

## HWB Covid-19 Reset: rapid research with HWBs

### Purpose of report

For direction.

### Summary

1. The LGA Care and Health Improvement Programme commissioned rapid research with health and wellbeing board (HWB) chairs to review the support offer for HWB chairs and political leaders.
2. The report attached as **Appendix A** will inform the development of the reset improvement offer and is also a valuable commentary on the issues for HWBs as they re-assert their system leadership role in the evolving situation.
3. The report makes recommendations for revising our support offer for HWBs.

### Recommendation

That the suggestions in section 10 are considered by the Board on how the support offer needs to develop in the context of COVID-19.

### Action

The support offer for HWBs is revised to reflect decisions of the Board

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## HWB Covid-19 Reset: rapid research with HWBs

### Background

1. The improvement support for Leading Healthier Places was paused in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Moving into the reset phase, the offer needs to reposition the HWB for the current context and transfer the delivery methods to virtual channels.
2. In order to inform our review of the offer we undertook some rapid research with a sample of 15 Health and Wellbeing Board Chairs, with a good representation of political affiliation, geography and authority type, using an experienced associate and a structured interview process.
3. The attached report **Appendix A** informs the development of the improvement offer and is a valuable commentary on the evolving nature of the HWB as they review and re-assert their system leadership role.
4. We plan to repeat the exercise in a few months' time to add to the bank of intelligence but will also continue to connect virtually with HWB chairs, creating a dialogue and work in a more engaged and responsive way through the phases of COVID-19.

### Issues

5. The report provides valuable insights into local experiences during the emergency, highlights key issues of concern, shares some examples of innovation and provides useful ideas on support needs that we can act upon.
6. The key issues that were highlighted for HWBs are:
  - 6.1 Strong and consistent themes both negative: PPE, care homes, testing, contact tracing, perceived disconnect between national and local government, exacerbated health inequalities, frustrations with data flow and positive: Community and volunteer response and step changes in processes like rapid reductions in DTOC.
  - 6.2 A widely shared opinion that the COVID-19 emergency has changed the future purpose of HWBs, and chairs are actively thinking about this and the opportunity this presents.

- 6.3 The support offer is welcome in helping HWB Chairs to influence the post-recovery system, and understanding where HWBs can add value at council, combined authority, STP/ICS and regional level.
  - 6.4 An overwhelming acceptance of channel shift from face-to-face care and support to virtual services, though a recognition that not everyone has the same access to digital technology.
7. In the light of the findings of the review we recommend that the support offer needs to develop in the context of COVID-19 and the following immediate changes to the HWB support offer:
- 7.1 Develop and launch a simple HWB reset agenda tool that HWBs can use themselves:  
<https://local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/HWB%20Reset%20Offer%20.pdf>  
**(Appendix B)**
  - 7.2 Offer bespoke facilitated virtual support with the tool, ranging from individual telephone support to a virtual development workshop.
  - 7.3 Keep in contact with HWBs that use the tool and ask to virtually observe the HWB.
  - 7.4 Establish a webinar programme on key leadership topics, which commenced with COVID-19 and ethnicity on 2 June.
  - 7.5 Develop our autumn Leadership Essentials programme into a virtual offer with a menu of live sessions, live action learning sets, individual personal leadership calls plus on-line distance learning and speaker videos to be viewed flexibly.
  - 7.6 Continue to provide our political mentoring offer for HWB chairs virtually.
  - 7.7 Share different leadership perspectives and learning through videos - 'Fireside Chats'.
  - 7.8 Maintain a flexible approach through our bespoke offer to support HWB chairs during the different phases of COVID-19.
8. Board members are requested to provide their views and input to shape the support into the autumn and beyond.

### **Implications for Wales**

9. The research is not relevant to the Welsh system and we are not funded to provide support to Wales.

### **Financial Implications**

10. The improvement support is funded by DHSC through the CHIP programme

### **Next steps**

11. Following this discussion, the support offer on Leading Healthier Places and specifically the leadership elements for members and HWBs will be progressed quickly to ensure there is an immediate and initial offer for members on how to re-set their HWB and assert their system leadership role in the new landscape.
12. Other elements of the support offer, around prevention and public health encompassing support for local outbreak planning and health inequalities will continue to be progressed with stakeholders.