



HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Date 31st March 2021

REPORT TITLE:	HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD REFRESHED PURPOSE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF ADULT CARE AND HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

Wirral's Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) is a partnership body that provides strategic vision, shared leadership, and co-ordination of local partners to enhance the population health outcomes of its residents to enhance the population health outcomes of its residents and to improve Wirral as a place in order to achieve that.

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.

The briefing note attached at Appendix 1 set out 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.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Health & Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Review and refresh its focus and purpose.
2. Request that the Director of Law & Governance, in consultation with the Director of Adult Care and Health and the Director of Public Health, undertake a review of the Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference, and that a revised Terms of Reference be brought back to a future meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board prior to its consideration at Constitution and Standards Committee.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Against the backdrop of Covid, and a changing social and economic context, it is timely to review the role and function of the Health & Wellbeing Board. To ensure transparency and accountability and provide local democratic oversight, the Board are being asked to review how it will work and future priorities.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 There were no other options considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Wirral's Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) provides oversight, strategic direction and coordination of the range of local partnerships to improve the health and wellbeing of the residents of Wirral Borough's area.
- 3.2 The overarching strategic vision for Wirral is the Wirral Plan. This includes clear aims to improve health outcomes as well as linked priorities to make Wirral a great place to live, work and prosper.
- 3.3 The Wirral Plan is currently being refreshed to reflect changing social and economic conditions and the impact of Covid. This changing context, together with significant national NHS changes and proposals for Integrated Care Systems (ICS) has some clear implications for how Health & Wellbeing Boards will operate.
- 3.4 It is therefore timely to review the Health & Wellbeing Board, including Membership and Terms of Reference, to ensure they remain relevant and up to date and in particular, as the new ICS proposals are implemented over the coming months.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 No direct implications, although the Board aims to drive a collaborative approach to commissioning of improved health and care services which improve the health and wellbeing of local people and help address financial pressures within the system.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Currently, Health and Wellbeing Boards are bodies that the Council is required to establish under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act). They have the status of an ordinary committee of Council, but are unusual in their voting membership in that it requires only a minimum of only one elected member of the Council and that the other voting members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are made up from members appointed from other roles. The other voting members must include the director of children's services, the director of adult social services and the director of public health together with a representative of the Local Healthwatch organisation and each relevant Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG). The Board may then appoint additional persons as members, as may the Council (subject to consultation

with the Health and Wellbeing Board before appointing those additional persons following the Board's establishment).

- 5.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board is purposed by the Act to encourage integrated working between commissioners of NHS, public health and social care services for the advancement of the health and wellbeing of the local population. As well as being a committee of the Council, the relevant CCGs are required to co-operate with the Health and Wellbeing Board in the exercise of the Board's functions.
- 5.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board has a duty to encourage integrated working between commissioners of NHS, public health and social care services for the advancement of the health and wellbeing of the local population. A Health and Wellbeing Board must provide advice, assistance or other support in order to encourage partnership arrangements such as the developing of agreements to pool budgets or make lead commissioning arrangements under section 75 of the NHS Act.
- 5.4 The Health and Wellbeing Board is required, for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in its area, to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of health or social care services in its area to work in an integrated manner. In particular, the Health and Wellbeing Board is required to provide advice, assistance or other support as it thinks appropriate for the purpose of encouraging arrangements under section 75 of the NHS Act (arrangements under which, for example, NHS bodies and local authorities agree to exercise specified functions of each other or pool funds).
- 5.5 The Health and Wellbeing Board is provided with the ability to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of services related to wider determinants of health (health-related services), such as housing, to work closely with the Board and to encourage such persons to work closely with commissioners of health and social care services.
- 5.6 The Health and Wellbeing Board is separately required under the Act to discharge the functions of the Council and of Clinical Commissioning Groups in preparing joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies.
- 5.7 The Act further grants the Health and Wellbeing Board the ability to inform the local authority of its views on whether the authority is discharging its duty to have regard to the joint strategic needs assessment and joint health and wellbeing strategy in discharging its functions.
- 5.8 The Council is able to delegate a range of functions beyond the existing powers and functions, with the express exception of overview and scrutiny functions (including health scrutiny). A given example relevant to the discussion of this report is that this could, where appropriate, potentially extend to functions relating to wider determinants of health, such as housing, that affect the health and wellbeing of the population, which is relevant to this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 No direct implications

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 No direct implications

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The draft Terms of Reference will be shaped through further engagement with partners involved in the Board.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 A key function of the Board is to understand the needs of local communities to tackle health inequalities and improve the lives of residents.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 No direct implications.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Health & Wellbeing Board Refreshed Purpose

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Council Constitution

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date