

## AGENDA ITEM

### REPORT TO HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

### REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – FUNCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

### SUMMARY

Through the recent workshop sessions to develop the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the borough, it was agreed to revisit the function of the Board, the format of Board meetings and the opportunity for Board development. The briefing outlines the first proposed steps for the Board's consideration and approval.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. Consider the proposal for Board development sessions
2. Consider the proposal to use the Board meetings in September, October and November for these development discussions

### DETAIL

1. During Spring 2024, the Board held two facilitated workshops to steer development of the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. A theme that emerged from these workshops and subsequent discussions, was the opportunity to revisit the Board's function and way of working particularly in the context of changes in the health and wellbeing system, national policy and Board membership since the Board was established and since the last Strategy was written.
2. As a summary, the two main linked issues raised in discussion were:
  - **Function** - Have a clear, common understanding of the Board's function in the new context – strategic direction-setting, assurance (including on statutory duties), oversight, monitoring impact and particularly in relation to adopting a Board position on key issues.
  - **Added value** - Ensuring the Board makes best use of its time and resources in carrying out its functions and brings added value as the statutory, strategic system-wide leadership group for local health and wellbeing and health inequalities.

3. The new Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its corresponding delivery plan and outcomes monitoring framework are being developed to set out the direction and action the local health and wellbeing system (key partners and community working together) can take to most effectively improve local population health and wellbeing. It is proposed this will be driven through a **renewed focus on the wider determinants of health**; and through being **smarter with how we work and use our collective resources**. These principles apply to the Strategy and to the Board itself and it is proposed the Board is developed in this context over the coming months.
4. The proposed approach for the new Strategy sets out that the Strategy will add value through connecting commitments across partners that contribute to priorities for improving health and wellbeing. Equally, the Board itself should add value in this way, through its composition, way of working and its meetings. The Stockton-on-Tees Health and Wellbeing Board has a good starting point to build on, with strong partnership working and a shared commitment to addressing inequality and working more closely with local communities.
5. The Board itself can add value through systematically applying the 5 proposed enablers in the draft Strategy. The Board can also, for example, apply a 'health and wellbeing lens' to key themes and priorities to:
  - take a medium- to longer-term view and secure commitment / investment in earlier prevention
  - ensure a system-wide focus on health and wellbeing outcomes through system leadership
  - identify key issues and lines of enquiry to improve quality, performance and assurance
  - identify opportunities and gaps and problem-solving through system discussion
  - take a collective position on key issues to advocate for the health of the local population

This would be for further discussion in the development sessions.

### **Board development**

6. It is proposed some dedicated time and support is secured for Board development, to enable us to 'stop and think', to develop and meaningfully implement our new way of working. To enable this, it is requested that the Board meetings in September, October and November 2024 are used. Should any key items or urgent Board business need to be brought e.g. Winter planning assurance, it is proposed the DPH and Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing work with colleagues to help negotiate how the time may be managed on behalf of the Board for those meetings.
7. The proposed areas of focus for these development sessions are:
  - **September** meeting:
    - **Board function** and maximising the Board's **added value** (in the context of the new system and Strategy) and role of the Board in taking a position / stance on key issues.

- Review **oversight** function of the Board, for key themes set out in the Strategy and the work to deliver these, focusing on collective added value of the Board.

The final draft Strategy will also be brought to this meeting for review and approval.

- **October** meeting:
    - **Co-production** with communities and the role of people with lived experience in the life of the Board; the approach to co-producing a living delivery plan for the Strategy; and the approach to capturing impact from the perspective of local communities.
  - **November** meeting:
    - Board approach to seeking **assurance** on key issues / statutory functions and monitoring **impact / performance** at local system level.
8. It is proposed each development session will consider what the discussion means for Board Terms of Reference (ToR) and composition of the Board, including the structure and purpose of partnerships and groups reporting to the Board and links to other strategic groups (e.g. Tees Adult Safeguarding Board, Team Stockton, ICB place sub-committee). SBC Public Health will review Board arrangements elsewhere linking with partners e.g. the LGA to help inform this thinking and with revised ToR to come to the December Board meeting.
9. It is proposed that external facilitation support is considered for these sessions – for example the Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing is in discussion with the LGA about potential support they can offer.
10. From January 2025, the Board would be positioned to put in place its new way of working systematically. For example a focus on Board meetings run as thematic ‘workshops’ starting with the wider determinants of health and wellbeing; these could sit alongside quarterly business meetings to enable Board decision on specific items (e.g. BCF annual return, PNA). The format and frequency of future Board meetings would be developed as a result of the development session discussions.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

External facilitation of Board development sessions may attract a fee; this will be considered by the Director of Public Health and Director of Adults, Health and Wellbeing.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Any changes to the Board terms of reference would need to be considered and approved by Council.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The proposals are deemed low risk.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD / COUNCILLORS**

Members have been involved through the Strategy development workshops and subsequent discussions. The proposed Board development sessions will build on this and form the foundation for wider discussion with Members / ward Councillors.

**Contact Officer:** Sarah Bowman-Abouna  
**Post Title:** Director of Public Health (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council)  
**Email address:** [sarah.bowman-abouna@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.bowman-abouna@stockton.gov.uk)

