

# Health Policy and Performance Board

## Annual Report

**April 2011- March 2012**



As Chair of the Health Policy and Performance Board I would like to thank all the members of the Board for their valued contribution to the Board's work over the last 12 months. I would particularly like to thank Cllr Joan Lowe, for her support as Vice Chair to the Board. I would also like to extend my thanks to all Member's, Officers and Partners for their time and contributions to the work topics and for providing performance and update reports.

2011/2012 has been a busy year, seeing Halton set in motion actions to implement the Government's NHS reforms as outlined in the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'. This, against a backdrop of financial and resource pressures, has challenged our ways of thinking and will continue to mean some significant changes ahead.

During the last year the Board have been actively involved in a range of issues from policy developments and scrutiny reviews to being kept informed and offering views on the reforms taking place locally as a result of the NHS White Paper. The Board have had the opportunity to comment on a number of proposals and consultations such as the national Caring for Our Future Consultation, Windmill Hill Access Centre and the Cheshire and Merseyside Treatment Centre.

### Health Policy and Performance Board Membership and Responsibility

The Board:

Councillor Ellen Cargill (Chairman)  
Councillor Joan Lowe (Vice-Chairman)  
Councillor Dave Austin  
Councillor Sandra Baker  
Councillor Mark Dennett  
Councillor Margaret Horabin  
Councillor Martha Lloyd Jones  
Councillor Chris Loftus  
Councillor Andrew MacManus  
Councillor Carol Plumpton Walsh  
Councillor Geoff Zygadlo

Local Involvement Network (LINK) representation is through a co-optee, Paul Cooke.

The primary responsibility of the board is to focus on the work of the Council, and its Partners, in seeking to improve health in the Borough. This is achieved through scrutinising progress against the aims and objectives outlined in the Council's Corporate Plan in relation to the Health Priority.

The Board have met seven times in 2011/2012. Minutes of the meetings can be found on the [Halton Borough Council Website](#).

This report summarises some of the key pieces of work the Board have been involved in during 2011/12.

## Government Policy - NHS and Social Care Reform

### **NHS Merseyside Cluster**

The Board were kept informed of the development of the Merseyside cluster, its role and function and how it will operate within the context of the emerging NHS reforms. The Board are keen to ensure that Halton's interests are actively promoted within this structure.

### **Health & Wellbeing Board**

The Council has a key role in the establishment and work of the Health and Wellbeing Board. The Health Policy and Performance Board have been kept up to date with development of the Shadow Health and Well-being Board and it has been agreed that the Health Policy and Performance Board would receive minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board to enable the PPB Board to comment on the work undertaken and direction of the board

### **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

The Board considered a report on the 2011 Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and it was noted by the Board that the JSNA was very comprehensive. The JSNA identified that overall health in Halton has improved over the last 10 years, but there is still much to do. New priority areas identified include injury prevention, mental health, and sexual health. There was also a separate briefing for the Board on how to use the JSNA and its future role in supporting the development of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Board will continue to monitor health progress in the forthcoming year.

## Services

### **Windmill Hill Access Centre**

The Board received a report on Patient and Public consultation regarding the potential closure of the nurse led Windmill Hill Access Centre. As a result of the consultation it was proposed to close the nurse led access centre. The Board raised a number of issues and sought further clarity on how these changes would be communicated to the community.

### **Cheshire & Merseyside Treatment Centre**

Views of the Board were sought by NHS Halton and St Helens as part of a formal consultation on future plans for the Cheshire and Merseyside Treatment Centre. The Board sought clarity on whether this would have an impact on the services provided at Halton Hospital and a number of other questions were raised by the Board as part of the consultation process.

### **Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Review of the impact of non-arterial centre designation on Warrington Hospital and the people it serves.**

The Board was advised by the Cheshire and Merseyside Vascular Review project board, subject to consultation, that they would not be recommending to commissioners the designation of Warrington Hospital as an arterial centre. The Board felt that the recommendation had failed to take account of the significant social and economic deprivation in Halton and the ageing population. Members of the Board highlighted that an impact assessment should be undertaken before any recommendation or decision was made.

Halton Health Policy and Performance Board have set up a Joint Strategic Scrutiny Board with Warrington and St Helens Borough Council's to look into the significant Changes to Arterial Vascular Services Provision affecting our three Borough's. There have been two meetings and

There will be consultation with all the providers, the voluntary sector, Patients Participation groups Halton Speak Out and Pensioners groups.

### **Redesign of Community Nursing Services**

The Board were kept informed of the changes to community nursing services provided by Bridgewater Community NHS Trust resulting from the redesign and re-specification of those services.

### **Re-design of the Adult Acute Care Pathway and the Later Life and Memory Services**

The Board was informed of the 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Foundation Trust proposals to redesign the Adult Acute Care Pathway and the Later Life and Memory services for older people.

### **Positive Behaviour Support Service**

The Board were kept informed of the work of the Positive Behaviour Support Service.

### **Model of Care to develop a comprehensive community learning disability services infrastructure for adults with learning disabilities**

The board were advised of the progress of the implementation of the Model of Care and the next steps.

## **Policy**

### **Caring for Our Future Consultation**

Comments were sought from the Board on the national consultation, to be included in the local response. The board will be keen to follow the development on the funding of Adult Social Care in the year ahead.

### **Adult Social Care Customer Care Report 2010/2011**

The Board were invited to comment on the key learning points identified from complaints received by the Authority.

### **Safeguarding**

Members were given an update on key issues and progression of the agenda for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults in Halton.

### **Adult Social Care Annual Report 2011 (Local Account)**

The Board were presented with the first Adult Social Care Annual Report and invited to make comments to be considered in the development of the next annual Adult Social Care Report.

### **Smoke Free Play Areas**

The Board were informed of the proposal to make public play areas in Halton Smoke Free invited to comment on the proposal. Whilst Member's sought clarity on a couple of issues around the practicalities of implementing such an initiative, Members of the Board supported the proposal and recognised that it formed part of a comprehensive approach in tackling the dangers of smoking around children, helping prevent Halton's children from becoming the next generation of smokers.

### **Business Planning 2012-15**

The Board were offered the opportunity to contribute to the development of Directorate Business Plans for the coming financial year.

## Scrutiny Reviews

### **Dignity in Care Scrutiny Review**

The Board received a report on the scrutiny review of Dignity in Care. The report had been commissioned as Halton Borough Council was the only local authority in the country with a Dignity in Care Co-ordinator, as well as the only one that covered both the council and the wider remit of Health. The review highlighted many examples of the positive impact of The Dignity in Care Coordinator along with the findings of the Care Quality Commission's safeguarding inspection of Adult Social Care Halton. The inspection cited Halton as being innovative and challenging in its approach to ensuring local people received support promoted their dignity. The Board endorsed the recommendations from the findings of the scrutiny group and requested 6 monthly updates on the progress of the recommendations.

### **Homelessness Services Scrutiny Review**

Members were nominated to the Working Group for the Scrutiny Review of Homelessness Services at the Health PPB held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The purpose of the review is to assess the Council's statutory duties and preventative role in relation to homelessness and to review service provision, with a particular focus on temporary accommodation schemes. Members visited the temporary accommodation schemes in January 2012. The first meeting of the working group took place in November 2011 and the last meeting is to take place in March 2012. The final report is to be presented to the Health PPB in June 2012.

### **Autism Scrutiny Topic report**

A report was presented to the Health Board in March and the Board recommended that the report also be taken to the next Executive Board for them to accept and put an action plan in place.

## Performance

The Board received information on quarterly monitoring reports and were provided with information on the progress in achieving targets contained within the Sustainable Community Strategy for Halton. Members were satisfied that adequate plans were in place to ensure that the Council and its partners achieved the health related improvement targets that had been agreed.

## Work topics for 2012/2013

Work Topics to be examined in 2012/2013:

**Falls Prevention** - Falls are a leading cause of mortality due to injury amongst older people aged 65 and over. They also contribute to the life expectancy gap between Halton and England. There is to be a scrutiny review of the Falls Prevention Service to ensure that there is an effective multi agency approach to addressing the causes of falling and that the treatment and rehabilitation service in place is effective, thus ensuring that those who have fallen can continue to live healthy, safe lives with increased independence

*Report prepared by Emma Bragger, People and Communities Policy Officer. For further Health policy information please contact [diane.lloyd@halton.gov.uk](mailto:diane.lloyd@halton.gov.uk)*