

An update of the work of the Health Improvement Board

Report to the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board

March 2018

Summary

Since the last report to the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Health Improvement Board (HIB) has met once to discuss forward planning and held one Board meeting in public.

1. Forward Planning meeting, 29th January 2018.

Councillor Anna Badcock, Chair of the Health Improvement Board, had requested an additional meeting of Board members to review recent work and discuss forward plans.

The Chairman shared some background of the board's work over recent years and what factors had helped the Board to work effectively to date.

Some of the important features have been the relatively small size of the Board; the representation from a range of partners, including all the districts; good attendance; taking the approach of a 'critical friend' to challenge ongoing work kindly and with purpose; and following issues up. Members also appreciated that they have been able to focus on a few specific priorities at a time. They appreciated the positive atmosphere at meetings and the situation of the Health Improvement Board in a network of other organisations.

Discussion on priority topics for the future included interest in further focus on health inequalities issues, including barriers to access for people with protected characteristics, such as gender or disability. Board members also want to continue monitoring a range of issues that have an impact on health, including domestic abuse, homelessness, substance misuse and mental wellbeing, recognising that some of these issues are being addressed by other partnerships.

2. Health Improvement Board Meeting, 8th February 2018

The agenda for the meeting included the following items

- Performance monitoring – it was noted that the targets set for the year have largely been met. The Board was informed that a new contract for Smoking Cessation has been let by the Public Health team and a report with more detail will be scheduled for the next meeting.
- Information on the Trailblazer project for preventing homelessness was well received. Members could see potential links to work to implement Health Inequalities Commission recommendations. A linked report was presented on the City Conversation on Rough Sleeping.
- The Basket of Inequalities Indicators stimulated interesting discussion and will be used for targeting work to reduce variation in outcomes.
- Board members agreed that a further discussion on priorities should take place by email and at the May meeting in order to inform the Prevention aspects of the Joint HWB Strategy.

- The Domestic Abuse Strategy Group reported good progress in jointly commissioning advocacy and support services in Oxfordshire. The Board members welcomed a representative from Thames Valley Police for this item.
- Keith Johnstone, Chairman of Oxfordshire Sport and Physical Activity (OxSPA), outlined the current plans for the partnership. Members appreciated that they had been consulted on options for the future and asked for an update on progress in May. It was agreed that improving levels of physical activity is an important part of the Health Improvement Board priorities in preventing ill health and members were encouraged to consider how their organisations can support OxSPA in the future.
- The Healthwatch Ambassador informed members of the new Healthwatch website which enables feedback on health and social care services to be submitted. He also announced that further small grants from Healthwatch can be applied for.

The following workshops will be arranged in the next few months:

1. A workshop on what is going on to promote Mental Wellbeing and the role of all partners on this topic will be held on 19th March. A wide range of stakeholders have been invited to contribute to a framework detailing work to improve wellbeing.
2. A learning event drawing on the work of the Healthy New Towns in Bicester and Barton is being held on April 24th 2018.
3. The Oxford Green and Blue Network will be holding a conference on 17th May called Oxford: Naturally Healthy. HWB members will be receiving invitations.

Jackie Wilderspin, March 2018