

## Agenda Item No: 7



**Report To:** Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Report Title:** Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board Going Forward

**Report Author:** Sheila Davison

**Organisation:** Ashford Borough Council

**Summary:** Discussion about the future for the Ashford Health and Wellbeing Board

**Recommendations:** Board members are asked to participate in a discussion regarding the operation of the Ashford Health and Wellbeing Board

### Purpose of the report

1. To review the operation of the Ashford Health and Wellbeing Board.

### Background

2. Health and Wellbeing Boards were established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to act as a forum in which key leaders from the health and care system could work together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and to promote integrated services. They operated on a shadow basis for the first year, and became fully operational on 1 April 2013.
3. The Kent Health and Wellbeing Board was formed in accordance with the above provisions and local boards were introduced to operate at a district level across Kent. A separate board covered the Medway area.
4. In February and March 2018 respectively, the Health and Wellbeing Boards of Medway Council and Kent County Council agreed to the establishment of a Joint Board.
5. Further details including key functions, membership, and procedural arrangements are available at:  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s84982/20180628%20Agenda%20pack.pdf>.
6. The Joint Boards key operating principles are to encourage persons who arrange for the provision of any health or social care services in the area to work in an integrated manner and for the purpose of advising on the development of the Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) Plans for Kent and Medway.

7. These changes to the Kent Board provide a good opportunity to reflect on the operation of our local Ashford Health and Wellbeing Board and chance to assess current strengths and areas for improvement.

### **Preparation for the discussion**

8. In advance of this meeting, Board members have been asked to give feedback on the following aspects:
  - Appropriateness of representation
  - Commitment by partners
  - Clarity over objectives
  - Accountability
  - Project delivery
  - Influence on own organisation
  - Appropriateness of agenda
  - Frequency of meetings
  - Possible alternative arrangements
  - Future aspirations
9. Those who have yet to complete the feedback questionnaire are asked to make known their thoughts during the meeting.
10. Members may also wish to refer to the LGA review of Health and Wellbeing Board published in 2017. While this review examines the role upper tier Boards i.e. for us the county level, it is of relevance to what we are achieving locally.
11. A copy of the above mentioned report is available at:  
<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/The%20power%20of%20place%20health%20and%20wellbeing%20boards%20in%202017.pdf>

### **What we need to consider**

12. Whilst not wishing to pre-empt the discussion, it would be useful to explore the following:
  - **Achievements and Impact** – what are we trying to achieve and is there agreement on this? Can we demonstrate achievements, are we making a difference to our area, enhancing the quality of life for local people and improving service delivery?
  - **Vision and Strategy** – are we promoting ambitions for the area with a clear, shared vision and purpose reflecting local priorities and which contain aspects that are unique to the borough? Is the vision and strategy widely supported and communicated?
  - **Leadership and Relationships** – is there open and appropriate leadership that supports improved performance and the delivery of our objectives?

- **Governance and Accountability** – Are appropriate arrangements in place? Are partners clear as to their own accountabilities in support of objectives?
  - **Performance Management and Learning** – Are effective arrangements in place to translate objectives into the day-to-day actions of individual agencies and to manage delivery of objectives. Is progress monitored and learning captured?
13. Identifying ways in which to best support the STP plans is clearly an important priority for the Board, however, reasserting the importance of action to address the wider determinants of health cannot be underestimated. We need to ensure that our Board is operating in such a way as to add value to local health system and this will necessitate reviewing our priorities, membership, linkages with other local partnerships working on the same agenda and resources available to support the work of the Board. Ultimately we need to determine the future for the Ashford Health & Wellbeing Board.

## **Conclusion**

14. Our discussion will identify ways in which the Board can improve its effectiveness and address next steps.

## **Contact**

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