

Health and Wellbeing Board Development

Report of the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

1) Recommendation

That board members note this paper and participate in the development meetings and workshop planned for November/December 2024 to drive Board development and impact.

2) Background / Introduction

The Devon Health and Wellbeing Board has been in operation since April 2013 with the purpose of driving joined up working on health, care and wellbeing, and overseeing the production of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Board has seen significant change in membership over recent years, including my own appointment as Chair in 2024. Of the 17 current members of the Board, only three were Board members at the start of 2020, meaning that few current board members have engaged in previous board development activities when they last happened in 2018 and 2019.

The current Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Devon runs from 2020 to 2025, and a new strategy setting health and wellbeing priorities for local partners will need to be produced in 2025. Since 2020 Integrated Care Systems have also been formally established along with an Integrated Care Strategy and Joint Forward Plan for local systems, which provide further opportunities for Health and Wellbeing Board influence. There is also an opportunity for the next strategy to reflect emerging or escalating issues over the last five years, including the cost of living, climate change and changes to health needs and risk after the Covid-19 pandemic.

With significant recent changes to membership and the forthcoming requirement for a new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, there is now a good opportunity to review how we are functioning and where we can have our greatest impact as a Board.

3) Local Government Association Support for Health and Wellbeing Board Development

To support our work in this area I have reached out to the Local Government Association (LGA). The LGA play an important role in supporting council members and committees to support, promote and improve services. They have a particular role in councillor and officer development, providing tools and support to enhance leadership, skills and capacity.

This includes specific support for Health and Wellbeing Board development. This support is independent and well facilitated, and typically involve experienced elected members (usually current or former Board chairs) and senior officers (usually current or former Service Directors) with a health and wellbeing background supporting development sessions and activities with Board members. This support is funded nationally, with the only expectation on the local authority being to arrange the venue and any refreshments.

Following the initial approach, the LGA are going to support the following for the Board:

- A series of 1-2-1 meetings (typically via Teams) for individual board members with LGA representatives to capture feedback on the current functioning of the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board and any ideas from members in relation to board development and maximising impact
- An in-person facilitated workshop at County Hall following these 1-2-1 meetings jointly discuss and develop objectives for board development and ways of working, drawing where appropriate on good practice from elsewhere.

This can then be developed into a plan of action for the Health and Wellbeing Board, and inform the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh during 2025.

Arrangements for these activities are currently being made, and are expected to occur in November and December 2024.

4) Next Steps

One-to-one team meetings and the facilitated in-person workshop will be arranged with the LGA and Board members will be invited to participate.

5) Options / Alternatives

Nil

6) Consultations / Representations / Technical Data

Nil

7) Strategic Plan

The JHWS priorities align to the Devon County Council Plan 2021 – 2025: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/strategic-plan/>. This report demonstrates the NHS Devon contribution to the delivery of these priorities.

8) Financial Considerations

Nil

9) Legal Considerations

Nil

10) Environmental Impact Considerations (Including Climate Change, Sustainability and Socio-economic)

Nil

11) Equality Considerations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is responsible for promoting health equality, and board development activities will support the Board in these aims.

12) Risk Management Considerations

Nil

13) Summary / Conclusions / Reasons for Recommendations

Nil

Chair, Health & Wellbeing Board

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