective food options but also have the chance to benefit from additional offers presented during the sessions. This initiative aims to alleviate the stigma associated with food banks that some families may experience.	In Delivery
ID112	Early Maths Matters	Consultant - Elaine Taylor Brown	This is a project designed to lead long-term, sustainable change for children in their Early Years settings and at home as they become confident, capable, curious mathematicians. This should lead to improved outcomes for children as well as increased engagement and confidence of staff and parent/carers who teach them.	In Delivery
ID115	Hamlet Court Road in Harmony	ABSS/Trust Links	Positioned within ABSS wards, Hamlet Court Road in Harmony (HCRIH) festival is an annual one-day event that is attended by more than 3000 people. The festival brings together voluntary sector organisations, statutory agencies, and other community groups with local residents to promote and celebrate the diversity of Southend.	In Delivery
ID112	Antenatal Support Initiative	Multiple (NHS; Your Family; Family Centres; Health Visiting)	The Antenatal Support Initiative brings together a multi-agency offer to provide a far-reaching ante-natal education offer to Southend's families. The offer is based on Solihull teaching and training and has facilitators across several partners delivering 6-week courses.	In Delivery
ID116	Festival of Conversation / Events Assignment 2024/2025	Bromfield Events & various partners	Raising Southend: A Festival of Conversations is a series of events held in Southend designed around the concept of 'creating opportunities for conversations between families, community groups and services in Southend through moments of shared creativity'.	Mobilisation
ID087	Southend Supports Breastfeeding	SCC & ABSS	<p>The Southend Supports Breastfeeding campaign is designed to protect, advocate for, bolster, and normalise breastfeeding throughout Southend. It aims to motivate and support local businesses and community venues in embracing and endorsing breastfeeding, cultivating an environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and non-judgmental. Furthermore, the campaign seeks to exert influence on current and future urban planning, advocating for the prioritisation of breastfeeding-friendly public spaces.</p> <p>The initiative offers extensive information and educational resources to local businesses, empowering them to support women returning to the workforce while maintaining their commitment to breastfeeding. Concurrently, it provides</p>	Mobilisation

			education for parents and families, fostering a deeper understanding of breastfeeding.	
ID123	Little Steps Health Visiting Service	SCC	The Little Steps Health Visiting Service offers an enhanced health visiting service to first-time parents aged 21 years and under, from pregnancy until their child turns five years old.	Service Design
ID025	HENRY Healthy Families	HENRY	CLOSED	Closed
ID048	Joint Paediatric Clinic	TBD	CLOSED	Closed
ID061	Preparation for Parenthood	HENRY	CLOSED	Closed
ID079	The Dartington Service Design (0-19 mapping)	Dartington	CLOSED	Closed
ID080	First and Foremost	EYA	CLOSED	Closed
ID083	Volunteer Home Visiting Service	Home Start	CLOSED	Closed
ID086	Coproduction Champion	SAVS, EYA, SCC	Incorporated as part of SAVS delivery. The Co-Production Champion project promotes co-production within Southend's communities. The focus is on developing, alongside ABSS and Southend City Council, a robust workforce development strategy that brings together practitioners, commissioners and policymakers through shared learning opportunities and formal training.	Closed
ID095	UNICEF Accreditation		CLOSED	Closed
ID103	Engagement Fund COVID-19	SAVS	CLOSED	Closed

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD FORWARD PLAN 2024/25

HWB DATE	DEADLINE FOR PAPERS FOR REVIEW / SENSE-CHECK/SIGN-OFF)	DEADLINE FOR PAPERS FOR BOARD MEETING	Agenda Items (The agenda to be structured/grouped under the following headings: • For Decision; • For Strategic Discussion; • For Noting	Lead / Report author	For Decision / Strategic Discussion / Noting	ACTIONS FOR FOLLOW-UP AFTER MEETING

Meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board
Date: Tuesday 5 March 2024
Classification: Part 1
Key Decision: No
Title of Report: Social Prescribing in Southend on Sea.

Executive Director: Michael Marks, on behalf of the Director of Public Health
Report Author: Simon D Ford, Health Improvement Practitioner Advanced and Dr Margaret Eni-Olotu, Public Health Consultant
Executive Councillor: Councillor James Moyies

1. Executive Summary

Social prescribing connects people, facilitated by a Social Prescribing Link Worker (SPLW), to non-medical local support to promote good health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities whilst supporting our collective approach with population health management.

Social prescribing is an NHS priority supported by a wide range of organisations including Southend on Sea City Council.

Social prescribing digital tools enhance the key elements of the social prescribing process.

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the current position of social prescribing across the City, after the programme has been embedded.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Health and Wellbeing Board: Note the content of this report.

3. Background

National Context

Social prescribing is an essential component of the NHS Long-Term Plan's commitment to universal personalised care and increasing access to community advice and support for the entire population.

Through social prescribing, local agencies such as local voluntary services, social care and health services refer people to a social prescribing link worker

(SPLW). SPLWs give people time, focusing on 'what matters to me?' to coproduce a simple personalised care and support plan, and support people to take control of their health and wellbeing and support partner agencies to implement a more coordinated approach with population health management.

It is an approach that connects people to activities, groups, and services in their community to meet the practical, social, and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing.

The benefits of social prescribing can only be described as 'endless' - It:

- is a holistic approach focussing on individual need and provides pathways to change,
- promotes health and wellbeing and reduces health inequalities in a community setting, using non-clinical methods,
- facilitates social connection,
- supports link workers and patients to find community support and activities,
- addresses barriers to engagement and enables people to play an active part in their care,
- uses and builds on the local community assets in developing and delivering the service or activity,
- aims to increase people's control over their health and lives, focussing on improving mental health and physical well-being, and
- reduces the burden on the NHS, namely primary routes of care such as GPs and fewer hospital admissions, fewer outpatient appointments and reduced reliance on medical prescriptions.

Social prescribing works particularly well for people who have one or more long term conditions, who need support with their mental health, who are lonely or isolated or who have complex social needs which affect their wellbeing.

Implementing social prescribing supports local areas to address health inequalities, it provides healthcare professionals with a referral option to respond to the social causes of health inequalities at the individual level and it supports people who struggle to make their own connections. Social prescribing can promote improved health and wellbeing and has the potential to reduce existing health inequalities, for example isolation, loneliness, poor nutrition, physical, and mental health.

Social Prescribing Digital Platforms

Digital social prescribing is a way of enhancing the key elements of the social prescribing process. These include:

- Making community-based and online support more accessible through digital pathways,
- Developing an online triage function for social prescribing, so those with the most appropriate needs are directed to a link worker,

- Developing community directories so that they are accurate, up-to-date, and provide a baseline source of knowledge of the local area, and
- Case management software, which enables a social prescribing service to understand the impact of their referrals on their client and the local voluntary and community sector.

The overarching benefit of a social prescribing digital platform is to ensure referrers, social prescribing link workers and providers work is effective, administrative tasks are minimised, paperless and automated where possible to ensure the maximum of time is spend with residents on interventions to improve their health and wellbeing.

Local Context: Social Prescribing Link Workers

Social prescribing has been offered in Southend since January 2020. Covid-19 changed the nature of its initial delivery with its focus, at the time, on vulnerable at-risk residents who needed to isolate as a result of infection or to prevent infection.

Post pandemic, the social prescribing offer has focussed its delivery to connect people to activities, groups, and services in their community to meet the practical, social, and emotional needs that affect their health and wellbeing.

[In Southend, eight social prescribing link workers are supporting general practice within the four Primary Care Networks \(coterminous with the Council's four localities\).](#)

Currently, six of the SPLWs from these Primary Care Networks (PCNs), namely Southend Victoria, West Central, Southend East are hosted by the Southend Association of Voluntary Services (SAVS). Two SPLWs are hosted by their Primary Care Network (SS9 PCN).

Southend-on-Sea: Social Prescribing Outcomes

Resident outcomes for social prescribing are currently reported by SAVS in quarterly reports, biannual long reports, and an annual report.

Data from the PCN that host their own social prescribing link workers is under review and development for reporting from spring 2024. [A snapshot of SS9 PCN data is presented below for the quarter of October to December 2023 only.](#)

We have summarised the SAVS social prescribing link worker data for the period April 2023 to December 2023 and SS9 PCN data for the period October 2023 to December 2023. [Once we have aligned all the data recording points, information will be presented on annual basis in the future.](#)

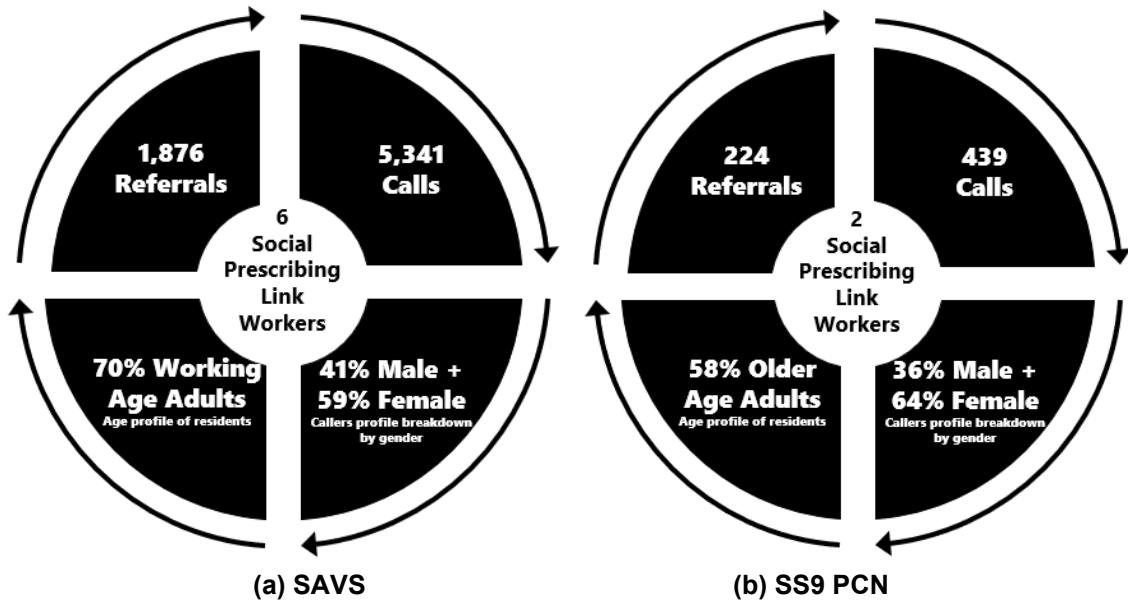


Diagram: a) SAVS Social Prescribing Link Worker outcomes (April 2023 to December 2023)
 Diagram: b) SS9 PCN Social Prescribing Link Worker outcomes (Oct 2023 to Dec 2023)
All Data Sources in this report are from SAVS and SS9 PCN

The data and information below relate to the social prescribing service delivered by the SAVS hosted social prescribing link workers on behalf of three Primary Care Networks.

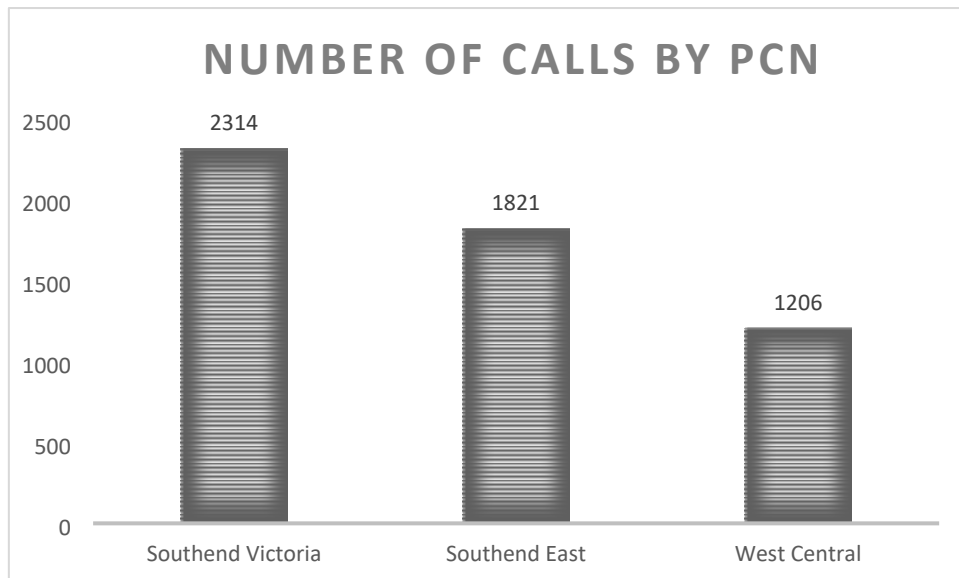


Chart: Number of calls by Primary Care Network (SPLWs hosted by SAVS)

The social prescribing link workers identified trends in the needs of residents referred into the service. The word map below describes the most common. The bigger and bolder the text, the more often these issues were raised.



Diagram: SAVS SPLW trends in needs of residents referred into the service (April 2023 to September 2023).

The top five themes are:

1. Housing includes homelessness, problems with houses, poor living conditions, problem neighbours, problems with the housing system;
2. Mental Health including suicidal ideation, anxiety, depression, hoarding;
3. Finance and Poverty includes problems with benefits and allowances; general problems with lack of money; food and fuel poverty;
4. Carers, support for and need for;
5. Loneliness and isolation in all ages.

Resident Signposts

Residents are often given signposting support to access local organisations. This enables the resident to make direct contact with an organisation. The word map below indicates the 50 most used. The bigger and bolder the text reflect the higher proportion of signposts made.



Diagram: SAVS SPLW top 50 signposting support to local organisations (April 2023 to September 2023).

Resident Referrals

Residents also give consent for their information to be shared with an organisation for formal contact from the organisation. The word map below shows the 50 most popular.

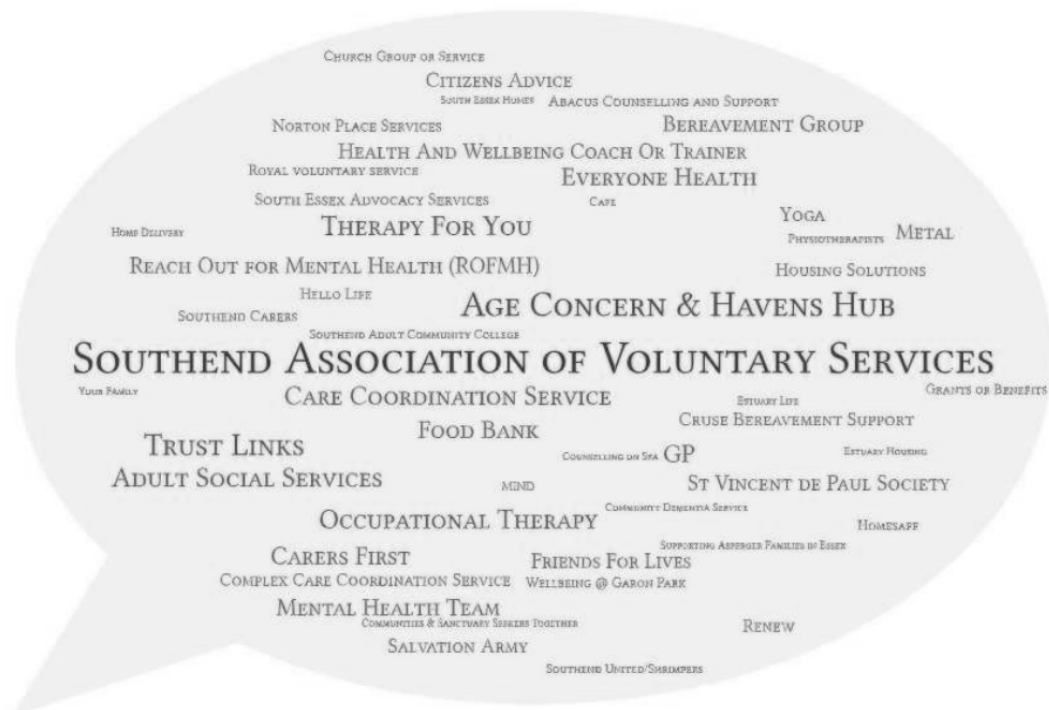


Diagram: SAVS SPLW top 50 referral organisations (April 2023 to September 2023).

Appendix one includes SAVS 2023 Quarterly Reports and an SS9 Report.

Livewell Southend Social Prescribing Digital Tool

The Council is supporting the development of its own social prescribing digital tool, in conjunction with wider partners, to enhance the delivery of the service. The digital tool will be the platform through which social prescribing referrals will be sent, received, processed, recorded and appropriate information sent back to referrer and their system.

The tool will connect to [Livewell Southend](#), the Council's local health and wellbeing website providing advice and guidance as well as information on local health and wellbeing services.

The tool will also facilitate data collection, performance reporting and outcomes reporting, once implemented.

4. Reasons for Decisions

- 4.1. The NHS Long-Term Plan has committed to universal personalised care and increasing access to social prescribing for the entire population. The ICB and Council are working together in developing a more effective population health management approach.

5. Other Options

- 5.1. Primary Care Networks could employ their own Social Prescribing Link Workers and host them in-house.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. Primary Care Networks directly fund the Social Prescribing Link Workers. The Public Health Grant funds the Livewell Southend social prescribing digital tool.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

8. Policy Context

- 8.1 Social Prescribing contributes to the Councils Ageing Well & Living Well Strategies and the wider South East Essex Alliance and partner organisation ambitions, in reducing inequalities and improve population health and wellbeing.

9. Carbon Impact

- 9.1. There are no carbon impact implications from this report.
- 9.2.

10. Equalities

- 10.1. In line with the Government ambitions social prescribing is for the entire population and further work is in development to ensure direct population referrals to this service.

11. Consultation

- 11.1. A case study approach is detailed in the SAVS social prescribing longer and annual reports.

12. Appendices

- 12.1. **Appendix 1**: SAVS Quarterly Reports and an SS9 Report.

13. Report Authorisation

This report has been approved for publication by:		
	Name:	Date:
S151 Officer	Joe Chesterton	26/02/2024
Monitoring Officer	Susan Zeiss	n/r
Executive Director(s)	Michael Marks	26/02/2024
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr James Moyies	22/02/2024

Appendix 1

SAVS Quarterly Reports and an SS9 Report.

