

**Health and Wellbeing Board 24<sup>th</sup> November 2011  
Proposed role of the Health Improvement Board**

**Vision**

Improving health is everyone’s business. We can only tackle pressing issues like rising levels of obesity and preventing heart disease and cancers if we all work together. The purpose of this board is to work together on these topics where we add value to achieve real results.

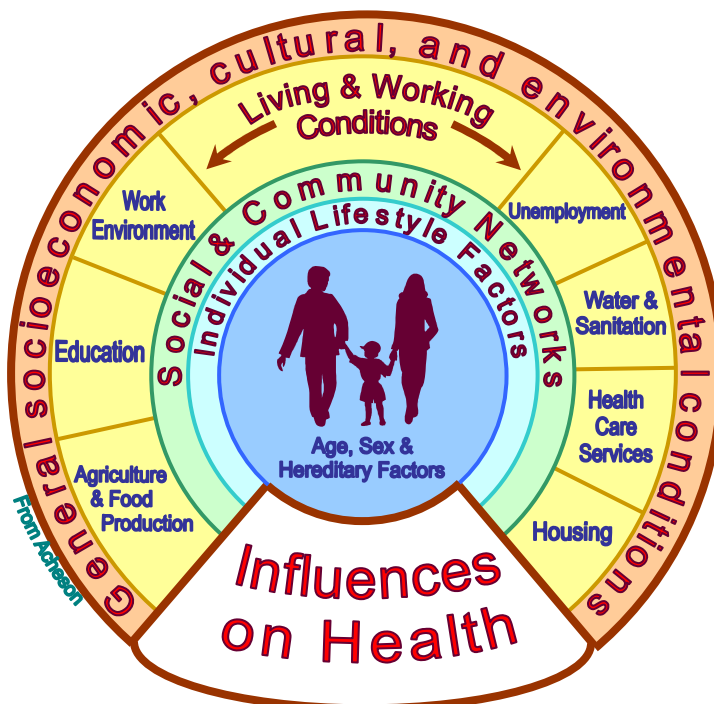
The Board also allows us to focus the energy of many organisations on a small number of priority topics: this is how we will achieve real improvement in Oxfordshire.

In a nutshell then, the role of the board is to:

- Agree priority areas where working together to improve health will make a real difference.
- Agree actions which will make that improvement a reality
- Hold ourselves to account for making the agreed change and report progress to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Context**

The diagram below shows the breadth of the factors that influence the health of Oxfordshire’s people. These “determinants of health” can be influenced by a range of organisations in the public, voluntary and private sector as well as through the individual responsibility of citizens. It is clear that only when this effort and activity is meshed together that there can be improvement. The Health Improvement Board is the vehicle to bring a coordinated and coherent approach.



The Board also needs to be supported and guided by a wide network of influential and committed people who are working to improve outcomes and reduce inequalities across a wide range of topics.

### **Proposed membership**

The precise membership of the Health Improvement Board requires further discussion and negotiation among partners before it is finalised. The views of the Health and Wellbeing Board are sought on this matter. The Chairman of the Health Improvement Board is Councillor Mark Booty of West Oxfordshire District Council and the Vice Chairman is Val Smith of Oxford City Council.

Following initial conversations with the Chairman and Vice Chairman it is envisaged that the Health Improvement Board will be a small, core group of representative membership and will operate by drawing on expertise from a very wide range of specialists and existing groups as needed to deliver health improvement. The initial proposal is that this core membership will include:

- Chairman and Vice Chairman – District Councillors (already named)
- County Councillor
- Director of Public Health and Assistant Director of Public Health
- District Council Officer representative
- Clinical Commissioning Group GP nominee
- Public Involvement Board representative

### **Priorities for Working Together.**

An initial analysis of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, Director of Public Health Annual Report and existing strategic documents suggests the following list of initial priorities:

- 1. Preventing early death and improving quality of life in later years.** For example, this will be through health checks (e.g. blood pressure, smoking status, blood cholesterol), lifestyles advice, support for behaviour change and through cancer screening programmes.
- 2. Preventing chronic disease.** For example a comprehensive Obesity Strategy for Oxfordshire, involving all partners, will be finalised by June 2012.
- 3. Preventing infectious disease.** For example through delivery of high quality immunisation services.
- 4. Tackling the broader determinants of health,** locality by locality across the county. These factors lead to worse outcomes for deprived areas of the county and some vulnerable groups (including, for example, armed forces, their families and veterans). This work will focus on different issues in different localities. We hope to stimulate local work between District Councils, Clinical Commissioning Group localities, schools and other local groups.

5. **Monitoring performance** by finalising a performance framework for county wide Public Health indicators and outcome measures once the national outcomes framework is published in December 2011. This framework will be monitored and performance managed by the Health Improvement Board.

### **Performance framework**

An Outcomes Framework for Public Health is expected to be published in December 2011. Further information on the current performance framework has been circulated for information.

Jonathan McWilliam, Director of Public Health for Oxfordshire  
Jackie Wilderspin, Assistant Director of Public Health