

**OXFORDSHIRE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD**  
**17 JULY 2014**

**Proposal to dissolve the Adult Health and Social Care Board**

1. Key functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board include promoting local accountability and democratic legitimacy, encouraging the integration of services and ensuring the effective use of resources through partnership working. This includes overseeing the joint commissioning arrangements for health and social care services.
2. The Oxfordshire Adult Health and Social Care Board exists to support the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board in this purpose. In particular it reports on the delivery of agreed performance targets for NHS and social care services in Oxfordshire and is responsible for holding the Joint Management Groups to account for the delivery of joint commissioning strategies and pooled budgets.
3. However, it has become apparent that the Adult Health and Social Care Board is not adding any value in helping the Health and Wellbeing Board fulfil these functions. This is why two out of the last four meetings have been cancelled, as there was insufficient business that the Adult Health and Social Care Board needed to discuss. In addition, the items discussed at the other two meetings were repeats of discussions that had already taken place in other meetings, most notably the Older People Joint Management Group.
4. It is proposed that the Adult Health and Social Care Board ceases to exist and its responsibilities are passed to the Joint Management Groups that are responsible for overseeing the joint commissioning arrangements and pooled budgets between the NHS and Social Care. There are Joint Management Groups for all four recognised client groups (older people, learning disability, physical disability and mental health), and membership includes representatives from Oxfordshire County Council, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, service users and carers. All members of the Adult Health and Social Care Board are already represented on the Older People Joint Management Group and District Council representation will be welcomed and actively sought on all Joint Management Groups.
5. Significant changes were made to the Older People Joint Management Group last year, including meeting in public to increase accountability. The Older People Joint Management Group already has a cross-cutting responsibility for areas such as equipment and carers, and will be responsible for overseeing implementation of the Better Care Fund from April 2015 that will have benefits across all client groups. It is therefore duplication to have another board for this purpose, particularly as the Joint Management Groups have decision-making authority that the Adult Health and Social Care Board does not.

6. It is proposed that the Joint Management Groups should be directly accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board, and continue to be responsible for the delivery of performance targets for NHS and social care services as they are now. Indeed, they have taken the lead for setting the proposed adult health and social care indicators and targets for 2014/15 that have been proposed to this meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
7. Cllr Judith Heathcoat, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, is the Chairman of the Adult Health and Social Care Board and the Older People Joint Management Group. Dr Joe McManners, Clinical Chair of the Clinical Commissioning Group, is currently the Vice Chairman of both. The proposed dissolution of the Adult Health and Social Care Board would therefore not require any changes to the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
8. The Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OHOSC) is the joint committee responsible for scrutinising health services and the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the County Council's Performance Scrutiny Committee is responsible for overseeing adult social care services. OHOSC already has the power to hold the Joint Management Groups to account for the delivery of joint commissioning strategies and pooled budgets, and this will continue to be used as appropriate.
9. As a result of the Care Act, safeguarding adults is the responsibility in law of the Adult Safeguarding Board. A protocol between the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Adults and Children's Safeguarding Boards to formalise and strengthen the relationships between them is considered elsewhere on this agenda. The dissolution of the Adult Health and Social Care Board is likely to facilitate a stronger link directly to the Joint Management Groups that are directly responsible for commissioning services.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Health and Wellbeing Board is RECOMMENDED to agree:**

- (a) to dissolve the Adult Health and Social Care Board;**
- (b) that the Joint Management Groups will report directly to the Health and Wellbeing Board in future, including responsibility for the appropriate measures for adults in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy; and**
- (c) that the Oxfordshire Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee should continue to hold the Joint Management Groups to account for the delivery of joint commissioning strategies and pooled budgets.**

**John Jackson**  
**Director for Social & Community Services**

**Contact Officer: Ben Threadgold, Policy & Performance Service Manager, Tel:**  
**(01865) 328219**

**July 2014**