

## **Reading Health and Wellbeing Board Compact**

This document defines the shared principles and jointly set expectations for how Reading Health and Wellbeing Board members will work collectively as a strategic partnership to drive meaningful action and achieve the vision of its Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS).

The compact seeks to establish a mutual understanding of how the Board will operate and members' roles and responsibilities in delivering its function to generate impact on improving outcomes for the people in Reading.

Regarding operating principles, members agreed the Reading Health and Wellbeing Board will:

1. Behave as a genuine strategic partnership, recognising its distinct role and function from scrutiny, establishing a culture of shared responsibility, accountability and collaboration.
2. Clearly establish its role in promoting prevention, equity and driving improvement on the building blocks of health and endeavour to utilise a common language.
3. Seek to maximise opportunities that are within the board's control and commit to exploring opportunities that are negotiable across its membership in a supportively challenging way.
4. Ensure that system leadership is collaborative across its membership, with commitment from its nominated organisations to take a proactive role in enabling, influencing, actioning and championing the work of the Board.
5. Seek to prioritise its focus based on evidence of need and where it can add most value as a strategic partnership, whilst retaining oversight of the wider Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
6. Ensure parity between its members by providing sufficient opportunity to influence its work programme/activities within and between Board meetings, supported through an annual development session.
7. Use 'additionality' as an essential criterion when prioritising its work programme, ensuring that the Board is adding value by giving focus to a topic, above and beyond that of a single member organisation and is not duplicating activity elsewhere in the system.
8. Ensure the format of discussion is appropriate for the focus and purpose of any topic, in order to enable action. This may include formal meetings, task and finish groups or workshops, recognising a high frequency of formal meetings and volume of reporting does not equate to success.
9. Ensure that wider stakeholders are engaged in the Board's work where appropriate, to better identify opportunities to drive action and make connections across relevant agendas.
10. Seek to better engage and reflect the voice of residents in the work of the Board, including through working groups/workshops where people may have an interest or expertise.

Reading Health and Wellbeing Board members agreed they would support these principles by:

1. Recognising that although it will sometimes be appropriate to seek assurance or further understanding, their role on the Board is distinct from scrutiny.

2. Representing the group, organisation, and / or partnership that they speak for and ensuring they enable a feedback loop between the Board and that group, organisation and / or partnership.
3. Bringing the system leadership, insight, knowledge, perspective and strategic capacity they have through their role and taking responsibility for recognising where their group, organisation and / or partnership can add value in relation to a particular topic.
4. Ensuring that contributions within meetings are evidence based and when bringing in local insight, recognising the need to have a population (rather than individual) focus.
5. Being proactive and willing to propose and take away actions on behalf of the group, organisation and / or partnership they represent and report back progress within agreed timescales.
6. Proactively informing the Board's work programme, ensuring appropriate items are brought to the Board's attention for consideration.
7. Acting in an inclusive and open manner, recognising the strengths, constraints and contributions other partners may be able to make, to collectively identify constructive action.
8. Viewing the Board as a network and understanding its role is broader than formal meetings, recognising the importance of making connections and implementing actions in between.
9. Supportively challenging each other to adhere to the principles set out within the Health and Wellbeing Board compact.