

Health and Wellbeing Board

Governance Review

Background

Southwark is a dynamic, relatively young, ethnically diverse and rapidly changing borough with significant geographic variations existing in the levels of economic deprivation and health outcomes experienced by residents. Improving the health and wellbeing of Southwark residents has been identified as a major strategic ambition for both Southwark Council and CCG as the key to creating resilient, fairer, more cohesive and economically productive communities.

The Southwark Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) was established in 2013 to bring together local health commissioning groups, elected councillors and senior council officers, with the purpose of designing local strategies for improving health and wellbeing through closer working between health and local government. The HWB is the only forum where political and clinical leaders come together to shape the local the care and health system on a democratically accountable and statutory basis.

Rationale for the review

Since its inception, the Southwark HWB has prioritised and led a system-wide approach to health and wellbeing and has been a key lever for moving the local health agenda away from the treatment of illness to the prevention of its causes. As multi-stakeholder membership bodies, key to achieving this is the ability of an HWB to develop effective partnership working, pushing it from the margins to the mainstream across stakeholders.

In the past year, the Board has instituted new processes including the introduction of thematic meetings; streamlined performance monitoring; prioritised updates on key strategic priority areas including obesity, integration and social regeneration; reviewed membership; and examined how the Board links to and is engaged with emerging national, regional and local priorities. However, given major changes in national policy, strategic priorities, structural changes within and across health and care partners, combined with a range of new opportunities for change, the time is right for a review of the functioning of the Southwark HWB as part of our approach to continuous quality improvement.

Aims of the Review

To develop an effective and efficient governance framework for the HWB, which supports the Council, and the CCG to deliver our joint ambition- to better integrate health and social care in Southwark and improve the health outcomes of Southwark residents.

Outcomes of the Review

1. Ensuring the HWB contributes to delivery of the Council Plan, FFV and associated outcomes to improve health outcomes for Southwark residents.
2. Effective monitoring of the Southwark Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

3. A simple, clear and robust governance framework which supports the HWB to monitor H&SC integration in Southwark.
4. Revised Terms of Reference and membership for the HWB, which are fit for purpose and comply with new and emerging legislation, policy and practice in Health and Social Care.

Key Areas for Consideration (in no priority order as yet)

1. The Health and Social Care integration agenda.
2. The governance framework and sign off process for areas of combined financial decision-making, namely the Better Care Fund and Improved Better Care Fund.
3. Budget planning and setting; key issues for the Council and the CCG
4. Membership of the HWB
5. The governance structure for integration, including any opportunities for Sub-committees and/or Task and Finish Groups.
6. Delegation of decisions to HWB, as and where appropriate
7. Financial governance, where relevant
8. Ensuring our governance arrangement complies with current legislation, other as relevant collaborative arrangements and best practice.