

Health and Wellbeing Board

14 May 2015



Feedback from County Durham's Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge

Report of Andrea Petty, Strategic Manager – Policy, Planning & Partnerships, Children and Adults Services, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Local Government Association's Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge in County Durham.

Background

2. To support the implementation of Health and Wellbeing Boards, the Department of Health funded the Local Government Association (LGA) to develop a Health and Wellbeing System Improvement Programme. The Peer Challenge is part of the wider offer of the Health and Wellbeing System Improvement Programme.

County Durham's Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge

3. County Durham's Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge took place between Tuesday 24th and Friday 27th February. In four days the peer challenge team met with 6 Councillors, 66 staff and 40 partners, through 36 interviews, focus groups and were in attendance at the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) meeting in January 2015.
4. The Peer Challenge consisted of five headline questions:
 - Is there a clear and appropriate and achievable approach to improving the health and wellbeing of local residents?
 - Is the Health & Wellbeing Board at the heart of an effective governance system? Does leadership work well across the local system?
 - Are local resources, commitment and skills across the system maximised to achieve local health and wellbeing priorities?
 - Are there effective arrangements for evaluating impacts of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

- Are there effective arrangements for ensuring accountability to the public?
5. The feedback report from the Peer Team is attached as Appendix 2, with a summary of the key areas outlined below.
 6. Feedback from the peer challenge stated that County Durham's Health and Wellbeing Board is in a very strong place. Several partner organisations who attend multiple Health and Wellbeing Boards said it was, "the best Health and Wellbeing Board in the region", if not in the North.
 7. The Local Government Association have recently commissioned some national research on the state of play with Health and Wellbeing Board's, and in terms of this research feel that County Durham is clearly at the forefront of Health and Wellbeing Board progress and impact nationally.
 8. The Peer Challenge team stated that the strength of partnership relationships was striking and they are clearly mature. They also stated that a whole systems approach is clearly well-embedded and that the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is clearly owned and valued by partners, has influence and is underpinned by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
 9. The team commented that distributed leadership had developed from well-established relationships, trust and well managed organisations. An example of this is the leadership of the Mental Health Partnership Board with a CCG nominated GP chair.
 10. The Big Tent Engagement Event and Learning Disabilities Forum were commended as inclusive approaches for community engagement along with engagement events by Investing in Children that ensure the 'voice of the child' influences Health and Wellbeing agenda. This is particularly notable as the report states that the 'voice of the child' is not well developed across the country.
 11. Area Action Partnerships were described in the final presentation by the lead peer Andrew Kerr, Chief Executive of Cornwall Council as "one of the best forms of localism I have seen in a long time". The report states that they clearly link to the Health and Wellbeing Board and allow for service models to be locally determined.
 12. Involving providers as members of the Health and Wellbeing Board was also commended as this is not uniform across other Health and Wellbeing Boards.
 13. The team state that there is a good performance management framework which is very clear on the delivery of priorities and that direction of travel is good.
 14. The report states that there is a strong Public Health Team which is purposefully led and well-resourced compared with others nationally. The 'Wellbeing for Life' Service was highlighted for its innovative, evidence based model that involves acute and voluntary and community sector services. The

Healthy Weight Alliance was commended for its simple structures and relationship with the Health and Wellbeing Board and it was suggested that this was a model that could be repeated for other Joint Health and Wellbeing Outcomes.

15. The clear governance arrangement between the HWB and Scrutiny was identified as among the best in the country.
16. The peer challenge team identified the following four areas of best practice that they would like to follow up and share with the sector:
 - Community engagement.
 - Area Action Partnerships.
 - 'Voice of the child.'
 - Relationship with Scrutiny.
17. The peer challenge team identified a number of areas for consideration, including:
 - Stronger links to Housing to ensure Housing's contribution to health inequality and the wider determinants of health is maximised.
 - Reviewing the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board e.g. the voluntary and community sector, housing.
 - Ensuring the needs of carers are reflected in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
 - Consider working across Health and Wellbeing Board boundaries e.g. to consider patient flows and service re-design.
18. The peer challenge report will be published on the national Local Government Association website.

Next Steps

19. An action plan will be developed to take forward any areas for consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Board and it is proposed that this is considered as part of a wider Health and Wellbeing Board Development session to take place in July 2015.

Recommendations

20. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:
 - Note the feedback on the Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge and the development of an action plan to be considered at the Development Session in July 2015.

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Appendix 1 - Implications

Finance

No implications

Staffing

No implications

Risk

No implications

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No implications

Accommodation

No implications

Crime and Disorder

No implications

Human Rights

No implications

Consultation

No implications

Procurement

No implications

Disability Issues

No implications

Legal Implication

No implications