

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board – For decision Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee – For info	Dated: 7 February 2025 7 May 2025
Subject: Health and Wellbeing Board Development	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivers Corporate Plan 2024-29 outcomes • provides statutory duties 	Corporate Plan: Diverse and Engaged Communities Excellent Services
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?	N/A
Report of:	Judith Finlay, Executive Director of Community and Children’s Services Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health
Report author:	Ellie Ward, Community and Children’s Services

Summary

Health and Wellbeing Boards, established in 2013, are statutory partnerships bringing together political, clinical, professional, and community leaders to improve the health and wellbeing of local populations and reduce health inequalities.

During 2024, the Local Government Association undertook some work with the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board to explore areas of strength and development relating to its role and purpose.

During a development session in December 2024, members of the Health and Wellbeing Board discussed specific areas for development and how this should be taken forward.

This report sets out the proposed way forward for development of the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board and asks members of the Board to formally approve these. This new approach will start to evolve from May 2025.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the feedback from the LGA work
- **Approve** the proposed way forward for the Board

Main Report

Background

1. Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) established in 2013, are statutory partnerships bringing together political, clinical, professional, and community leaders to improve the health and wellbeing of local populations and reduce health inequalities. The City of London HWB has been in existence since then.

Current Position

2. In the latter half of 2024, the Local Government Association (LGA) brought its experience of working with HWBs nationally to work with the City of London Health and Wellbeing Board to consider its strengths and areas for development. This included a development session on 16 December 2024 and a full write up of the session is included in Appendix 1.
3. Following on from these discussions, the following is proposed:

Focus of the Health and Wellbeing Board

4. Members of the Board agreed its focus should be addressing health inequalities through a structured outcome focused approach and that there should be a focus on topics that need a partnership rather than a single agency approach
5. It was agreed that the priorities of the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (improving mental health, financial resilience and social isolation/connection) will form the basis on which the work plan for the Board is built.
6. It was already noted that these areas needed more work in terms of identifying partnership approaches within them and it was agreed that short term task and finish groups would be established to look at each of these areas in more detail. These task and finish groups are emerging now.
7. This strengthened focus of the Board will now impact on the agendas and workplan going forward. This will start to evolve from the May 2025 meeting.
8. A checklist will be aligned with this new focus of the Board and will be used to measure the relevance of agenda items coming to the Board. Any reports that do come will be asked to have a specific focus on how it specifically impacts on the health and wellbeing of the local population and how it tackles local health inequalities in the City of London. There will also be periodic deep dives into specific issues from a partnership perspective.
9. It should be noted that general service focused papers which do not require specific action from the Board would be more appropriately considered in the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee (see below).

Relationships within the Corporation and with other committees and external bodies

10. As noted above, there is a link between the work and focus of the HWB and that of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee (HSCSC) whose role is to scrutinise the delivery of health and social care services locally. Access to health services and the quality of these are related to health inequalities and therefore feedback from the Health and Social Care Scrutiny back to Health and Wellbeing Board will be vital. These links will be developed further with regular summaries back to HWB.
11. Integrated Care Systems (ICS) are also responsible for having regard to meeting the health and wellbeing needs of local areas and therefore the priorities of local health and wellbeing strategies. Feedback noted that this link did not feel particularly strong at the present time. This will be taken forward as part of wider conversations.
12. HWB (political) members felt that the Board did not enjoy the same profile as other City of London Corporation Committees. This is partly due to its nature – the HWB is not a committee in the traditional sense – it is a partnership board, established by specific statute and without any budget. However, there is work that can be done here to raise its profile within the Corporation and adopt a Health in All Policies approach.

Community voice and needs

13. Throughout the work with LGA and the development day, a strong commitment came through from the Board that they wanted to understand community needs better, have more City of London specific data and hear from residents directly. Further exploration of these areas will be built into the workplan of the Board.

Membership

14. Members of the Board recognised that given the scope of partners who play a role in improving the health and wellbeing of the local population and tackling health inequalities, membership of the current Board was potentially limited.
15. As a result, the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be reviewed to include the voluntary and community sector, more relevant police representation and to ensure that housing and other services are sufficiently linked in (this is likely to be through the Director of Community and Children's Services who sits on the board) along with representatives of the business community.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Strategic implications – Health and Wellbeing Boards, Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies and Joint Strategic Needs Assessments are all statutory requirements from the Health and Care Act 2012.

The work of the Board cross cuts several outcomes in the Corporate Plan including Diverse and Engaged communities and Sustainable Environment.

Financial implications - none

Resource implications - none

Legal implications - none

Risk implications - none

Equalities implications – Improving the health and wellbeing of the local population and tackling health inequalities responds to several issues that specific protected characteristic groups may face. For example, disabled people may face more barriers to employment and as a result experience greater health inequalities. Some health conditions are more prevalent in certain ethnic groups and therefore equal access to services and treatment is vital.

Climate implications - none

Security implications - none

Conclusion

16. This report sets out some areas of development and a new way forward for the Health and Wellbeing Board which better helps it deliver its role and purpose.

17. These are based on feedback and decisions that follow from work LGA did with the Board.

18. The new way forward will be implemented from the next meeting in May 2025.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Write up report of Health and Wellbeing Development Day

Ellie Ward

Head of Strategy and Performance

T: 020 7332 1535

E: ellie.ward@cityoflondon.gov.uk