

County and District Health and Wellbeing Forum

Context and Background

In October 2016, the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) agreed to appoint a working group to review its activity and effectiveness and to make recommendations. A Task and Finish Group was set up to consider options for enhancing the role of District health and wellbeing boards and panels.

This recognised:

- The critical role of local boards and partnership in delivering the priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- The need for Districts and localities to be fully engaged in the JSNA and JHWS processes, and contribute to and benefit from research and analysis work;
- The Essex HWBB's responsibility for addressing health inequalities in Essex;
- The excellent work taking place at local level and the scope to enhance its impact if the Essex HWBB can be more effective in 'joining up' and providing support.

Key messages from the Task and Finish Group on local boards included:

- The Essex HWBB's value to localities is currently limited;
- Engagement and communication with Districts and localities needs to be improved and consideration should be given to improving District representation;
- Essex HWBB's priorities and agenda should be better aligned with local boards.

It was agreed at the January 2017 meeting of the Essex HWBB to:

- Establish a new group for representation of District HWBBs views, which will consist of chairs and key officers from local HWBB and the Essex Board;
- To make provision on the Essex HWBB agenda for locality boards to update the Board on local issues, activity and progress;
- The Board's secretariat to take steps to improve the flow of information between the Essex HWBB and localities.

The expectation is that the new County-Locality Forum will be established following the County Council elections in May.

The Essex HWBB also agreed to the establishment of an Essex Strategic Co-ordination Group to join up and support the work of the HWBB with other Essex Partnership Boards (e.g., Essex Partners, Safeguarding Boards, Safer Essex and Strengthening Communities) around a shared set of priorities, research programme and approach to communications.

County-District Health and Wellbeing Forum - Draft ToR

Purpose

- To support a place-based approach to health and wellbeing in Essex.
- To enhance the role of District HWBBs at County level, ensuring that the views and experiences of all Essex Districts are effectively represented at the Essex HWBB.
- To enable District HWBBs to be full partners in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Essex.
- To enable the Essex Health and Wellbeing Board to support the translation of strategic priorities into local activity, and where relevant seek support from the Essex HWB Board to tackle high level barriers in delivery (plan for exceptional reporting?).
- To provide a forum for communication and engagement between County and District partnerships and for the sharing of information.
- To support the Essex Local Authorities Public Health (LAPH) Network in implementing the Public Health Strategic Approach to improve health and wellbeing and the lives of Essex residents.
- To provide a vehicle for mutual challenge and accountability.

Membership

- Membership of the Forum will be comprised of:
 - Chairs of local HWBBs;
 - Chair of the Essex LAPH Network;
 - Other District representatives who sit on the Essex HWBB;
 - Chair or Vice Chair of the Essex HWBB and Essex DPH.
- The total membership of the forum should not exceed 20 members.
- The Forum will nominate a Chair from the local HWBBs.
- If a District (a) does not have a local HWBB or (b) is involved in a local Board that it does not chair, then it will be invited to nominate a Forum representative. The expectation is that this would be the Council member with responsibility for health and wellbeing.

Arrangements and procedure for meetings

- The Forum will meet three times a year, subject to review.
- Forum meetings will not be public meetings, but a minute will be prepared and circulated to members and to the Essex HWBB.
- 'District issues and priorities' will be added to the agenda of the Essex HWBB as a standing item.
- The Forum should produce a brief annual report summarising its activity and impact for review by District HWBBs and the Essex HWBB.

County-Locality Health and Wellbeing Forum: Enhancing the strategic role of local Boards

APPENDIX 1

