

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO HEALTH AND
WELLBEING BOARD**

26 JUNE 2019

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR
OF ADULTS AND HEALTH
/ DIRECTOR OF
CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – PROPOSED CHANGES TO PARTNERSHIP
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

SUMMARY

This report seeks approval for changes to the arrangements for the partnership and commissioning groups which form part of the infrastructure for the Health and Wellbeing Board. The proposed changes are intended to provide more flexibility, be a more efficient use of time and resources and to help support the implementation of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the new Children and Young People's Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION

The Board is asked to agree the proposals.

DETAIL

Background – the current arrangements

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is a formal Council Committee by statute. It is supported in Stockton by two additional partnership groups for the adults agenda and two for the children's agenda.
2. The Adults and Health Wellbeing Partnership forms a partnership grouping to discuss and debate the key issue facing adults. The Adults and Health Commissioning Group provides the basis for discussions on the commissioning of services.
3. Although there is no formal requirement to constitute a specific Children's Trust / partnership arrangement as such, local areas must still retain a partnership arrangement for children's issues. This role is undertaken by the Children and Young People's Partnership. In a similar way to the arrangements for adults, there is also a Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Commissioning Group, to serve as the basis for the design and development of services and approaches which would benefit from a discussion with partners.

The case for change

4. There are a number of issues with the current arrangements which require us to consider if these are the most effective arrangements:
 - a. This is an extensive architecture of meetings, held monthly, which require a significant time commitment from partners in attendance and agenda planning.

- b. There are some overlaps between them – although the partnership meetings are designed to be the place for discussions in advance of any discussion about the commissioning or procurement of services, in practice there can be overlap between the two.
 - c. The arrangements are currently all formal elements of the Committee structure, in that they are official meetings, with all papers published.
 - d. This formality can tend to reduce the opportunity for genuine developmental discussions around issues, challenges, potential solutions. The developmental work then tends to require additional meetings of the key partners, with outcomes then used to service formal reporting to the partnership and commissioning groups,
 - e. The Commissioning Groups have no official status in decision making, they are advisory and reference groups to provide the opportunity for partners to debate the commissioning of services. However, on occasion this has led to some issues around accountability for decision making with an expectation that the outcome of the meeting replaced formal decision making and accountability for it, when in fact this cannot be the case.
5. In short, the current arrangements are, at times, confusing, resource intensive and result in an over-formalisation of our work with partners, and a reduced opportunity to co-design and develop joint solutions.

The proposals

6. In response to the issues identified above, the following are suggested as the proposals:

The **two partnership groups** to be made informal partnership groups, with a remit to discuss issues of interest and engage partners in ways which best meet their respective agendas. As such they would no longer be formal parts of the Health and Wellbeing Board governance structure. It is proposed that they would be free to meet at a different frequency. The proposal for the Children and Young People's Partnership is that it would meet 6 times a year, with 2 sessions focusing on planning and performance, and four sessions looking at the proposed 4 main strands of the new Children and Young People's Strategy. The Adults Health and Wellbeing Board would also consist of 6 meetings per year and initial work would include assisting in the refresh of the Adult Strategy.

The **two commissioning groups** to be re-constituted as advisory groups, to meet as required, and with a focus on supporting the development of new proposals and to support a co-design and joint commissioning approach. They would have no formal decision making role, but would provide the means by which partners are engage in the co-design of proposals, and are made aware of any potential implications where there is no other existing mechanism to do so. For example, work to develop SEND Joint Commissioning would continue to be taken forward as part of existing SEND structures. Should this require a specific discussion to review progress, agree recommendations or to consider implications, then a specific commissioning meeting would be called to help refine proposals. Proposals would then be specifically to the HWB as a formal part of the process, with decision making continuing to rest with the relevant decision making body eg Cabinet, CCG Executive.

7. The proposals as outlined above would help to address the confusion and resources required to service a structure. They also clarify the role of the HWB as providing the formal means for partner engagement and the official endorsement for any commissioning proposals which emerge.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

8. There are no specific community impact implications in this report. Any specific issues and implications of proposed changes to services or outcomes of developmental sessions would continue to be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board as now.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no specific implications. The proposals would result in fewer formalised meetings which would remove the need for Democratic Services to service the current pattern of 44 such meetings per year, across adults and children, and would instead focus resources on 12 development sessions (6 x adults, 6 x children's).
10. This would release significant staff time.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. No specific legal implications. All statutory duties would continue to be met through the new arrangements. The specific nature and remit of the partnership and commissioning groups is not part of the Council's constitution and therefore no additional changes are required.

RISK ASSESSMENT

12. Implications are low risk and managed through exiting arrangements.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

13. The proposals in this report have no specific and direct implications for the policy principles. They are intended to support a great process of co-design and development with partners principally around the development of strong and healthy communities.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

14. Specific implications for corporate parenting would continue to be addressed in the co-design and commissioning of proposals. There are no specific implications in the proposals.

CONSULTATION

15. Cabinet Members have been consulted on these proposals.

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