

‘Getting Started: prospects for health and wellbeing boards’

The following key points and challenges have been taken from the [‘Getting Started’](#) report, which will help inform ongoing development for York’s Health and Wellbeing Board.

Reiterating the vision and purpose of Health and Wellbeing Boards:

To encourage the integration of health and social care around population needs

Possible challenges for the York Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. The JSNA

There is an expectation that the JSNA and Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be reflected in the separate commissioning plans of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and local authorities.

Challenge:

Has the Health and Wellbeing got the levers and influence to do this? How can this be facilitated in light of the ‘lack of power’ the Board hold over commissioners and the NHS Commissioning Board? Informal influence and negotiating use of budgets are required to take forward recommendations from our strategies.

2. Different populations

The boundary issues between the CCGs and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Challenge:

How are/will the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group (VOYCCG) manage commissioning negotiations with the three Health and Wellbeing Boards in their area? Does this have the potential to skew funds for a population? What is the Board’s role or influence here?

3. Funding streams

There are three main commissioning budgets: CCGs; NHS Commissioning Board; and local authorities. There is much overlap between these functions e.g. prevention of ill health and the role of adult social care or the NHS in disease prevention.

Challenge:

What are the boundaries of these functions and budgets? How will the Health and Wellbeing Board influence the different commissioning cycles and mechanisms across these budgets and sectors? Can the Board influence the effective use of the total public sector budget locally?

4. Joint commissioning

Different commissioning cycles exist and joint commissioning is not always incentivised within the health and social care system.

Challenge:

How can the Health and Wellbeing Board overcome barriers to joint commissioning and reconcile different commissioning cycles?

5. Promoting health

Challenge:

How can the Health and Wellbeing Board facilitate or influence commissioners to work together to redirect public resources from treating sickness to actively promoting health and wellbeing?

6. Working together for and engaging with older people

An ageing population and increased demand on health and social care services is significant concern for us all. The 'Getting Started' report suggests that little attention is given to preventing ill health for older people, or seeing older people as assets. A life course approach protects and nurtures people later in life as well as earlier in life.

Challenge:

Are our older people an untapped asset? How will the Health and Wellbeing Board champion better engagement and active involvement? Should we be championing a greater emphasis on prevention? Do we know enough about and understand older people's aspirations for care and support?

7. Leading new services

The social care white paper includes new pledges around universal services – information and advice, low level support services and intelligence-led services.

Challenge:

Could the Health and Wellbeing Board lead the development of these new services and drive innovation?

8. Children and young peoples' health

Sir Ian Kennedy's review in 2010 raised concerns about the lack of priority given to children and young people in the health service.

Challenge:

Although the YorOK Board exists do the Health and Wellbeing Board feel that they should further advocate the priority of children and young people's health within health services?

The Association of Directors of Children's Services raised concerns that safeguarding must be a standing item on every Health and Wellbeing Board agenda.

Challenge:

Do the Health and Wellbeing Board feel that this would add value to the existing structures in place for safeguarding in the city? Do the Health and Wellbeing Board need to consider extending its membership to include the Chair of York's Safeguarding Board?

9. Listening to children and young people

The fragmentation of commissioning children's services is a real concern reported by The Association of Directors of Children's Services. To help ensure continued improvement in children and young peoples' outcomes, issues around their engagement are pertinent.

Challenge:

Should the Health and Wellbeing Board better engage with children, young people and families and champion more imaginative approaches to facilitate this?

10. Mental Health

Historically, information and data recording has been poorer for mental health than in other areas of health. This lack of insight may well affect the overall status of mental health within the health and wellbeing strategy.

Challenge:

How might the Health and Wellbeing Board lead improvements in the recording of and management of data to inform service development? Would input from a voluntary sector mental health representative help push forward mental health as a priority? Would their input help discover more innovative and collaborative ways of working?