



**Bassetlaw Place Health Inequalities & Partnership Forum
Notes of the Meeting held on 12th February 2025**

Attendees			
Cllr Lynne Schuller, Bassetlaw District Council, & Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing	LS	Annabel Scott, Partnerships & Engagement Officer, Your Health Notts	AS
Helen Azar -Senior Transformation Manager Head of Health Inequalities , Bassetlaw Place, N&N ICB	HA	Paula Graham, Health & Wellbeing Manager, Bassetlaw Action Centre	PG
Stephen Brown, Head of Corporate Services, Bassetlaw District Council	SB	Katie Sharman, Health and Wellbeing Officer, Bassetlaw District Council	KS
Terry Roe, Strategic Housing, Bassetlaw District Council	TR	Andria Birch, CEO, BCV	AB
Richard Woodhouse, Health & Inequalities Development Manager - DBTH	RW	Georgia Crossland, Service Manager, The Centre Place, LGBT+ Service Nottinghamshire, Talkzone Mental Health Service	GC
Lucy Armstrong, Public Health and Commissioning Manager, Notts County Council	LA	Grace Mhora, Head of Patient Engagement, Experience & Involvement DBTH	GM
Dee Sissons, CEO, Aurora	DS	Kirsty Veitch-Sorsby, Tackling Loneliness Collaborative Lead, Nottingham & Nottinghamshire	KVS
Hazel Brand, Non-Executive Director, DBTH	HB	Keeley Azar – Transformation Officer, Bassetlaw Place-Based Partnership	KA
Karen Whitlam, Citizens Advice North Nottinghamshire (CANNS)	KW	Bryony Smith, Health Inequalities Project Manager, N&N ICB	BS
Sarina Azari, Medical Student	SA	Sara Davies, Walk Notts Strategic Lead, Active Partners Trust	SD
Becky Law, BCVS	BL	Jo White - MP	JW
Jayne Blunt (JB) – Administrator, N&N ICB Bassetlaw Place	JB		
Apologies			
Mark Campbell – Transformation Officer, Bassetlaw Place-Based Partnership	Vaithilingam Nanthakumar – General Practitioner & Clinical Lead, Larwood Health Partnership	Paul Cannon, Team Manager, Early Help and Support in the Community Team, Notts CC	
Neil Buckley, Operational Team Lead North, Your Health Notts	Belle Johnson-Moss, Macmillan & Welfare Benefit Manager, CANNS	Claudine White, Interim Group Manager, Notts CC	
1.	Welcome and introductions were made to members. Apologies given and recorded.		
2.	<u>Declarations of Interests</u> No interests were declared.		
3..	<u>Notes from last meeting.</u> The notes from the previous meeting in January were reviewed and agreed they were a true and accurate record. The action log was updated in line with discussions.		

Action:- Community Services Grant reviews – LS to draft a letter to the ICB raising concerns. **Update:-** A letter was sent on 31.01.25 to Kathy McLean raising concerns and a response received. Kathy McLean would be happy to attend a meeting but this would have to be in the future due to diary commitments. Jo White MP has met with the ICB and will attend today's meeting to give update.

4. **Investments into Bassetlaw VCSE Services ICB Letter Response**

Jo White MP was introduced to the forum. JW confirmed that she had a meeting with the ICB and Chief Executive, Amanda Sullivan, to discuss investment into Bassetlaw VCSE sector. JW stated that during this meeting the ICB confirmed they were reviewing how they will continue to fund the VCSE sector which applies across the four different areas of the ICB, not just Bassetlaw. this review will focus on health outcomes and priorities and aligning to the ICB strategy. JW stated that whilst the ICB are carrying out the review the funding for Bassetlaw services will be extended for a six-month period from April 2025. JW advised that the ICB fully understand the voluntary sector and feel that they are a key role in preventative care and targeting the deprived and most vulnerable communities. JW advised that they ICB did not provide figures on the level of funding moving forwards, however stated that the funding will be less than what is currently allocated.

JW advised that she would continue to meet with the ICB and act as a representative for partners and said that it is really important that we continue to provide the high-quality services, run by our volunteer organisations, with BCVS being the coordinator of this work. **Action:** Jo White to be invited to future meetings.


Dee Sissons stated that there had been an individual response from the Transformation Team (Bassetlaw Place) and asked JW if she had sight of this as it was helpful to see how they are looking at transformation of services and cost efficiencies. DS said that we all want to be more efficient and better at what we do but said that the NHS has the opportunity and capacity to do that at scale and investment in systems that support whereas we do not in the charity sector. DS asked if Jo could have a copy of the response sent to leaders to help understand the thinking around what they mean by transformation and cost improvements. HA confirmed that this email was the official statement that came from the ICB to our team that we were asked to share with all partners. **Action:** JB to share email with JO White.

AB thanked JW and everybody who had been working really hard on behalf of the sector and our communities. AB said this demonstrates the power of working together to try and raise that awareness and appreciates the ICB are under incredible financial pressure. AB asked JW was the reduction to be applied after or in the six-month extension. JW confirmed the new finance financial regime will come in from November. AB said this was good as it gave more time to try and further raise awareness of the difference we make because we know and we evidence well that we already are aligned to health outcomes and delivering significant benefit on behalf of our population.

KW thanked everyone who has been working on this, including BCVS and the Place ICB teams. KW said she attended the ICS Strategy meeting which was well attended and there was a strong voice in Steve Williams (Oasis) for Bassetlaw. Key questions from the event were around priorities and the strategy and KW felt that this could be fed back into the ICB to add strength.

HA clarified that the ICB are proposing a six-month extension of the current investment in Bassetlaw, however no decisions have been made. HA confirmed that all providers will be kept updated on any decisions and this will be communicated with them directly.

LS thanked HA for the clarification and thanked HA for the work that has been undertaken so far to attempt to continue investment within Bassetlaw.

5.	<p>Goodwin Trust Cllr Hazel Brand presented to the forum the Goodwin Trust in the capacity of Trustee of the charity.</p>  <p>Goodwin Charity Information Leaflet:</p> <p>Contact details:- goodwincharity@outlook.com / 07758 822 654</p>
6.	<p>Focus on Farmers Focus on Farmers is a collaborative project designed to address the unique mental and physical health needs, including cancer screening, of Bassetlaw farming community. The webpage has now been moved on to the Bassetlaw Action Centre website.</p> <p>Focus on Farmers « Bassetlaw Action Centre</p> <p>Focus of Farmers tractor air fresheners available with a QR code that will direct you the webpage. These were initially sponsored by Retford Rotary but the next batch of 1000 are being sponsored by a local man. It is hoped that farmers will hang these in their tractors and trucks and when they are on their own and need any support they can follow that QR code and it takes them to the website.</p> <p>There is also a folding card with a QR code and a teabag (sponsored by Yorkshire Tea) which has been successful and the whole farming community are liking that they are now being included. There are also some Torch keyrings with the website details on. PG is planning to attend the ploughing match on 8th March and will speak with farmers and distribute some of these items to them. Discussions have taken place with Young Farmers at the tractor run prior to Christmas. PG said it was about making the services easily accessible to them because they will not go and sit in the doctor's surgeries. PG said the local farmers are on board with this initiative and so much PG attended a meeting recently where a local farmer spoke to the group about his story for the first time.</p>
7.	<p>Cost of Living Update The focus of the cost of living activity started predominantly in the autumn, although many partners participated in the Cost of Living Summit in July 2024. The announcement of the withdrawal of winter fuel payments for certain individuals is a key focus and a joint campaign was undertaken in which Citizens Advice led on the work but there were a number of sessions held across Bassetlaw to encourage individuals, predominantly pensioners to look at a range of support that they could access. This created a lot of success in terms of providing access to various sources of financial support for those individuals. In terms of the funding that the District Councils have been able to put towards the cost of living, there have been four key focuses of that.</p> <p>The first one is around finance and benefits and again working with Citizens Advice (CANNS) there has been support for additional support workers for advice and benefits and housing issues which is a significant issue particularly people in private sector housing, dealing with landlords. There are a whole host of initiatives that can impact on people's health and this is fundamental to people's wellbeing.</p> <p>The second element was funding warm packs and supporting Bassetlaw Action Centre. There are a number of initiatives to support people, predominantly elderly with other vulnerabilities to remain in their homes and to stay safe and warm. It is not just about supplying equipment but engaging with these individuals and looking at their support needs and signposting them, We need to continue to support the food bank, particularly the mobile shop, given the rural nature of Bassetlaw that reaches out into communities and does not provide free food but offers a subsidised package that offers healthy food options. Another key element is around communication. BCVS continues to host the cost of living booklet online that is available.</p>

SB said the key feedback is that what we are seeing is demand across all partners is continuing to increase and this would need to monitor very carefully for four years and each year if it continues to rise. A report is due to go to cabinet in early March on the impacts of this. All partners are reporting the complexity of the issues that they are having to deal with and that often it is multiple issues which highlights the making every contact count (MECC) approach which is fundamental to this. There is a holistic approach needed that we have been able to provide at place, but it is under significant pressure to provide a response to these issues. SB said moving forward the pressures continue to be around future funding and the local authority finance is extremely stretched, as is everybody else's. Bassetlaw Action Centre have managed to keep up with demand on warm packs this year but there are no more supplies beyond this winter period. Therefore if there is no funding next year there will be nothing for warm packs and NHS locally have not been in the position to fund warm packs as they did in the first year capacity. SB said that across all organisations things are extremely constrained and there is a reliance on Voluntary and Community sector partners to deliver this. The 4th annual Cost of Living Summit will be on the 26th June 2025 at Worksop Town Hall.

BL (BCVS) asked about the impact of the removal of the winter fuel payments. KW said that there are people in terms of the winter fuel payment that if they were not able to receive this they have been able to look at alternatives for them. For example if people are eligible for attendance allowance, then that is something that can give you up to £105.00 a week extra, which is worth more than the actual winter fuel payment. There also effects on the working age people, so current an impact report is being worked on to look at figures. KW said a comparison showed that last year, for example, 25% of the issues that were dealt with were related to benefits and tax. in 2024, we dealt with over 7,500 benefit or tax issues, which in effect was a 51% increase from 2023. KW said there is a definite gradual increase in people coming in but agreed that it is about communication and raising awareness.

In terms of Cost of Living, KW said that there are currently 246 people awaiting contact from CANNs. Normally people would be contacted with 2 working days but currently this is around 5 days. KW said that they are currently in the process of alternating the answer phone message to meet people's expectations. The enquiries are varied but mainly financial related around benefits and tax credit but there is an increased in gendered violence and hate crime, and although the figures are not high there is an increase on last year. There will be a training session available which will be around the ways that we can help people and helpful to get that partnership working together. There has been an increase in more complex legal issues coming through the doors with an increase of over 100%. CANNs are also looking and working with the benefits team around council tax reduction.

TR said that in terms of Immigration and Asylum there is some funding from Home Office (SERCO) for every person that comes to Bassetlaw which can be utilised and if there was anything they could do to assist for KW to contact him. AB asked for further details on this.

KW confirmed that in terms of hate crime it is people of different races rather than different genders but said there is still an increase in gender violence. AB said that colleagues in the Social Prescribing team have set up an LGBT+ peer support group for adults and will circulate the information.

8. **Thriving Neighbourhoods Work**

- New venture with North Notts College and there is a meeting in February to look at taking trades skills students to do repair work with landlords on Cheapside. This will involve looking at how we integrate using local students to improve this area.
- Permission granted now for promotions that can be put onto the front of people's wheelie bins. Work is ongoing with partners to decide what is the most important thing to go on there i.e. Health, anti-social behaviour (ASB), contact details for people to report issues etc. The community group are working on this project.
- Centre Place is ongoing and there are meetings taking place to look at outcomes.
- Work continues on Priory Mews area with fencing, lighting, layout plans and working with the neighbourhood in that area.

9.	<p><u>Bassetlaw Local Area Co-Ordinator and Community Health and Wellbeing Champions</u></p> <p><u>Household Support Fund</u> Phase six of the fund will run until 31.03.25 and continues to referrals from professionals. The link for referrals has been widely distributed but if any partner organisation needs this to be sent please ask them to email me directly Paul.Cannon@nottscc.gov.uk or householdsupportfund@nottscc.gov.uk</p> <p>Phase seven of the fund has been announced by the DWP but not further guidance has been provided (and this has been chased). We are expecting the fund to be of the same value per six months, but the expectation is that the funding will be provided for a whole year. We will provide further detail when we have this</p> <p><u>Local Communities Fund</u> In the coming weeks, the outcome of the applications will be presented to our Elected Cabinet Member for sign off. Organisations who have applied will be notified in due course following the call in period.</p> <p><u>Early Help and Support</u> The team are working with to review the results of the evaluation exercise to inform next steps – further detail will be provided when know. Sharon May (Community Health and Wellbeing Champion Coordinator) is leaving Nottinghamshire County Council on 14 February and Matt Parr – Matt.Parr@nottscc.gov.uk will be the contact for the champions in the area following her departure.</p>
10.	<p><u>Drug & Alcohol related deaths</u> LA updated the forum in that a report was received from Nottinghamshire Police regarding speculation and reports of contaminated mamba in the Worksop area. The mamba was believed to contain nail polish and car wheel cleaner and users who are thought to have taken this drug are reporting they have experienced sickness and diarrhoea afterwards. LA said they have been made aware of a suspected drug related death that took place over the weekend and this individual was known to be a heavy user of mamba but from recent information received (12.02.25) it is thought that this is not linked and the cause of death was more likely to be caused by mixed drug toxicity. LA said currently they are processing and deciding on how this information is to be cascaded and share but they have made treatment providers aware. AB asked if there was any evidence around deaths/serious illness linked to nitrous oxide poisoning within Bassetlaw. LA to keep the forum updated but was not aware of any incidents.</p>
11.	<p><u>Bassetlaw Place Updates</u> HA said following the information shared by Cllr White, if any colleagues that are currently in receipt of any grants in Bassetlaw want to discuss this in further detail to contact HA after the meeting. AB asked if there was any form words that could be shared to reassure services and colleagues. LS stated that JW had not said the information was confidential therefore could not see why it could not be shared.</p> <p><u>LGBT Plus History Month in February</u> – the theme for this year is Activism and Social Change, which fits really well with Bassetlaw. The partner pack has been shared which was developed by LGBT+ Nottinghamshire in partnership with colleagues in Bassetlaw Place team. The Standing Proud in Bassetlaw log has been updated to include 2025.</p> <div data-bbox="264 1217 304 1254" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>LGBT+ History Month 2025 Partner</p> <p>LGBT+ Service Nottinghamshire held a free action planning session in Worksop on 11th February for all partners working across Bassetlaw, focusing on how organisations service and groups can be more LGBT+ inclusive</p>

Free LGBT+ awareness and inclusion training available on 20th February at Retford Hospital 12.30=3.30pm. Limited spaces available click here to book https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lgbt-awareness-training-tickets-1232966057669?utm_experiment=test_share_listing&aff=ebdsshios

Free action planning session workshop for all partners working across Bassetlaw focusing on organisations and groups

HA said that celebrating LGBT+ History Month at BBDC annual networking event was reference which was really successful.

Lung Cancer Screening– HA said there was a move away from using targeted lung health checks as a language to describe the programme and moving towards using lung cancer screening as this is easier for people to understand the concept essentially of that programme. The lung cancer screening rolled out in January in Worksop have been some really positive results due to some fantastic work that has been led by both Larwood and Newgate PCNs.

In summary Larwood and Newgate sent a behaviour science informed SMS message to individuals aged 70-74 years who had not previously responded to the previous invite (two years ago). The results seen so far are brilliant, data up to 31st January shows:

- 360 patients between age 70-74 received a targeted text from 2 GP practices (Worksop)
- 59% of total responders were between 70-74.
- 91% engagers aged 70-74 were from the 2 practices – a 22% increase
- 65% identified as high risk at lung health check assessment (higher than the average of 45%)

KW asked in terms of the lung cancer checks if there were any plans to put forward skin cancer checks as currently this is not a listed priority? HA said that there are lots of plans to look at how we can increase early cancer diagnosis, particularly focusing on target kind of population and geographical areas, they are starting to roll out the lung health checks into different cohorts. HA said the answer is not at this time particularly with the financial reset that is due for the NHS and the financial pressures, they are not looking at investing any additional resource and mobilising new initiatives, but it may be something that will be considered in the future as they work through the huge programmes relating to increasing scan cancer screening uptake and early diagnosis.

NHS England have released their 25/26 priorities and operational planning guidance.

As with 24/25 guidance this is focused on integration to maximise financial and workforce resources and improve outcomes. Narrative around a financial reset for the NHS continuing to reflect Core20Plus 5 approaches to reduce health inequalities.







NHS have also published neighbourhood health guidance, which outlines priorities for jointly developing integrated neighbourhood health and care models and advancing the maturity of collaboration between health and social care.

[NHS England » 2025/26 priorities and operational planning guidance](#)

[NHS England » Neighbourhood health guidelines 2025/26](#)

Making Every Contact Count (MECC) - HA said that partners had been contacted to return information on numbers of staff that have completed MECC training. This is something that is being monitored by the ICB and measures on as a Place-Based Partnership. This has raised questions on how to access the training. Linked below to access this including on online session delivered by ABL

[Making Every Contact Count - elearning for healthcare](#) if working in the NHS

	<p>OpenAthens eligibility OpenAthens Knowledge resources Evidence and best practice resources What we do About NICE - Register for access if working with the NHS outside of an NHS organisation</p> <p>ABL MECC online session - https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/making-every-contact-count-mecc-tickets-1112660139429</p> <p>Integrated Care System Refresh - HA has been working on a draft response together with LS, DA, LE and SB. This has been sent out to partners asking for comments and feedback as we want to make sure that the voice of all partners in Bassetlaw are reflected in our response. This needs to be submitted by the 19th February and the ask is for feedback by the 18th to pull the information together for submission</p>
12.	<p><u>Place Partner Updates</u> BCVS</p> <p>AB said feedback from the LGBT+ group was how positive it was to see the rainbow flags across Bassetlaw. East Midlands VCSE Alliance (EMVA) launched. This is part of the mitigation and support for groups to try and access national funding - https://www.facebook.com/reel/1268174514485322</p> <p>ABL – free boxing sessions to be held at St Pauls Church in Manton from 5pm-6pm on Thursdays. These sessions will run for 6 weeks from 30th January 2025.</p> <p> Free Boxing Sessions.pdf</p> <p>Active Notts – Sara Davies (SB) said that Active Notts are trying to work with partners across Nottinghamshire to try and make it more safe and inclusive and accessible for people to walk and wheel on an everyday basis. The aim is to put an infrastructure in place looking at roads and pavement ensuring they are accessible. SD said that they are working with Health and Social Care to look at the support that people may need to help them move more and is passionate about MECC when working with people across all sectors. SD said that May is National Walking month and they are encouraging people to become more active during May, so whether that is putting active design into a local plan or putting a new nature trail into a park or treasure trail in a town or starting a new walking group etc. SD said they are planning a Walk Notts Festival in May which is promoting what is happening in the county with walking/wheeling activities. SD said this would link in well with the Move More in May campaign in Bassetlaw. https://walknotts.org.uk/get-walking/</p>
13.	<p><u>Training Opportunities</u></p> <p> System Leadership Sessions.pdf  Jan - Apr 2025 Young Carer Awaren  Winter Spring 2025 CPD Training Flyer Y 25-Notts-Training-Bi  April-September-20  Free LGBT+ Awareness Training.pr</p>
14.	<p><u>Future event planning and coordination</u></p> <p>Move More in May 2025 – Friday 30th May at Kings Park, Retford</p>
15.	<p><u>AOB</u> None</p>
16.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting: Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 1-3pm via Microsoft Teams.</p>