



the care forum

In Contact

April 2011

Health and wellbeing boards

Health and wellbeing boards are due to be established from 2013 and will be running in shadow form from 2012. The main purpose of the boards will be to join up commissioning across NHS, public health, social care and other services. The joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) will be an integral part of the health and wellbeing boards, and will be an important vehicle by which the voluntary sector can have an input into commissioning decisions.

Government has proposed that statutory health and wellbeing boards will:

- Have a minimum membership of elected representatives, GP consortia, directors of public health, directors of adult social services, directors of children's services, and HealthWatch;
- Assess the needs of the local population and lead the statutory JSNA on behalf of local authorities and GP consortia. This should provide a clear statement of local health and wellbeing needs and will include wider influencers of health such as transport, housing and leisure services. Boards will need to demonstrate that they have shown due regard to the JSNA findings;
- Promote integration and partnership, including through joined up commissioning plans that span the NHS, social care and public health;
- Support pooled budget arrangements, where all parties agree this makes sense;
- Develop a joint health and wellbeing strategy, which like the JSNA, will be a statutory requirement for local authorities and GP consortia and will form the basis of commissioning plans. The joint health and wellbeing strategy will be based on the assessment of need outlined in the JSNA.

Almost 90% of local authorities have signed up to be early implementers of health and wellbeing boards. This includes Bristol, B&NES, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

President of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, Richard Jones says: 'Health and wellbeing boards are being adopted enthusiastically by local government and their partners as the opportunity to demonstrate that responding to community needs and aspirations is best done by public services coming together at the local level rather than trying to engineer top down national solutions'.

It was announced in December 2010 that the initial proposal for health overview and scrutiny committee functions to be subsumed within the health and wellbeing boards would not go ahead. Respondents to the consultation on the white paper, 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS', had expressed that it would not be appropriate for health and wellbeing boards to have both the executive and scrutiny functions as they may not be able to scrutinise their own decisions effectively.

Voluntary sector input into health and wellbeing boards

Local authorities may choose to invite local representatives of the voluntary sector to participate in the board, but this is not a statutory requirement.

Currently, in Bristol, The Care Forum chief executive officer chairs the health and wellbeing partnership board, and Bristol Local Involvement Network (LINK) has a place. North Somerset health and wellbeing board includes representation from Voluntary Action North Somerset and North Somerset LINK. The Care Forum also sits on the South Gloucestershire

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health and wellbeing partnership board. B&NES currently does not have voluntary sector representation on its partnership board for health and wellbeing.

Chris Born, CEO of NHS North Somerset says: 'The North Somerset health and wellbeing board gives a clear leadership role for the local authority to work with agencies across all areas of local partnerships, not just traditional health and wellbeing. This includes understanding the needs of local communities through the JSNA and agreeing how these needs can be met by partners working together. A key to the board's success will be how well it involves the leaders of GP commissioning and how it works across the wider west of England area.'

Taking part in the JSNA process is clearly an additional way that voluntary sector organisations can feed into the health and wellbeing strategy. The voluntary sector is well placed to feed data into the JSNA, such as monitoring information, and other qualitative and quantitative data about the health and wellbeing needs of the people they support or may need to support in the future.

'There is currently a real opportunity to get involved in shaping future development. The JSNA will have an enhanced role as the evidence base for the new statutory Health & Wellbeing Strategy, and so inform commissioning plans for children and adults. We'll need local voluntary and community sector input to identify unmet need and feed into the 2011 JSNA', says Nick Smith, Bristol JSNA Project Manager.

Tara Melton, Campaigns Officer South West at RNIB, who fed into the Bristol JSNA, says: 'RNIB worked with the Bristol JSNA lead to identify the needs of blind and partially-sighted people in Bristol and to identify groups of people who are most at risk or are less likely to access services. RNIB see JSNAs as providing a significant opportunity to provide robust evidence and data to encourage commissioners to prioritise the prevention of sight loss and to provide support and services with people living with sight loss.'

HealthWatch will also have a place on the board when it replaces LINKs, and therefore engaging in local HealthWatch will be another means of ensuring that the voluntary sector's voice is heard in health and wellbeing commissioning.

Useful links

'Liberating the NHS: Legislative framework and next steps', and 'Healthy Lives, Healthy People' white paper can both be found on The Department of Health website: www.dh.gov.uk

The Health and Social Care Bill can be found on the UK parliament website: www.publications.parliament.uk

Voluntary Organisations Disability Group holds a range of information about the JSNA: www.vodg.org.uk/uploads/jsna/JSNA-Progress-Report-Final.pdf

B&NES JSNA: www.banes.nhs.uk/aboutus/strategies/Pages/default.aspx

Bristol JSNA and online mapping tool: www.bristol.gov.uk/jsna

North Somerset JSNA: www.northsomersetpartnership.org.uk/usefulinformation/jsna/index1.asp

South Gloucestershire JSNA: www.ourareaourfuture.org.uk/JointStrategicNeedsAssessment.htm

National News

Voluntary sector cuts

Voluntary Sector Cuts is a new collaborative project lead by NCVO, ACEVO, NAVCA and regional voluntary networks, which maps intelligence about voluntary groups experiencing reductions in public sector funding. Voluntary sector organisations can enter this information directly on to The Care Forum's website: www.thecareforum.org/pagevoluntary-sector-cuts.html

Personal health budgets

A pilot programme is underway for personal health budgets in the NHS involving around half the primary care trusts in England. 20 of these pilot sites have been selected for an in-depth study as part of a wider evaluation exploring the potential benefits of personal health budgets. The study is being led by the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) at the University of Kent. The pilot programme will run until 2012. For more information, view www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Personalhealthbudgets/DH_109426

Regional News

The Care Forum's new website

The address will remain the same www.thecareforum.org and the new site will improve access to The Care Forum's services and information.

Transgender health day

Wednesday 13 April, 10am-4.30pm, at Lyngford House Conference Centre, Taunton. Organised by The South West Transgender Network and Equality South West. Contact Samantha Partridge, ☎01823 250814, email samantha.partridge@equalitysouthwest.org.uk

Healthy communities in the south west

This consultation and engagement event on Friday 4 March, for voluntary and community organisations looked at the implications of the changes proposed in 'Healthy lives, Healthy people'. Full post-conference information is available via www.southwestforum.org.uk and www.thecareforum.org

Local News

B&NES

Cash for community projects

B&NES Council has released £300,000 from the £2.3 million Community Empowerment Fund to offer groups small grants of up to £5,000. The scheme is designed to help local groups play a greater part in helping their community and to get involved in local decision-making. £150,000 is available over two years for capital spending such as equipment, whilst the remaining 50% is for other costs such as training. Groups can apply for a mixture of both. The fund is for projects that support the delivery of the sustainable community strategy. This identifies a number of key actions locally including improving services to vulnerable people by targeting those who find it more difficult to use health and wellbeing services. Organisations applying do not need to be registered charities, but they must have a formal constitution or set of rules. The application process starts in April. Contact ☎01225 477278, email cef@bathnes.gov.uk or view www.bathnes.gov.uk/cef

Information takeaway seeks community signposting volunteers

Developing Health and Independence's Information Takeaway on Monmouth St in Bath city centre has a range of leaflets and other sources of information on local services. It is also host to advice services such as Clean Slate and the Credit Union, and home to a Well Aware worker every Friday. Well Aware is The Care Forum's free, open portal database of health, wellbeing and community services in B&NES,

Bristol and South Gloucestershire, available at www.wellaware.org.uk The Information Takeaway is looking for volunteers to support vulnerable people finding out about local support services, activities and groups. For more information about volunteering, contact Al Rozelaar, ☎0117 967 5254 or volunteer@dhi.org.uk

Bristol

Men's health conference

The men's health and wellbeing initiative was set up by NHS Bristol to meet the gender equality duty requirements placed upon it by the Equality Act 2006, which are now incorporated in the Equality Act 2010. The conference in March, was part of an initiative which has included a study of national and local evidence around men's health. It will now see the development of a multi-agency men's health and wellbeing stakeholder group to develop a set of key objectives for promoting men's health and wellbeing. View a full report at www.bristol.nhs.uk/about-us/equality/mens-health-conference.aspx Contact David Harris, senior equality advisor at NHS Bristol, ☎0117 976 6600, email david.harris@bristolpct.nhs.uk

Representative news

University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust is holding its election for Governors to its Membership Council, for a three-year term from June 2011. The Care Forum currently has a representative on the board, and will be re-electing a new voluntary sector representative from June. Nomination forms, information about the board and terms of reference are available on The Care Forum website: www.thecareforum.org The deadline for nominations is Thursday 28 April. Contact Louise Hudson, ☎0117 958 9337, email louisehudson@thecareforum.org.uk

North Somerset

Thanks to volunteers

Volunteers in North Somerset have been given an official thank you by Julie Kell, programme manager for mental health, NHS North Somerset for their work within PositiveStep. Since January 2009 PositiveStep has been offering free psychological therapies, based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), for anyone experiencing anxiety, depression or other common mental health difficulties in North Somerset. 38 volunteers have so far supported staff to deliver psycho-educational courses such as 'stress and mood management' and 'low mood'. For information contact the PositiveStep team, ☎0800 688 8010.

South Glos Adults

Celebrating age festival

South Gloucestershire Council, Age UK, the Senior Citizens Forum and Southern Brooks Community Partnership are staging the second South Gloucestershire celebrating age festival, for people aged 50+ between Saturday 18 June-Friday 1 July. They are aiming to have a wide range of activities and events during the festival. The voluntary sector can get involved in a number of ways including bidding for funding for an event, getting involved in sessions in Kingswood and Filton or publicising services as part of the festival. Contact Denise Swain, ☎ 01454 864323, email denise.swain@southglos.gov.uk

South Glos LINK uses enter and view powers

South Gloucestershire Local Involvement Network (LINK) used its enter and view powers to visit wards at Frenchay and Southmead Hospitals to see how well North Bristol NHS Trust is doing in ensuring that patients are receiving the nutrition they need to get better, that their mealtimes are 'protected' and that they can drink enough to keep them hydrated. The LINK has made recommendations for simple system changes that will improve patient experience. The report is available at www.linksouthglos.org.uk

South Glos Children and Young People (CYP)

Representative news

Jane Spence of Children's Playlink will be the voluntary and community sector representative on the Yate early years project group. This is a short-term project group to last for the duration of 2011 and aims to develop early years provision in the Yate locality. For more information about this group contact lucyrowe@thecareforum.org.uk

Terry Jones, The Care Forum's voluntary and

community sector representative on the Yate locality steering group has resigned. There will soon be a nomination process to find a new representative for this group. For more information, email lucyrowe@thecareforum.org.uk

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

South Gloucestershire Council have purchased some places on a FGM awareness course which is suitable for any staff working in FGM practicing communities or with an interest in this area. The aim is to equip practitioners with an understanding of their roles and responsibilities regarding issues relating to FGM and safeguarding. The half-day course is running on Tuesday 26 April and Thursday 5 October. To apply email cyptraining@southglos.gov.uk

Regional CYP

Palliative care

The Care Forum has recently delivered two projects funded by the Department of Health's £30m fund for children and young people's palliative care. The first project funded a 'square table' hosted by The Care Forum, one of 40 square tables nationwide. The all-day event brought together parents of children with life-limiting or life-threatening illnesses, commissioners and providers of services including hospices, schools and community-based support. Everyone was given an equal voice to explore a number of themes including access to services, workforce issues and quality of life. The discussions will be drawn together into a local learning and evaluation report.

The second project has funded two reference group meetings. Seven voluntary sector providers of palliative care projects from the south west region have met to discuss key issues including funding of services, transition from children to adult's services and care pathways. The discussions will be drawn together into a report with key recommendations for improving the funding and delivery of services.

To find out more and to request a copy of either report contact Louise Hudson, ☎ 0117 958 9337, email louisehudson@thecareforum.org.uk

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