

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of Meeting: 29th May 2014
Report of: Guy Kilminster
Subject/Title: Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 In June 2013 The Board expressed an interest to the Local Government Association in a Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge being undertaken in 2014. Peer Challenges are designed to support Health and Wellbeing Boards in implementing their health statutory responsibilities.
- 1.2 This is done through a systematic challenge by system wide peers in order to improve local practice. Four to six peers from local government, health or the voluntary sector will spend four days on-site. The process involves a wide range of people working with the Council in both statutory and partnership roles and the findings are delivered immediately. The Peer Challenge is to take place from the 18th to the 22nd of November 2014. A preliminary scoping meeting will be taking place with our Peer Challenge Manager Caroline Bosdet on 10th June.
- 1.3 The guidance on the Challenge is attached as Appendix A.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board note the forthcoming Peer Challenge and the published Methodology and Guidance.
- 2.2 That the Board nominate lead officers to assist with the preparation for the Peer Challenge.

3.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 To advise the Board of the Peer Challenge and ensure that the appropriate work is undertaken to prepare for the visit.
- 3.2 To benchmark against best practice the Board's work to date and its effectiveness and to identify areas for focus and improvement moving forward.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Local Government Association covers the cost of the Peer Challenge. There will be staff time taken up in preparing for the visit and during the course of the week.

5 Background

- 5.1 From 1st April 2013, responsibility for public health and other health services was given to local agencies, including councils, clinical commissioning groups and the new Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- 5.2 The Local Government Association (LGA) has convened national partners including the Department of Health, NHS England, the NHS Confederation, Public Health England, Healthwatch England and the Association of Directors of Public Health to provide a 'Health and Wellbeing System Improvement programme'.
- 5.3 The Peer Challenge is one of a number of elements that make up this Programme. It is a voluntary and flexible process commissioned by a Council or a partnership to aid their improvement and learning. Peers are 'critical friends' or 'trusted advisors'. It is not an inspection. The process is based upon a view that organisations learn better from peers and are more open to challenge. Peers can challenge robustly and effectively.
- 5.4 There are three elements that the peer challenge focuses on, including the interconnectivity between the three:
- Operation of effective Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWB) as forums in which key leaders from the health and wellbeing system are coming together to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and to promote more integrated services;
 - Transfer and integration of the public health function into councils;
 - Establishment and effective operation of a local healthwatch.
- 5.5 The Peer Challenge uses a set of headline questions from which to frame the preliminary review of materials, the interviews and the workshops that make up a peer challenge.
- Is there a clear, appropriate and achievable approach to improving the health and wellbeing of local residents?
 - Is the HWB at the heart of an effective governance system? Does leadership work well across the local system?
 - Are local resources, commitment and skills across the system maximised to achieve local health and wellbeing priorities?
 - Are there effective arrangements for evaluating impacts of the health and wellbeing strategy?
 - Are there effective arrangements for ensuring accountability to the public?
- 5.6 A scoping meeting is to take place on the 10th June to begin the process of planning for the Peer Challenge. This will allow some consideration as

to what to focus on and who needs to be involved. A further report will come to the Board after that meeting.

5.7 Appendix A includes the details of the methodology and guidance for the Peer Challenge.

6.0 Access to Information

This report was produced by Guy Kilminster – Corporate Manager Health Improvement