

Future of Health and Wellbeing Boards

Purpose:

For discussion and direction.

Summary

This report summarises the purpose of the Future of Health and Wellbeing Boards project and seeks direction from the Board on the key messages of the report.

Recommendations

Members of the Community and Wellbeing Board are asked to:

- note the progress made so far;
- discuss and agree the purpose and key messages of the project;
- discuss and provide views on the questions outlined in paragraphs 11.1 – 11.4.

Action

By officers, as directed by the Board.

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Future of Health and Wellbeing Boards

Background

1. Since their creation in 2013, the ambition and scope for Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) have grown far beyond their original statutory duties, especially in relation to drive forward the scale and pace of integration of health and social care. This report outlines the purpose of a project to further develop the LGA's policy position on the future of HWBs, for launching at the LGA's Annual Conference in July 2015.
2. The current LGA policy position on HWBs is set out in Investing in our Nation's Future: the First 100 Days of the next Government. We propose a Public Services Bill which will: "give everyone access to a seamless health and care services that better meets their needs by ensuring Health and Wellbeing Boards are the place which joins up the commissioning of primary, secondary and social care services in a coherent way". We also propose that the first Budget of the new Government should: "Fully integrate the funding for the commissioning of adult social care and health as a step towards the single point of commissioning". This project will test the ambition and appetite for a greater role for HWBs and identify how we can move towards this ambition in a flexible and localist way.

Purpose of project

3. The project is a collaboration between LGA and NHS Clinical Commissioners to:
 - 3.1. evaluate the current effectiveness and capabilities of HWBs, based on national research and evaluations;
 - 3.2. consult key stakeholders of HWBs to gauge their appetite and ambition for a greater role in leading integration;
 - 3.3. arising from the consultative workshops identify what needs to change in order to make HWBs fit for their future purpose;
 - 3.4. arising from the consultative workshops to develop a shared ambition for future HWBs based on following principles:
 - 3.4.1. diversity and localism - allowing each health and care economy to move at their own pace;
 - 3.4.2. parity between partners – for HWBs to demonstrate that they are a partnership of equals, with equal power, leadership, responsibility and commitment from all members, in particular CCGs and local authorities;
 - 3.4.3. subsidiarity – that models of HWBs may be different depending on the footprint and complexity of the local and regional health and social care systems;
 - 3.4.4. accountability and transparency – recognising the tensions between the different accountability mechanisms for councils – downwards to local people – and CCGs – upwards to NHS England and the Secretary of State.
4. The publication will also develop several possible models of HWBs, reflecting the different levels and ambition, capacity for greater leadership and the complexity of local health and care landscapes. It will be backed up with a series of recommendations on what needs to change locally and nationally to achieve the different levels of ambition for HWBs. We will also develop a series of possible models of future HWBs to reflect

different levels of ambition, different geographical footprints (including for combined authorities).

Progress so far

5. We have established a joint LGA and NHS CC project group, chaired by Caroline Tapster, Director of the HWB System Improvement Programme to direct and oversee the project.
6. Lead Members have provided their comments, feedback and initial support for the project proposal. We are working with NHS Clinical Commissioners to co-produce this project and, as far as possible, to develop a shared vision for HWBs.
7. We have commissioned Shared Intelligence to organise two consultative workshops in London and Leeds, to which CWB Lead Members and HWB Ambassadors have been invited. The consultative workshops will largely comprise local authority and CCG members of local HWBs and will seek to identify:
 - 7.1. what is working well and what needs to be improved;
 - 7.2. scale of ambition for HWBs to take on greater responsibilities;
 - 7.3. what the future might look like for HWBs;
 - 7.4. what do we need to do to realise the local ambitions;
 - 7.5. how we can get all stakeholders to commit to the vision; and
 - 7.6. what LGA and NHS Clinical Commissioners do to support local HWBs.

Next steps

8. We will be sharing the key messages from the consultative workshops at the National HWB Summit on 25 March to discuss next steps in terms of developing a shared vision, an approach which recognises a localist approach and identifies how we address national and local barriers to achieving the ambition. This will form the basis of the proposals in the final report.
9. A joint meeting between the HWB Lead Members, HWB Ambassadors and NHS CC Board Members will be held in London on 23 April in order to discuss the findings of the consultative events and to develop proposals and recommendations for the final report. We will be launching the report at the LGA Annual Conference in July 2015.

Issues for consideration by Community Wellbeing Board

10. In developing a shared vision for the future with health partners we will obviously need to navigate a range of different perspectives. It would, therefore be helpful to have members' steer on the principles that we might use to articulate the aspects of a future system that are most important to local government. The principles could include:
 - 10.1. principle of subsidiarity – in which decisions are taken at the most appropriate level;
 - 10.2. a pluralist approach that allows local areas to proceed at the speed and extent that suits local circumstances;
 - 10.3. local accountability and transparency;
 - 10.4. demonstrable shared leadership;
 - 10.5. demonstrable commitment to a place based approach;
 - 10.6. demonstrable commitment to joining up services.

11. Members views are sought on the following questions:

- 11.1. Does CWB support a pluralist and localist approach to the future development of HWBs in which it is up to local partners to agree the scale and pace of ambition?
- 11.2. How can we best reflect existing and new local partnership arrangements between local authorities and other statutory bodies, e.g combined authorities?
- 11.3. How should we address the need for commissioning at different levels for types of health provision e.g commissioning for specialised services that need to be addressed on a large footprint through to commissioning personalised support services?
- 11.4. To what extent might we support a system of earned autonomy for HWBs to earn greater responsibilities?

12. Members are asked to:

- 12.1. note the progress made so far;
- 12.2. discuss and agree the purpose and key messages of the project;
- 12.3. discuss and provide views on the questions outlined in paragraphs 11.1 – 11.4.

Financial Implications

- 13. None.