



HEALTH AND WELLBEING MEMBERS' GROUP (LEAD OFFICERS INVITED)

Monday 1st October 2012: 10:00-12:00
The Orangery, Back Lane, Wakefield WF1 2TG

Summary notes from discussions

Vision and priorities

- Common themes around progress in preparing the health & wellbeing strategies locally and feedback received in local consultations
- We've got a 10 year strategy, but is it too ambitious?
- We've developed a wellbeing, not health, strategy, to emphasise that this isn't about health in the old fashioned sense (Calderdale)

Membership of the Board

- Positive messages around the progress made in establishing the boards and development so far
- Discussions around the understanding between Local Authority and NHS leads regarding respective organisations and functions (and issues of engagement)
- It can be difficult to engage NHS colleagues, who often don't turn up to the meetings.
- Some of our members are working, so meetings are in the evening, and this also seems to be a culture shock for the NHS.
- One Board is trying to get named deputies for attendance, so there is some consistency across meetings (Barnsley)
- Providers – some are on boards, some are not, also pressure from providers to be on the board
- The number of councillors on boards varies e.g., in Sheffield there are 4 councillors and 4 GPs on the Board
- The Chair should not be the Leader of the Council, because she/he is too busy
- Leader of the Council should be the Chair, given the importance of the role.
- Difficulties in having the wide group of partners on the board, as everyone wants a seat at the table
- We can't have everyone on the board

- Wider membership of HWB's and inclusion of partners e.g. fire and police and joining up respective roles in terms of impact on wellbeing where do the Police and Fire fit in? Will the PCC change the current approach to crime and wellbeing when they get in?
- The role of housing and economic development with HWB Boards
- Dilemma/overlap between role of the HWB and the LSP
- Varying degrees of GP engagement

Development

- In some areas there have been sessions on how local government works, what elected members do and their roles
- Boards need away days to develop how they will work together
- Sheffield did a speed-dating session between Cabinet and the HWB so that everyone could get to know each other
- Doncaster has had one stock take event and is planning another for mid-October
- Working collaboratively with the Clinical Commissioning Groups and variances across the region
- The need to look at creating mechanisms for HWBs to talk to each other - especially given the sub-regional footprint of the NHS Commissioning Board and Public Health England

Governance

- Positive messages around the progress made in establishing the boards and development so far
- Who signs off what? What is delegated? Who does the Board report to?
- Frequency of meetings varies, in Rotherham and Doncaster the HWBs meet every 6 weeks
- How will we spend our budgets? How will we share risks?
- Those of us involved find the structure difficult to explain to everyone else
- Some meetings are being cancelled so it's hard to judge if progress is being made
- A media protocol for the board has been developed so that messages can be clearly communicated, and it's clear who is doing what (York)

Scrutiny

- Debates around HealthWatch and how this will evolve locally
 - Will it be stifled from the top?
 - LiNKs development was imposed on us
 - How will it work?

Links with scrutiny members and role of scrutiny within the context of the HWBs and how this is not clear in some areas. How will scrutiny work with the new arrangements? Are other councillors clear about the context of HWBs and their roles?

Going forward

- What resources and support will be available after 1st April 2013?
- Would sub-regional, local or regional meetings of members be useful, e.g. based on the clusters?

What the LGA can offer on HWB development:

- An online self assessment tool that helps boards to decide on their progress: see http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/health/-/journal_content/56/10171/3638628/ARTICLE-TEMPLATE
- Regional simulation events which bring together boards to work through various scenarios and how they might deal with them.
- Bespoke support for individual councils, based on 4 days support, on a free basis. This can include working with the board to develop vision and values, Master classes on specific issues, stock takes of progress, or other issues that the board identifies

This support is available until March 2013. For more information on the LGA offer please contact Judith Hurcombe at Judith.hurcombe@local.gov.uk or 07789373624

Actions

The actions from the meeting include;

- We invite members to comment on how the session went and what is needed in further sessions (including if this is locally/sub/regionally)
- Circulate the planned work of the Centre for Public Scrutiny working with Scrutiny chairs
- Comparing HWB strategies and common work streams
- Proposal to meet again in the new year ahead of budget setting

Local Government Yorkshire & Humber (LGYH) has offered to convene a follow up meeting in the New Year. For details contact sarah.tyler@lgyh.gov.uk