

Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board, 9th November 2017

Proposal for a Review of Governance of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Health and Wellbeing Board has carried out its statutory remit since April 2013, having met in shadow form since November 2011, fulfilling its role in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act.

It is now timely to undertake a review of the governance and terms of reference of the Board for the following reasons:

1. The NHS's priority, as stated in the 'Five Year Forward View' and subsequent documents, is to move to Accountable Care Systems. A number of these have been established. Clearly Health and Wellbeing Boards have a key role to play in their development and it is proposed that we review governance arrangements and Terms of Reference so as to play an active role in this development.
2. The NHS has also moved to an emphasis on 'whole system working' as opposed to a clear-cut distinction between commissioners and providers. The architecture of the Health and Wellbeing Board was designed in the 'commissioner/provider split' era – hence a membership based on those in receipt of direct government funding. We have balanced this by having a wide membership on the Board's three sub-groups to ensure that the views of service providers and other voices were reflected. It is now timely to change this arrangement to one which reflects whole system working at the level of the Health and Wellbeing Board itself and which takes account of the major role played by Foundation Trusts and the Voluntary Sector for example.
3. The Oxfordshire Transformation Board¹ continues to work on practical issues of service transformation in the County and, although there is a strong synergy and an overlapping membership between it and the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Governance links between the two would benefit from clearer definition. This is anticipated to assist further whole system working and the development of Accountable Care Systems.
4. Over the years the Health and Wellbeing Board has received requests to expand its membership. These have come from many sectors, including patient groups and advocacy groups, the voluntary and community sector, cultural and arts organisations, the police and the military. Our initial thinking

¹ Extract from the Terms of Reference for the Transformation Board: "The Transformation Board is set up to drive forward the transformation of the health and social care system in Oxfordshire, and more specifically: 1) To bring together in one place all the partners and programmes of work that will deliver significant change in the Oxfordshire health and care system. 2) To oversee the set up and delivery of the joint Oxfordshire Healthcare Transformation programme"

was to avoid a Board which would be too large to be effective and so we decided to be guided by the statutory membership. The changing nature of the Health and Social Care system means that it is now timely to review the membership of the Board again.

Proposal

It is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board discuss this issue and agree to set up a working group under its Chairman and Vice-Chairman. This group is asked to make recommendations to the next Health and Wellbeing Board meeting in March 2018, proposing changes to governance arrangements and terms of reference. It is further proposed that the Transformation Board is approached to align with this process so that the governance arrangements between the two Boards can be clarified and formalised.

Recommendation

To discuss and agree the detail of the proposal stated in the paragraph above.

Jonathan McWilliam

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