

# Health and Wellbeing Board

25 September 2023

## Membership of County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board



---

### Report of Helen Lynch, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Durham County Council

#### Electoral division affected:

None

#### Purpose of Report

- 1 To seek the views from members of the Board on inviting additional representatives to become voting members of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB).

#### Executive Summary

- 2 The Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS) 2023-28 was agreed by the HWB in May 2023. The strategy has:
  - a) Fewer, clearer priorities with focused action
  - b) Clear links between priorities and delivery of the vision
  - c) Clear alignment and influencing of system plans, with a life course approach and wider determinants underpinning each priority
  - d) Measures through which impact of the JLHWS can be monitored
- 3 Ultimately the JLHWS focuses on the areas that prevent it from achieving its vision that '**County Durham is a healthy place where people live well for longer**'.
- 4 The JLHWS follows a life course approach with a focus on the wider determinants of health (social, economic, and environmental factors into which we are born) that impact on how long people are likely to live, the health conditions that they may experience and the level of health and social care available to them. These all impact on people's health, for example diet, alcohol consumption, support networks, education and employment opportunities, poverty, living conditions, health care services, and housing.

- 5 To ensure opportunities to work collaboratively for the good of our communities are maximised, and to strengthen our relationship with partners who will support the wider influences on health, it is recommended that representation from the following organisations as voting members on the HWB would assist in supporting the wider influences on health to improve people's wellbeing, reduce health inequalities and achieve better outcomes:
- a) Durham University representative
  - b) Voluntary Community Sector representative
  - c) County Durham Care Partnership (CDCP) lay member for engagement
  - d) Economic Partnership representative
- 6 In addition, work has also been undertaken to strengthen partnership links with the Environment and Climate Change Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **Recommendations**

- 7 The Health and Wellbeing Board is requested to:
- a) Agree that a representative from Durham University is invited to become an additional voting member of the Health and Wellbeing Board
  - b) Agree that a representative from Durham Community Action is invited to become an additional voting member of the Health and Wellbeing Board
  - c) Agree that the County Durham Care Partnership lay member for engagement is invited to become an additional voting member of the Health and Wellbeing Board
  - d) Agree that the Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth nominates an Economic Partnership representative to attend HWB meetings
  - e) Note the work that has been undertaken to strengthen partnership links between the Environment and Climate Change Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **Background**

- 8 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 required all upper tier local authorities to establish HWBs. The County Durham HWB was formally established as a committee of Durham County Council in April 2013.

## **Development of the JLHWS 2023-28**

- 9 The Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS) 2023-28 was agreed by the HWB in May 2023.
- 10 The JLHWS follows a life course approach with a focus on the wider determinants of health (social, economic, and environmental factors into which we are born) that impact on how long people are likely to live, the health conditions that they may experience and the level of health and social care available to them. These all impact on people's health, for example diet, alcohol consumption, support networks, education and employment opportunities, poverty, living conditions, health care services, and housing.
- 11 We often think of health as being defined by access to and quality of health care and while this is important, it accounts for as little as 15% of the health and wellbeing of a population. The County Durham Care Partnership is directly responsible for health and social care services in County Durham and is a subgroup of the HWB.
- 12 Behavioural risk factors, such as what we eat, how often we are physically active, whether we smoke or drink alcohol (and if so, how much), all have a huge effect on our state of health and wellbeing. Achieving and maintaining a healthy lifestyle can be challenging for many within our population, and it is not just down to individual choice. Decisions about food, exercise, smoking, and drug and alcohol use are often influenced by other factors including family and social networks, education, poverty, and culture. These healthy behaviours/risk factors account for 40% of our health and wellbeing. The HWB has oversight and influence over these behavioural risk factors.
- 13 The conditions in which we are born, grow, live, work and age have a much greater impact on health outcomes. These are known as the 'wider determinants' which help to build good health, and account for approximately 45% of our health and wellbeing.

- 14 Our other strategic partnerships, and their plans, which focus on things such as poverty, employment, education, safety of our neighbourhoods, the quality of our homes and the environment we live in, play a key role which will support improving and protecting people's health by ensuring good health is a key factor in these plans. The HWB will work with other partnerships on the factors that make up health and wellbeing.
- 15 To ensure opportunities to work collaboratively for the good of our communities are maximised, it is acknowledged that we can look at further avenues to strengthen our relationship with partners who will support the wider influences on health to improve people's wellbeing, reduce health inequalities and achieve better outcomes.

### **County Durham Environment and Climate Change Partnership (ECCP)**

- 16 The Environment and Climate Change Partnership (ECCP) has refreshed its structure to strengthen the focus of the Partnership to improve the delivery of the ECCP's vision for 'a better County Durham: sustainable communities, resilient to climate change, richer in nature.'
- 17 One of the strategic priorities of the refreshed ECCP is to develop opportunities to increase collaboration with the Health and Wellbeing Board. Aligned to this, the new Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy looks to strengthen the relationship with partners who support the wider influences on health.
- 18 Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health is a statutory member of the HWB and has now been invited to become a member of the ECCP. This will ensure the relationship between Health and the Environment is strengthened.

### **Health and Wellbeing Board membership**

- 19 Article 16 of the Constitution of the Council outlines the rules for governing the HWB and includes its composition, role and function.
- 20 As required in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the composition of the HWB Board is as follows:
  - Representatives nominated by the Leader of the Council (currently):
    - a) Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services
    - b) Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People's Services
    - c) Portfolio Holder for Finance
  - Representation from NENC Integrated Care Board
  - A Local Healthwatch representative
  - Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services

- Corporate Director of Children and Young People’s Services
  - Director of Public Health
- 21 In addition, it has also been agreed that nominated representation from each of the following attend as non-statutory, voting members of the Board:
- Operational Director, Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust
  - Executive Director of Planning and Business development, South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust
  - Director of Operations, Tees, Esk & Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
  - Chief Nurse and Director of Patient Safety and Quality, North Tees & Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust
  - Chief Executive, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust
  - Chief of Staff, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
  - Director of Integrated Community Services, County Durham Care Partnership
  - Assistant Chief Fire Officer, County Durham and Darlington Fire and Rescue Service
  - Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth (nominated representative is Strategic Manager for Housing)
- 22 In accordance with legislation additional members may be appointed and the Health and Social Care Act states that “at any time after a HWB is established, a local authority must, before appointing another person to be a member of the Board under s194 (2)(g), consult the Health and Wellbeing Board”.

## **Durham University**

- 23 Durham University has ten research institutes that bring together staff to work collaboratively, across departments and with external partners to develop new ways of thinking that contribute positively to societal change.
- 24 Health at Durham is a university wide strategic programme of world leading research, education, engagement and impact. This looks at three interconnected ways of framing health:
- a) Individuals and health
  - b) Communities, place and health
  - c) Environments, ecology and health

- 25 Public Health have had a long history of positive engagement in connection with health service research with Durham University.
- 26 If agreed, Charlotte Clarke, Executive Dean, Social Sciences and Health of Durham University will be invited to become a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **Durham Community Action**

- 27 Durham Community Action (DCA) works with and for communities across County Durham. They apply their knowledge and expertise within the VCS into sector led networks, and multi-agency partnerships in County Durham, the North East and nationally. Through championing the interests of our local VCS, they work to influence and help shape public sector policy, and the design and commissioning of local services.
- 28 This reflects the Health and Wellbeing Board's County Durham Together approach, adopting the County Durham Wellbeing Principles and focusing on how we work with communities.
- 29 If agreed, Kate Burrows, Executive Director, Durham Community Action will be invited to become a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **County Durham Economic Partnership (CDEP)**

- 30 Amy Harhoff, Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth is a member of the HWB; however, it was agreed at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 27 November 2019 that the Strategic Manager for Housing would be identified as their nominated housing sector representative to attend HWB meetings.
- 31 The economy and employment are key determinants of health. The Inclusive Economic Strategy has now been agreed and a delivery plan is currently being developed to support the work of the Strategy.
- 32 The Corporate Director of Regeneration, Economy and Growth has identified the Head of Economic Development Regeneration, Economy and Growth to attend HWB meetings. This post also attends the Economic Partnership so would be a conduit between the two Partnerships.

### **County Durham Care Partnership (CDCP) lay member for engagement**

- 33 A lay member for engagement has recently been recruited to the County Durham Care Partnership.

- 34 The role of the County Durham Care Partnership lay member for engagement is to enhance the decision making of the Partnership as a whole and help ensure that:
- a) public and patient/customer views are heard, and their expectations understood and met as appropriate
  - b) ensure that the CDCP builds and maintains an effective relationship with Healthwatch County Durham and draws on existing patient/customer and public engagement and involvement expertise; and
  - c) the CDCP has appropriate arrangements in place to secure public and patient/customer involvement and responds in an effective and timely way to feedback and recommendations from patients, carers and the public.
- 35 In addition, this would show a clear sign to any future CQC inspection of our support for lay involvement at a place-based level.
- 36 The postholder must demonstrate a commitment to upholding the Nolan Principles of Public Life along with an ability to reflect them in their leadership role and the culture of the CDCP.
- 37 The CPCP is a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board and responsible for health and social care services in County Durham. These services which prevent and treat illness and maintain health and wellbeing and includes services which support with day-to-day life for people who live with illness and disability and as people age, are a key component, along with health behaviours and the wider determinants of health, of the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- 38 The job description notes that as part of the role, the lay member of engagement will be a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 39 If agreed, Feisal Jassat, County Durham Care Partnership, Lay Member for Engagement, will be invited to become a member of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

## **Conclusion**

- 40 The proposed changes will ensure we continue to work collaboratively for the good of our communities, and strengthening our relationships with partners who support the wider influences on health will help us to improve people's wellbeing, reduce health inequalities and achieve better outcomes.

41 Extended and strengthened membership of the HWB will ensure that partner representation is aligned to the priorities of the Board as outlined in the JLHWS 2023-28, and the vision for Durham 2035.

**Other useful documents**

- Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-28
- Vision for Durham 2035

**Author**

Michael Turnbull

[Michael.Turnbull@durham.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.Turnbull@durham.gov.uk)

Julie Bradbrook

[julie.bradbrook@durham.gov.uk](mailto:julie.bradbrook@durham.gov.uk)



---

## **Appendix 1: Implications**

---

### **Legal Implications**

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 required all upper tier local authorities to establish HWBs.

The Health and Care Act 2022 introduced new architecture to the health and care system, specifically the abolition of Clinical Commissioning Groups and the establishment of statutory Integrated Care Systems from July 2022, taking over CCG commissioning functions. The changes in the national landscape are reflected in the JLHWS 2023-2028.

### **Finance**

No implications

### **Consultation**

The additional members were suggested as part of the JLHWS 2023-28 consultation process.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

No implications

### **Climate Change**

No implications

### **Human Rights**

No implications

### **Crime and Disorder**

No implications

### **Staffing**

HWB members would be expected to attend HWB meetings and development sessions across the year

### **Accommodation**

No implications

### **Risk**

No implications

### **Procurement**

No implications