

Report to Hackney Health and Wellbeing Board - Draft for Discussion

Date:	16 March 2020
Subject:	Future Plans for Health and Wellbeing Board Development - Draft for Discussion
Report From:	Dr Sandra Husbands Director of Public Health
Summary:	The health and wellbeing board has suffered from lack of focus and declining attendance, as a result of overlapping purpose and membership with the Integrated Commissioning Board. To try and reinvigorate the board, a development session was held in September 2019. A clear outcome from this event was that members want the board to focus more on the wider determinants of health. Further development will be helpful, in future, to ensure the board is working as effectively as possible. However, an important first step is to re-engage board members by agreeing a vision, based on tackling the wider determinants of health and reducing health inequalities, and establishing a clear work programme as a focus for the board.
Recommendations:	The Board is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enable the HWB to develop through implementing a work programme for the board and reviewing its governance and terms of reference • Consider engaging with further, bespoke development support from the Local Government Association
Contacts:	Sandra.husbands@hackney.gov.uk

Introduction

The health and wellbeing board (HWB) has struggled with both attendance and focus/purpose, since the inception of the Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB) in 2016. Although it is the HWB that has statutory responsibility for promoting integration between health and social care, in practice, this role has been taken over locally by the ICB. The Prevention workstream under the ICB has also taken over the oversight of many areas of public health and wellbeing work that would previously have been the domain of the HWB. In addition, the membership of the HWB and ICB overlaps, which led to meetings with very similar membership and content. As a decision-making forum, the ICB seems to have acquired primacy over the HWB.

To try and revitalise the HWB, a development session, facilitated by the Local Government Association (LGA), in September 2019. The session was well attended by HWB members and (with some substitutions) and there was good engagement in the activity. However, attendees found that the specific facilitator did not either inspire or energise the group, particularly.

The September session covered issues, such as how much focus the board should have on the NHS; how to increase its impact; and the board's relationship with the Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB). A theme that comes through quite strongly from the facilitator's write up is that HWB members want to take a more holistic approach to wellbeing, focusing on the wider determinants of health and recognising that the levers to impact on these are with different sectors and agencies, but work best when joined up.

Giving the HWB a clearer focus on the wider determinants of health would accomplish two things:

1. Provide a single forum for leadership on the wider determinants of health, where they can be considered in relation to each other - maximising synergies, reducing unintended consequences and monitoring the overall impact on health and wellbeing
2. Provide a separate focus from the ICB

This could be achieved by reviewing the purpose of the board; creating a shared vision around tackling the wider determinants of health and health inequalities; and reviewing its governance, including revised terms of reference. Over the next two to three board meetings, these things could be accomplished without the necessity of any further facilitated development. However, a facilitated workshop might be useful for developing the HWB's vision.

Further development may be helpful, as the work continues, in order to ensure board effectiveness. This could again be provided by the LGA, which has an offer of free development support to HWBs, though with a careful selection of the facilitator(s).

Recommendation

1. Enable the HWB to develop through implementing a work programme for the board and reviewing its governance and terms of reference
2. Consider engaging with further, bespoke development support from the LGA

Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications of the recommendations: LGA support for health and wellbeing system development is provided at no cost.

Legal Considerations

Attachments

None