

READING HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date of Meeting	11 October 2024
Title	Review of the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report author	Dr Matt Pearce
Job title	Director of Public Health
Organisation	Reading Borough Council
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the board approve a review of the Health and Wellbeing Board facilitated by the Local Government Association 2. That members of the board actively participate in the review

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. Health and Wellbeing Boards are a formal statutory committee of the local authority, and provide a forum where political, clinical, professional and community leaders from across the health and care system come together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities.
- 1.2. It is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board undertake a review of its governance arrangements and working practices to increase its overall effectiveness in improving the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce health inequalities. The Local Government Association has been asked and agreed to facilitate the review.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board plays a key role in delivering objectives set out within the Council Plan 2022-2025 along with constitute member organisations and their strategies such as the Integrated Care Strategy. The board also oversee the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy which sets out how partner organisations will work together to meet the health needs of the local population and reduce health inequalities.

3. The Proposal

- 3.1. Health and Wellbeing Boards have been in place since 2013 and are a single point of continuity in a constantly shifting health and care landscape. The last few years have been a time of significant and complex change, with the Health and Care Act 2022 introducing major reforms to the NHS landscape, including the formation of Integrated Care Systems, and a greater focus on 'place' level activity. Health and Wellbeing Boards need to evolve and adapt to operate within this new context.
- 3.2. Combined with the appointment of new substantive Director of Public Health for Reading and West Berkshire, it provides a timely opportunity to review the governance arrangements of the Health and Wellbeing Board to strengthen its role in the new system architecture and operate effectively.
- 3.3. The LGA has been approached and they have confirmed that they would be able to support a review within the 2024/25 financial year. It is proposed to undertake reviews of the Reading and West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Boards in tandem. This would allow for synergies and opportunities for joint working at the Berkshire West Place level to be identified. A draft

brief has been prepared and is attached in Appendix A. It is proposed that the review be carried out towards the end of 2024.

4. Contribution to Reading's Health and Wellbeing Strategic Aims

- 4.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board has responsibility for delivery of the objectives set-out in the [Berkshire West Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2021-30](#). Having an effective Health and Wellbeing Board that seeks the best outcomes for all members, will likely lead to the delivery of the ambitions set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

- 5.1. There are no general implications for the environment arising from this report; however, the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy will likely have shared and mutual benefits given the cross-cutting ambitions to reduce levels of obesity, eat more healthily and increase levels of physical activity through active travel.

6. Community Engagement

- 6.1. A number of officers and members have been engaged in the development of the LGA brief and the aim is to seek endorsement from members of the board to ensure effective governance arrangements are in place. By reviewing the governance and effectiveness of the Health and Wellbeing Board, it is envisaged that the role of community engagement will become more prominent in the work of the board.

7. Equality Implications

- 7.1. Not applicable.

8. Other Relevant Considerations

- 8.1. Not applicable.

9. Legal Implications

- 9.1. Not applicable.

10. Financial Implications

- 10.1. The offer of support from the LGA is free and will therefore incur no costs.

11. Timetable for Implementation

- 11.1. It is anticipated that the review will commence in Autumn 2024

12. Background Papers

- 12.1. None

Appendices

Appendix A – Draft Brief for the Review