



## **Health and Wellbeing Development Group**

### **1 Purpose**

This paper provides further context for the establishment and initial meetings of a Health and Wellbeing Development Group.

### **2 Health and Wellbeing Boards**

The introduction of a Statutory Health and Wellbeing Board is a key aspect of the Health and Social Care Bill. The Board is proposed to introduce democratic legitimacy to health services, support health and social care joint commissioning through a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and support the integration of public health services into local authorities.

The Bill was introduced to Parliament on the 19 January 2011, the report stage will take place on the 9 September 2011 and it is anticipated the Bill will receive Royal Assent in December. Statutory instruments and regulations will be published in early 2012 which will provide clarity around how the establishment of the Board will impact council's constitutions.

The Government recently took a pause in the legislative process for further consultation on the Bill to take place. The report of the Future Forum, who undertook the consultation, made recommendations to further strengthen the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board so they are the 'focal point for decision-making about local health and wellbeing'.

Although the Board will have no power of veto it is proposed that they would be able to refer commissioner's plans to the National Commissioning Board for England should the plans not reflect evidence in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment or the aspirations of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. As the proposed Board would be a council committee local authorities would be free to insist upon having a majority of councillors on the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **3 Health and Wellbeing Development Group**

The proposed development group will not be formed as an official committee of the council and will not have any decision making powers. The development group will take the lead on the development of the formal Health and Wellbeing Board. The early implementation programme has allowed for the creation of a development group to begin the development stages of a formal Board. A formally constituted Health and Wellbeing Board will be progressed when the relevant legislation has passed through Parliament and a report will be submitted to Council for approval at that time.



A Health and Wellbeing Board event will take place in November at County Hall, Exeter to discuss the proposed new duties of a Health and Wellbeing Board. The work is being undertaken in partnership with Devon County Council and the Department of Health to foster a consistent approach across the peninsula.

#### 4 Principles

The proposed development group will consult partner organisations and make recommendations to the Council (as the accountable body) and partners on how to constitute the Health and Wellbeing Board. The development group will be guided by the following principles, group members will –

- Acknowledge the shared commitment to improve and maintain the health and wellbeing of those who live and work in Plymouth
- Operate an 'open border policy' to ensure that organisational boundaries are not a hindrance to the development of the Health and Wellbeing Board and improved integrated commissioning
- Acknowledge that the sharing of knowledge and data will be essential to the development of an effective Health and Wellbeing Board and associated Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Respect existing effective local structures
- Ensure that all recommendations are formed from a clear and robust evidence base

#### 5 Development Areas

The development group will ensure that a development plan is created, implemented, reviewed and updated. The development plan would include -

- work to identify the boards/groups currently in operation across the city which could form part of the new structure
- how to monitor the development of Healthwatch
- how to advise executive bodies on public health integration
- a plan for the review of Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment, the development of a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and make recommendations to the formal Health and Wellbeing Board once in place
- A communications plan to ensure that the development of the board is communicated across all partners and stakeholders

An essential task of the development group would be to understand and test relationships with existing partnership structures including –



- The City Council's executive
- The City Council's Overview and Scrutiny Function
- Plymouth 2020 Partnership
- Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS Cluster Board (Devon)
- Social Care Commissioners
- Health and Social Care Providers including Plymouth Community Healthcare and Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust.
- Other stakeholders including the voluntary and community sector, the business community and social housing providers.

The development group would also prepare and advise on the implementation of robust governance structures, terms of reference and development of executive and sub-committees of the Board.

The creation of the development group will be essential in testing governance structures in the months leading up to the formation of the formal Health and Wellbeing board. The development group will play a key role in the training and development of individuals who are likely to become members of the formal Health and Wellbeing Board.

## 6 Membership

It is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board would be a committee of the council, it is anticipated that the Health and Wellbeing Board will be in place for the municipal year 2012-13.

The Health and Social Care Bill provides a statutory membership for the Health and Wellbeing Board which are marked with asterisks in the below membership of the development group. Outside of the statutory membership there will be flexibility to add further members to the Board that the local authority deems appropriate.

In order to facilitate development of the Board the group will consist of the following members -

- Cabinet Member for Adult Health and Social Care \*
- Healthwatch (LINK) \*
- Chair of Sentinel Clinical Commissioning Executive \*
- Director of Adult Social Services \*
- Director of Children's Services \*
- Director of Public Health \*
- NHS Cluster Chief Executive (or nomination)



University of Plymouth  
Chair of Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel  
Vice Chair of Adult Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel /  
Lead Opposition Member for Health

Asterisks indicate statutory membership of a Health and Wellbeing Board as proposed in the Health and Social Care Bill.

It is anticipated that the development group will make recommendations on a consensus basis.

## 7 **Meeting Administration**

The development group will be administered by Plymouth City Council's Democratic Support Team.

Written notice of meetings, along with the agenda and associated papers will be sent to members of the Board at least five clear development days in advance of any meeting. Late items will be distributed or tabled only in exceptional circumstances.