Health and Wellbeing Board  
12th July 2017

Report of the Lead Health and Wellbeing Members for the Mental Health Theme in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Future of the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board

Summary

1. This report sets out the proposed way forward for the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board in light of recent governance changes to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB), the launch of the joint health and wellbeing strategy 2017-2022, the development of a new mental health strategy for York and the proposal to develop a learning disabilities strategy for York.

Background

2. The Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board was established in 2013 in order to deliver against the mental health elements of the previous joint health and wellbeing strategy 2013-2016.

3. It was, until governance arrangements changed in March 2017, a formal sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board whose meetings were open to the public to attend. Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board reported annually on progress to HWBB against its remit.

4. Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board is currently chaired by the Head of Joint Programmes at NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group. It is a partnership of a number of organisations including City of York Council, NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group, Healthwatch York, York Centre for Voluntary Service, University of York, North Yorkshire Police, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust and a number of community representatives.
Main/Key Issues to be Considered

5. There are a number of reasons why it is timely to look at the future of the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board and these include:

- the HWBB have changed their governance arrangements with only one formal group sitting beneath it (the proposed Health and Wellbeing Board Steering Group). There is, therefore, far more flexibility in how the lead HWBB members choose to deliver against their strategy theme and;

- a new joint health and wellbeing strategy 2017-2022 is now in place; this strategy introduces the lead HWBB Member role and as such the mental health theme in the strategy is led by two people. These are the Accountable Officer at NHS Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group and the Corporate Director for Health, Housing and Adult Social Care at the City of York Council;

- a new mental health strategy for the city is now being developed with a learning disabilities strategy to follow shortly

- reflections by partnership board members indicated that the partnership board added another strategic layer and was not a ‘doing board’. Current partnership board members had not been involved in developing the previous joint health and wellbeing strategy 2013-16 and therefore didn’t own it. Additionally, despite being a meeting open to the public very few people attended to ask questions and it was felt that the current format of the partnership board was not the best way to hear and respond to the voice of service users

- the Terms of Reference for the partnership are due for review;

6. In light of the above, the two mental health HWBB theme leads attended a meeting of the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board in May 2017. After discussion with the partnership board a proposal to split the partnership board into two discrete groups was agreed; one focused around mental health and one around learning disabilities.

7. A workshop has been scheduled for mid-July to look at ways of progressing this with a view to having the new groups in place by the end of this year. This will include developing Terms of
Reference for each of the group; considering membership and who should chair each group; resourcing and supporting the groups and ensuring the voice of service users is heard. The Terms of Reference for each of these groups will be brought back to HWBB in due course.

8. In the meantime the current Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board has formed a small group to lead on developing the consultation for the draft mental health strategy. They have had one initial meeting and will be meeting again in July with a view to consultation starting shortly after that. The aim is to bring the final draft of the mental health strategy to the HWBB’s mental health themed meeting in November 2017.

Consultation

9. An initial discussion has also taken place at the Voluntary Sector Forum for Learning Difficulties and at the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board itself.

10. A workshop meeting is being held in mid-July with key stakeholders. This will considered Terms of Reference, membership and resource to support amongst other things.

Options

11. Health and Wellbeing Board have the following options:

   a. Retain the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board in its current format

   b. Split the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board into two separate groups with one focused around mental health and another around learning disabilities.

   c. Health and Wellbeing Board to suggest an alternative to the two options above.

Analysis

12. Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board, in its current format, would struggle to deliver against the new joint health and wellbeing strategy, the new mental health strategy and the proposed learning disability strategy.
13. Additionally it currently has a very broad remit and needs to be able to better engage with service users in an environment and a way that is appropriate to them.

14. Should the option to split the current partnership board be approved the successor groups for both learning disabilities and mental health will, in conjunction with the Health and Wellbeing Board theme leads, present the draft mental health strategy and learning disability strategy to the HWBB, including the findings from the consultations.

**Strategic/Operational Plans**

15. This report is linked to the priorities in the joint health and wellbeing strategy.

**Implications**

16. The current Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board does not have a budget to fulfil its remit. It is unlikely that there will be a budget attached to any new group(s) established. Resources will need to come from existing budgets/staffing within Health and Wellbeing Board partner organisations.

**Risk Management**

17. If the Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board continues in its present format there is a real risk that the voice and input of service users will be lost.

**Recommendations**

18. Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to approve the proposal to split Mental Health and Learning Disabilities Partnership Board into two separate groups with one focused around mental health and another around learning disabilities

Reason: To enable successful delivery against the joint health and wellbeing strategy, the mental health strategy and the forthcoming learning disabilities strategy.
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Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:
None

Annexes
None

Glossary

HWBB – Health and Wellbeing Board
NHS – National Health Service