

Briefing Note	Health & Wellbeing Board Refreshed Purpose
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Introduction

Wirral's Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) provides oversight, strategic direction and co-ordination of local partnerships to improve the health and wellbeing of Wirral residents and to help shape Wirral as a place to achieve that end.

The wider landscape and context that the Board and all partners operate in is radically changing including:

- NHS national reforms and local proposals for Integrated Care Systems (ICS)
- the unprecedented, ongoing impact of Covid
- a changing social and economic context.

Within the context of these significant changes, it is timely to review the vision, aims and focus of Wirral's Health & Wellbeing Board.

This note sets some factors for the Board to consider as part of a wider review, and to help the Board shape its future direction, priorities and focus for the coming months – to consider what we want to do and how we want to do it.

An initial discussion will take place at the Board on 31st March, to be followed up further discussion and a work programme of key tasks to move this forward. Following this, a Forward Plan will be co-produced with the Board, to set a schedule of proposed actions and milestones for the next 12 months.

1.0 Background and Context

The NHS policy direction since 2016 has been based on creation of System Transformation Partnerships (STPs) aiming to establish an integrated collaborative approach to manage resources effectively and ultimately improve population health and reduce inequalities.

The NHS Long Term Plan published in 2019 further set out the direction for health and care to join up locally to meet population needs and for greater collaborative working and for all STPs to work towards being formally approved by NHSE as an ICS (Integrated Care System).

Latest proposals in November 2020 from NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) set out guiding principles for the future of integrated care systems (ICSs) in England. This includes significant legislative changes to give ICSs statutory functions, change CCGs and the way NHS providers work together.

The proposals bring a new emphasis on having an integrated approach to prevention and community-based health and wellbeing services, to address wider determinants of health. For example, safe and affordable housing, access to training and good jobs, a safe and

healthy environment, support for early years, and infrastructure to support resilient communities.

This changing context has some clear implications for how Health & Wellbeing Boards will operate going forward.

1.1 Place shaping

Wirral will need to consider the proposals in the context of the Wirral Plan as the overarching strategic vision for Wirral the Place. This includes clear aims to improve health outcomes as well as linked priorities to make Wirral a great place to live, work and prosper.

We also need to consider how we want to work together locally to deliver the NHS reforms. Key points to consider include:

- Growing recognition that integration and collaboration are more effective at driving improved population health and reducing inequalities
- The benefits of health and social care working together with other key partners such as housing, schools, businesses, and voluntary sector to support individuals and communities to be more independent and resilient
- To improve population health and wellbeing through the NHS and local government acting together to address wider determinants of health such as housing, local planning and education.

2.0 Strategic Vision of the Health and Wellbeing Board

“Wirral is a place where everyone is able to live happy, safe and healthy lives”

2.1 What the Health and Wellbeing Board does

Wirral's Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) is a partnership body that provides strategic vision, shared leadership and coordination of local partnerships in order to improve Wirral and the population health outcomes of its residents. To achieve this there are some key pillars of work related to the delivery of the Wirral Plan:

- Ensure that the sustainable regeneration of the Borough, contributes to improved outcomes for residents in line with those set out in the Wirral Plan.
- Ensure that partnership and integrated care arrangements are in place and that they are effective in delivering improved health outcomes and experiences of care for residents of Wirral.
- Understand the needs of the local communities in order to develop and implement a Health & Wellbeing Strategy to tackle inequalities and improve the lives of residents.
- Provide oversight, strategic direction and coordination of the statutory responsibilities of the Health & Wellbeing Board.

2.0 How the Board will make this happen

The overarching strategic vision for Wirral the Place, is the Wirral Plan. This includes clear aims to improve population health outcomes as well as linked priorities to make Wirral a great place to live, work and prosper, including:

- **A thriving and inclusive economy**, creating jobs and opportunities for all.
- **A clean-energy, sustainable borough**, leading the way in tackling the environment crisis.
- **Brighter futures** for all regardless of their background.
- **Safe and pleasant communities** that our residents are proud of.
- **Healthy and active lives** for all, with the right care, at the right time.

The Wirral Plan is underpinned by several more detailed strategies and plans setting out how we will achieve these aims.

This will include development of a Health & Wellbeing Strategy which the Health & Wellbeing Board will be responsible for. This Strategy will set out clear goals to tackle health inequalities and improve outcomes for all of our residents.

The Health and Wellbeing Board will set direction, outcomes and objectives to improve health outcomes for Wirral residents. It will hold leaders to account and will support a number of working groups to implement the plans.

3.0 Key tasks and next steps

To take this work forward, some key actions are suggested including:

- a) Further consideration of the national ICS proposals and timescales for implementation
- b) A summary of Cheshire & Merseyside context, developments, and linkages
- c) The Board to review its Membership and agree a revised Terms of Reference – for subsequent endorsement by Wirral Council Constitution and Standards Committee
- d) Review the wider Wirral Partnership landscape to agree the role and purpose of this Board in a new context of Place Leadership
- e) Map out the wider Strategic context and linkages with key Wirral strategies eg the Wirral Plan; Health Inequality Strategy; Regeneration Framework; Neighbourhood and Community Engagement etc.

A draft Forward Plan will be circulated for partners to shape and input. This will include a clear Work Programme for the Board for the next 12 months.

The Health & Wellbeing Board will appoint multi-agency Reference Groups and task & finish groups to take forward these actions and deliver specific activity as the Health & Wellbeing Strategy is developed.