

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**29 September 2021**

REPORT TITLE:	FORMATION OF THE COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH (CVF) REFERENCE GROUP TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
REPORT OF:	COMMUNITY, VOLUNTARY AND FAITH SECTOR REFERENCE GROUP

REPORT SUMMARY

This report relates to the working relationship of the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector Reference Group and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

This report affects all wards within the borough.

It is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Note the establishment of a Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector Reference Group;
2. Support the development of a progressive and effective working partnership with the Community, Voluntary and Faith sector through the Reference Group;
3. Support the principal aim of the Reference Group, to build and support the development of local infrastructure, in support of ongoing programmes and plans to meet the health and wellbeing needs of Wirral's communities and residents;
4. Support the secondary aim of the Reference Group, to work in full partnership to bring forward the opportunities and benefits for communities and residents arising from Government programmes and new legislation; and
5. Support the use of all available data sources by the Reference Group to inform its contribution to plans and programmes.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The White Paper, '**Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all**', (February 2021) places particular emphasis on 'The Primacy of Place' and the full involvement of the Community, Voluntary and Social Enterprise sector in the development of locally designed and developed systems for tackling health inequalities. The **Health and Care Bill** currently progressing through parliament creates the legal framework to support these working together principles.
- 1.2 The 'refreshed' Wirral Plan 2021 - 2026, Equity for People and Place, was approved by Full Council on 6th September and fully supports these principles and in addition emphasises the need for communities and residents to play a full part in the local design process.
- 1.3 The impending legislation places a particular responsibility on the local Health and Wellbeing Boards in relation to the development of working partnerships, the involvement of the CVSE sector and the involvement of communities and residents in the design of new local informed approaches within the new legal framework.
- 1.4 The Reference Group, in developing its relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board, has the opportunity through working in partnership to assist the development of local infrastructure and systems to enable community and residents to play their fullest part in keeping people healthy and safe.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 An alternative option would be to co-opt a representative of the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector to the Health and Wellbeing Board. It is felt that the sector is too wide to be represented by one individual.
- 2.2 A further option would be to not have the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board. This was discounted given the key role the sector has in the Health and Wellbeing of Wirral residents.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 A literature search conducted by Community Voice (CV), the broker asked to form the reference group, found no evidence of a CVF Reference Group being formed by a Health and Wellbeing Board whose aim was to further engagement between the sector and between communities and residents. Reference Groups are regular features in the sciences and, by and large, populated by peers and experts.
- 3.2 In the absence of any guidance and or best practice in this setting, CV developed a design proposal as both a discussion document and an aid.

- 3.3 During the pandemic, and in anticipation of a much-changed landscape for the delivery of social care, CV carried out a comprehensive study of emerging and established best practice.
- 3.4 Prior to the pandemic, and as part of a review of the Constituency Model for Neighbourhood Working, members of the Community of Practice and Community Representatives produced a report based on the full involvement of communities and residents.
- 3.5 Central government has made several key statements with reference to reducing the health inequalities in the UK. Such statements as 'Building back better', 'Levelling Up', 'Looking after left behind communities' etc, to the point, that there is strong potential that associated funding streams will be made available through the new structure.
- 3.6 The appointment of the 'Marmot Team' and the establishment of Cheshire and Merseyside as a 'Marmot Region' in Nov 2019, refreshed recently (June 2021) establishes the five Beacon Indicators in the borough, viz.
1. Workforce education and training
 2. Working with individuals and communities
 3. Health sector as employer's anchor organisations
 4. Working in partnerships
 5. Workforce as advocates

Sir Michael Marmot advises 'telling the truth, the evidence can make a real difference'.

- 3.7 In the Health and Care Bill, Health and Wellbeing Boards continue to have the statutory role for improving health and wellbeing, using joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to set local priorities. Health and Wellbeing Boards are a key component of the new legal framework with a key role to support place-based working and the development of local Integrated Care Boards.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Building infrastructure to support working partnerships involving the CVF sector, communities and their residents will require a significant proportion of central government funding associated with 'levelling up' etc. This funding aimed at 'keeping people well' will need to be invested wisely and against appropriate investment return criteria based on social value and public value.
- 4.2 Building infrastructure to support working partnerships involving the CVF sector, communities and their residents is likely to require significant investment

- 4.2.1 The favoured approach in best practice is the establishment of Community Investment Funds, initially as pump priming, but then, by returning a proportion of savings accruing from social and public value benefit streams, such funds can be replenished and developed to serve more and more local working partnerships to generate further value and benefits to communities and residents in need.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Establishing Reference Groups to inform decision making from the knowledge and perspectives of these groups can and must be a key component of place-based partnership working.
- 5.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board may invite representatives of other bodies to participate in Board discussions to support effective decision-making. The report seeks the approval for the establishment of a Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector Reference Group to be established to contribute to place-based partnership working in the interest of communities and residents.
- 5.3 The Reference Group will be required to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board as to how it will carry out its role and to inform and discuss with the Board any subsequent changes.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 No additional resources for the formation and operation of a Reference Group are anticipated. All contributions to the Reference Group are to be on a voluntary basis.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 There is a risk that the Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector are not fully and actively engaged in matters relating to the Health and Wellbeing of Wirral residents. This report seeks to mitigate that risk.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Engagement with communities and their residents will be at the centre of all aspects of partnership working, aided by the development of local infrastructure to support place-based activities to improve health and wellbeing.
- 8.2 The current wider CVF and ongoing task and finish process being conducted, will serve to encourage collaborative working partnerships involving key stakeholders and further enable and inform community representation and involvement.
- 8.3 Consultation, with the full involvement and participation of locally elected representatives and with the providers of services. will always be considered as an essential. The level of participation and involvement to be discussed and agreed locally.

9 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:

- tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
- foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

9.2 The CVF-RG, being a non-statutory organisation with representation from the CVF sector, will carry forward the statutory requirements placed on its individual members and on the HWB.

9.3 The membership of the Reference Group will be taken from across different sections and will seek to be as representative as possible.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Environmental factors are, in many ways, acknowledged as a key driver for supporting good health and have been recognised as such for decades.

10.2 Open space for recreation and exercise can play a significant part in keeping people well and safe.

10.3 Looking after the environment is a global challenge needing the full attention of all levels of society as it is widely accepted that failure to do so is adversely affecting the climate.

10.4 The challenge of looking after the local environment, within a place-based system for improving health and wellbeing, can create a strong sense of ownership at community level and pride in joint ownership.

REPORT AUTHOR:

The Community, Voluntary and Faith sector Reference Group

Leader: **Keelan Early**

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Designing a Wirral Health and Wellbeing Board CVF Reference Group: May 2021.

'Doing it to, doing it for, doing it with'. CV, Jan 2021.

Proposals for a Revised Method of Neighbourhood Working, June 2018.

The White Paper, 'Integration and Innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all'

The Health and Care Bill

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date