

# The Health and wellbeing board, local healthwatch, and health scrutiny

Roles and relationships:  
Corroboration not duplication.  
Ben Aspinall Democratic Services.

# References

- Centre for Public Scrutiny
- Local Government Association
- Laura Murphy (CfPS expert Advisor)
- Lucy Hamer (Care Quality Commission)
- Claire Lee East Sussex County Council
- Helen Kenny West Sussex County Council
- Bournemouth Borough Council
- Derbyshire County Council
- Devon County Council
- Gateshead Council
- London Borough of Sutton
- North West Strategic Scrutiny Network.

# Aims

- To understand the independent but complimentary roles and responsibilities of the health and adults overview and scrutiny committee, local healthwatch and health and wellbeing boards.
- Not a panacea and does not cover every eventuality – a snapshot.

# Health and adults overview and scrutiny committee

In principle:

- Holds NHS bodies to account for quality of services
- Can obtain information
- Ask questions of services in public
- Make recommendations that must be considered.
- Secretary of State.
- April 2013+ all commissioners and providers of publicly funded healthcare and social care, JSNA & Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies.

# Local healthwatch

In principle

- Local consumer champion
- Collective voice of the people
- Local picture
- Report concerns
- Engage local communities and networks
- JSNA
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Healthwatch England
- Value for money.

# Health and wellbeing board

In principle

- Is a partnership Committee supported by the Council.
- Lead on improving outcomes and reducing inequalities.
- Membership reflecting local circumstances.
- Executive function – identifying current and future health and social care needs.
- Commissioning framework.
- Individual accountability.

# The Health and wellbeing board

In principle

- Bring together individual and organisational knowledge, expertise and experience.
- Develop an area-wide view of health and social care needs and resources through the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Agree area-wide alignment of services to deliver improved health and wellbeing through the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- Facilitate shared understanding of information to improve outcomes from decision making.

# Local healthwatch

In principle

- Share information from networks of voluntary and community groups.
- Gather and present evidence and information for Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and support council scrutiny reviews.
- Use good public engagement to demonstrate the 'real-time' experiences of people who use services.



# Health and adults overview and scrutiny committee

In principle

- Can be a bridge between professionals and people who use services.
- Bring a collective memory of public engagement, policy development and local knowledge about community needs and assets.
- Be a valuable 'critical friend' throughout transition and beyond.
- Evaluate policies arising from processes and decisions and outcomes from services.
- Consider whether service changes are in the best interests of the local health service.
- Carry out pro-active qualitative reviews that can inform and enhance policy and services.

## **Scenario 1: Refreshed Joint Strategic Needs Assessments indicate need for integrated health and social care teams aligned with GP practices:**

### **Health and wellbeing board**

- Duty to support integrated services
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- Include integrated teams as a priority in Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### **Local Healthwatch**

- Local research
- Identify gaps in service provision
- feeds outcomes into the health and wellbeing board to influence the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### **Council health Scrutiny**

- Examines the process
- Make service recommendations.
- Six months+ assess impact
- Recommend improvements.



## Scenario 2: Programme area 1: Reduce infant and child mortality:

### Health and wellbeing board

- Refreshed Joint Strategic Needs
- Higher than average infant mortality
- Reasons are unclear,
- Ask health scrutiny to review the issue.

### Local Healthwatch

- involved in reviewing the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment,
- Uses local networks to gather views
- Reports to the Board and health scrutiny.

### Council health scrutiny

- Asks local Healthwatch to gather local views.
- As a result of discussions.
- Makes recommendations about ways to reduce the infant and child mortality rate.

## Scenario 3: Programme Area 3: Develop Primary Care that is Community Orientated:

### Health and wellbeing board

- Assesses whether plans fit their Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Takes a strategic view on the outcomes and engagement with the clinical commissioning groups.

### Local Healthwatch

- Undertakes a comprehensive exercise to gather views.
- Checks consultations reflect best practice
- Presents views as a health and wellbeing board member and to council health scrutiny during the formal consultation process.

### Council health scrutiny

- Agrees that proposals are a substantial/ significant variation, and
- Engages in early policy, planning and consultation discussions
- Analyses the proposals in a public forum, taking evidence and coming to a conclusion about whether the proposals are in the best interests of the local health service.

