

Briefing note for: Health and Wellbeing Board

Subject: Board Development Session

Date: 21 September 2016

Background

During June 2016, Rotherham Health and Wellbeing Board members completed a self-assessment questionnaire, which looked at the vision and role of the board, system leadership, partnership working and communication and engagement. The questionnaire was part of the Local Government Association (LGA) board development toolkit.

The outcome of this questionnaire culminated in a development workshop session in July, facilitated by John Deffenbaugh (Frontline) and the LGA. The session was used to:

- provide time and a safe space for the board to reflect on the journey it has been on to arrive at its current position
- position the board in a role of local leadership of health and wellbeing across Rotherham so that it can drive change instead of being the messenger of change

The Force Begins to Awaken

The Force Begins to Awaken report has been developed by the LGA to explore the current position of health and wellbeing boards in more detail; seeking to understand the features of the more effective boards and to identify the factors that are influencing whether or not a board makes significant progress. This report has been used as part of this process as a benchmark for success. The drivers and barriers to effective boards were identified as:

- **Committed leaders**, both political and managerial;
- **Collaborative plumbing**, often reflecting a history of partnership working;
- **Clarity of purpose**, being clear about the primary task of the board;
- **A geography that works**, or has been made to;
- **A focus on place**, with local priorities that drive collaboration;
- **A director of public health**, who gets it;
- **High quality support**, and a flexible approach to the “council committee thing”;
- **Churn in the system**, within health and local government;
- **Getting the basics right**, to enable effective systems leadership.

Development workshop

On 13 July, board members came together to discuss the responses to the questionnaire, looking at the strengths, weaknesses and challenges, a summary of which can be seen in appendix A. Board members then worked together to produce an action plan to take forward the agreed issues and challenges.

One of the challenges identified in the analysis was ‘communication’, the workshop focused on this in developing the plan – both communication to stakeholders and the public about the work of the board, and improving communication of health messages to the Rotherham population. The draft action plan can be seen in appendix B.

Recommendations:

That board members:

- **Consider the actions set out in the draft plan and whether they are achievable,**
- **Identify what resources may be required, leads and timescales.**