

Health and Wellbeing Board, 24th November 2011

Setting the Scene: An Overview of What We Need to Achieve and Our Emerging Priorities.

Introduction.

This brief paper aims to set the scene for the work of Oxfordshire's Health and Wellbeing Board. It paints a high-level picture of the task before us and gives an overview of the possible priorities for discussion by this Board.

What are we here for as a Health and Wellbeing Board?

Our purpose is to lead and coordinate the actions of many individual organisations and individuals so as to:

- Make real improvements to the health of the people of Oxfordshire in its broadest terms.
- Make more efficient use of services and public money
- Maintain or improve quality of care.

We do this in the face of a number of potent challenges which are:

- **Demographic pressures** in the population, especially the increasing number and proportion of older people, many of whom need care. This is a major issue particularly for our more rural areas.
- The persistence of small geographical areas of **social deprivation**, especially in Banbury and Oxford but also in parts of our market towns.
- The increase in **'unhealthy' lifestyles** which leads in due course to chronic disease and disability (eg the behaviours that lead to obesity which in turn increases levels of diabetes, heart disease, stroke and cancers).
- The need to ensure that services for the **mentally ill and those with learning disabilities** are not overlooked.
- **Increasing demand** for services.
- An awareness that the **'supply side'** of what we provide does not 'mesh' together as smoothly as we would like - (eg hospital beds, discharge arrangements, care at home and nursing home care)
- The recent increase in **financial stringency** and tightening of the public purse which affects all public sector organisations and has knock-on effects for voluntary organisations.
- The need to work with and through a **wide patchwork of organisations** to have any chance of making coherent plans for 'One Oxfordshire'.
- The changing face and **roles of public sector organisations** - the need to welcome new ways of working such as 'localism' and 'GP Commissioning' alongside a stronger voice for the public as Healthwatch develops and the need to provide more choice for individuals is recognised.

This list of challenges suggests that there are a number of overarching themes the Health and Wellbeing Board will want to ensure that its four subsidiary Boards addresses.

These overarching themes are:

1. The need to prevent ill health.
2. The need to reduce inequalities and protect the vulnerable.
3. The need to improve the skills of our children, young people and some adults
4. The need to reduce unnecessary demand for services.
5. The need to make slick and efficient use of the 'supply side' of services from care at home, through primary care, to hospital and back home with the right levels of care.
6. The need to improve the quality and safety of services.
7. The need to streamline financial systems, especially those around pooled budgets and to align all budgets more closely

Do The Emerging Priorities For This Board Fit Within This Framework?

Yes they do. There is a clear coherence between the themes we need to work on listed above and the emerging priorities proposed in the supporting papers for this Board. The emerging priorities can be tentatively 'mapped' against these themes as follows:

Theme	Emerging Priority	Accountable Supporting Board
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preventing an early death and promoting a healthy old age. ➤ Preventing chronic disease. (tackling obesity) ➤ Preventing infectious disease.(improving immunisation) 	Health Improvement Board. (HIB) HIB HIB
Inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Breaking the Cycle of Deprivation/ Child Poverty. ➤ Early Intervention Services for Families. ➤ Action on groups with specific needs (eg the Armed Forces and their families) 	CAYP Board CAYP Board HIB
Improving Skills for Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Educational Attainment. ➤ Improving reading skills. 	CAYP Board CAYP Board
Reducing Demand for services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tackling outliers in referrals at all levels including self referral, GP referral and specialist referral. 	Adult Health and Social Care Board (AHSCB)
More Efficient 'Supply' of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The 'Appropriate Care for Everyone' Programme. ➤ Delayed Transfers of Care. ➤ The Supported living/social care interface. 	Adult Health and Social Care Board
Improving Quality of services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Getting people with long term conditions or mental health problems into work. ➤ Safeguarding. ➤ A better transition from child to adult mental health services. 	AHSCB CAYP Board CAYP Board
Better Financial Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improved management of pooled budgets and their 'Joint Management Groups'. 	AHSCB

Does This List of Emerging Priorities 'Fit' With the Remit of This Board?

This list is a sound start for debate. It responds to the needs of our County described in our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and it helps to close the gaps identified in the Director of Public Health's Annual Report.

This list also provides a framework which we could incorporate into the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which we will be creating together over the coming months.

Summary and Conclusion.

The role of the new Health and Wellbeing Board is clear.

It will only succeed if we all work together to make a real difference to the problems of Oxfordshire.

The emerging priorities to be discussed during this meeting make a useful start in the process of leading the way forward.

However, the proof of the pudding is in the eating. Making a start is one thing: making a difference is another. The success of this Board will need to be measured in terms of real outcomes achieved for the population we all serve.

Jonathan McWilliam, Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire