

# Introduction to Wandsworth Health and Wellbeing Board

Councillor Paul Ellis, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health  
and Chairman of Wandsworth Health and Wellbeing Board

# What is a health and wellbeing board?

Every borough has a health and wellbeing board (HWB) with the purpose of designing local strategies for improving health and wellbeing through closer working between health and local government.

The HWB leads a system-wide approach to health and wellbeing and it is one of the best levers for moving the health agenda away from the treatment of illness to the prevention of its causes. Key to achieving this is the ability of the HWB to develop effective partnership working.

HWBs are the **only** forum where political and clinical leaders come together to shape the local care and health system **on a democratically accountable and statutory basis**

# The HWB remit

The creation of statutory HWBs was a main plank of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

The principle purpose of a HWB is to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities for local residents. This is achieved through:

- Developing a shared understanding of the health and wellbeing needs of communities
- Providing system leadership to secure collaboration to meet these needs more effectively
- Having a strategic influence over commissioning decisions across health, public health and social care
- Involving councillors and patient representatives in commissioning decisions.

# Members of the HWB

## Four councillors:

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services and Health (Chairman)

Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services

Majority and minority party representatives of Adult Care and Health  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC)

Minority party councillor

## Council Officers:

Chief Executive and Directors of Adult Social Services, Children's  
Services and Public Health

# Members of the HWB

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## From Health Service:

Board Member, NHS Wandsworth (Vice-Chairman)

Seven GPs, including the Clinical Lead and Chair, Wandsworth Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)

Managing Director and Director of Commissioning, CCG

Representative from NHS England (*who never attends*)

## Other:

Chair of Healthwatch Wandsworth

Interim member from the voluntary and community sector

# What are the main functions of the HWB?

The HWB does not commission services. Its principal responsibilities are:

- **Developing a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA):** an assessment of current and future health and social care needs to inform commissioning.
- **Developing a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy:** based on the findings of the JSNA, this sets out the priorities for commissioners.
- **Governance of the Better Care Fund:** a joint NHS and Council budget to help them to jointly ease pressures in health and care and improve outcomes
- **Scrutiny of the CCG Commissioning plans:** the HWB can refer the plan to NHS England if it does not adequately meet the Joint Strategy. Also, the HWB must be consulted on the annual performance review of the CCG.

# The HWB engaging with the voluntary and community sector

- A very well attended workshop with HWB and VC sector members in February 2018 considered how the sector could have a greater voice in the HWB.
- Following this, a HWB and Voluntary Sector Group was set up to pass communications to the sector from the Board and feed back the Board. Last year it gave a clear steer to the Board on the emerging Health and Care Plan.
- Jason Edgington, Director of Wandsworth Care Alliance, was nominated by this group to be an interim VC sector member on the HWB.

# The HWB engaging with the voluntary and community sector

Members of the Board visit voluntary and community organisations. In the last 18 months Councillors Ellis and Lewer have visited several organisations including:

- St Michael's Fellowship
- Disability and Social Care Advice Services
- Turning Point
- Bhakti Shyama Care Centre
- NACRO

# Moving forward with the voluntary and community sector

With support from the Voluntary Sector Coordination project, the HWB looks forward to the selection of a member of the VC sector to take a place on the Board, currently occupied in interim by Jason Edgington.

Are you in the position to:

Communicate with the wider VC sector on health and wellbeing?

Take time to study papers and possibly seek advice?

Feel confident conversing within a board set-up?

Attend meetings and seminars, often in the evening?