

WIRRAL COUNCIL

Health & Wellbeing Board

11 November 2015

SUBJECT:	Joint Protocol – Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthwatch and health scrutiny
REPORT OF:	Clare Fish (Strategic Director of Families & Wellbeing)

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report requests that members of the Health & Wellbeing Board approve an agreement which is aimed at strengthening joint working arrangements between Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board, Wirral Healthwatch and health scrutiny (currently undertaken by the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee).

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 During 2013, a scrutiny review entitled 'The implications of the Francis Report for Wirral' was undertaken by a panel of elected members. The recommendations of the panel members were subsequently approved by the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee and by the Council's Cabinet.

2.2 Two of the recommendations of Wirral's scrutiny review were:

Recommendation 11 – Protocol for effective working between Healthwatch and health scrutiny

The Head of Policy & Performance / Director of Public Health is requested to develop a protocol between Healthwatch and health scrutiny in order to encourage collaborative and effective joint working.

Recommendation 12 – Framework for effective working between the Health & Wellbeing Board and health scrutiny

The Head of Policy & Performance / Director of Public Health is requested to develop a framework to encourage a constructive working relationship between Health & Wellbeing Board and health scrutiny, ensuring that strategies reflect priorities and deliver outcomes.

2.3 The Robert Francis report, arising from events at Mid Staffordshire hospital, stressed the necessity to "promote the coordination and cooperation between local Healthwatch, Health & Wellbeing Boards and local government scrutiny committees". Meetings of representatives of the three bodies have been held recently to review the practical working arrangements in Wirral.

- 2.4 Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthwatch Wirral and the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee (which currently undertakes Wirral Council's health scrutiny responsibilities) share a common goal of improving health and social care services to benefit the health and wellbeing of residents. All three have a role to play in reviewing and making recommendations about the way local services are planned and delivered. However, without due consideration for the complementary roles, there is potential for duplication when reviewing the health and social care system, and a lack of understanding about how the 3 bodies interact.
- 2.5 It has been agreed that, in order to secure stronger working relationships, a draft agreement to promote closer working arrangements should be produced. The draft protocol, which is attached as an appendix to this report, aims to ensure that appropriate mechanisms are in place to:
- exchange information, intelligence and work programmes;
 - recognise issues of mutual concern / interest at an early stage and ensure they are dealt with in a spirit of co-operation;
 - avoid any duplication of effort;
 - provide a shared understanding of the process of referrals and arrangements for dealing with such referrals.
- 2.6 The draft protocol has been considered and approved by the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee, and has also been adopted by Healthwatch. Subject to any amendments, it is hoped that the protocol will be approved by the Health & Wellbeing Board.
- 2.7 At a practical level, steps have already been taken to strengthen the working relationships. As examples, the manager of Healthwatch Wirral has already been invited to attend meetings of the Health and Care Performance Panel and will, in future, be invited to attend meetings of the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee (as a not-voting invitee).

3.0 RELEVANT RISKS

3.1 N/A

4.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 N/A

5.0 CONSULTATION

5.1 The draft protocol being presented to the Families and Wellbeing Policy & Performance Committee, Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Board and Wirral Healthwatch.

6.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS

6.1 N/A

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS

7.1 The proposed working agreement relates to one of the Council's third sector partners, Healthwatch.

8.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

8.1 It is expected that implementation of the protocol will not require any additional resources.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 N/A

10.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?
(c) No because of another reason which is: The report is for information to Members and there are no direct equalities implications at this stage.

11.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 N/A

12.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

12.1 N/A

13.0 RECOMMENDATION/S

13.1 The Board approves the proposed agreement for joint working between Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthwatch Wirral and Wirral Health Scrutiny.

13.2 Council Officers finalise any amendments to the draft agreement following the consultation with the three bodies.

14.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

14.1 The recommendations will ensure that the Council implements two of the recommendations from one of its previous scrutiny reviews and follows good practice as proposed in the Francis Report.

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APPENDICES:

Agreement for joint working between Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board, Healthwatch Wirral and Wirral Health Scrutiny