



Summary

The Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing peer challenge took place between 3 - 6 February 2015. This report provides a summary of the key findings, describes plans to address the issues raised and identifies some early actions for delivery.

Background

1. As the host organisation for the Nottinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board, Nottinghamshire County Council took part in a health and wellbeing peer challenge led by the Local Government Association (LGA). The purpose of the peer challenge was to support the Council, its Health and Wellbeing Board, health and other partners in implementing their new statutory responsibilities.
2. The process focussed on a set of headline questions around which a preliminary review of materials, interviews and workshops were framed. The headline questions were:
 - Is there a clear, appropriate and achievable approach to improving the health and wellbeing of local residents?
 - Is the Health & Wellbeing Board 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 and for underpinning accountability to the public?
3. The peer challenge team consisted of seven members with a breadth of experience and professional backgrounds. The on-site visit included one-to-one meetings with key individuals from the Council and partner agencies including NHS England, Healthwatch and Public Health England. There were also a number of group sessions which included wider stakeholders and council officers. In total, the team held over 25 interviews and 7 focus groups and attended the Health & Wellbeing Board.

Main findings from the challenge

4. The Peer Challenge highlighted achievements and areas of good practice, and identified areas for further consideration. The main findings from the review were focussed around three key themes. These were:

Strategic leadership

5. The review found that the Board's potential is appreciated and the chair is highly valued by partners. Board members were committed to the Board, and eager to make a difference. It was noted that the Board had set a firm foundation on which to deliver the Health &

Wellbeing Strategy, and examples of joint working, where the Board had acted as a catalyst, were commended.

6. Alongside the strengths, some areas were highlighted for consideration. The review found that the Board needed to reflect on its vision and be clear what this meant for Nottinghamshire people. It was also suggested that the Board focus its efforts on a reduced number of health and wellbeing strategic priorities, and finalise the delivery plan to ensure the Board could easily monitor and demonstrate its successes.

Communication & engagement

7. The review highlighted areas of good practice, such as the stakeholder network and Board workshops; development of a common identity (logo), and circulation of post-meeting Board summaries. The panel also praised the developing culture of inclusivity and the role of Board champions in promoting strategic priorities and driving collective ownership.
8. Further areas were highlighted to help broaden engagement with partners. The need to engage more effectively with acute providers and the Voluntary & Community Sector was noted. Wider communication activity was also suggested, using the Board champions and members to communicate the value and successes of the Board.

Governance & support

9. It was noted that the Board was well-placed to become a systems leader and the consultation process to develop the Strategy at district & CCG level was highly valued. The draft protocol to describe the working relationships between the Board, scrutiny committees and Healthwatch was also acknowledged as good practice. The practical support provided by the Public Health team was viewed as essential to the work of the Board and was widely appreciated by the Board and its partners.
10. The team found that there was an urgent need to review the governance structure for the Board, to streamline and simplify arrangements. This included linking the Better Care Fund and integration agenda to the core strategic priorities, and clearly articulating relationships between complementary boards and committees. Furthermore, the level of support should be strengthened to assist the Board and Chair in their leadership task. On-going development of the Board should also be reflected in a future development plan.

Next steps and early actions

13. Overall, the review found that the key themes arising for Nottinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board were common to many Boards around the Country. The Local Government Association has commented that not one Board is totally succeeding in its leadership task, but examples of good practice can be gathered through shared learning. The support team will ensure that information is obtained from other well performing Boards to support Nottinghamshire in addressing the recommendations from the review.
14. An action plan is being developed to identify short, medium and long term actions. This will be developed in conjunction with the Health & Wellbeing Implementation Group, and key partners to promote shared leadership and ownership.
15. A workshop will be held on 29 April 2015 (Lakeside part 2) to allow the Board an opportunity to consider its role and progress around the Better Care Fund. This session

will also provide the opportunity to test some of the developing plans from the peer challenge and look at how the Board and its partners work together in a positive manner.

16. Work will be taken forward with Board members according to an agreed timeline to implement required actions in a timely manner.
17. The Local Government Association is also offering follow up support, which the Board can take advantage of to deliver any challenging issues. This support can involve:
 - a. Hosting a further action planning workshop with the Council
 - b. Organising a workshop on specific themes or areas, involving experts or other peers as appropriate
 - c. Arranging a follow up visit at a later date to challenge the process
17. The Health & Wellbeing Board would like to thank all partners that contributed to the peer challenge. There is a strong commitment to implement the findings, working together to help deliver the Board's ambition to improve health and wellbeing for local people.

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Cathy Quinn, Associate Director of Public Health on 0115 9772882 or cathy.quinn@nottscc.gov.uk.

The LGA feedback letter and report is available from Nottinghamshire County Council website at the following file-path: 'The Council/Council meetings/Health & Wellbeing Board 1 April 2015/Key Findings from the HWB Peer Challenge' or using the link:

<http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/DMS/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=UFCEtpOwwW99tzll1vQ1gwqmQ3FK7kdIIYXmHgkdKb52OMsdi4Js8Q%3d%3d&rUzWRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNih225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzqA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9lXnlq%3d%3d=hFfIUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFfIUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NhdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJFf55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJFf55vVA%3d>

Useful Resources

Stick with it! A review of the second year of the health and wellbeing improvement programme. Local Government Association publication February 2015. Accessible at:

<http://www.local.gov.uk/documents/10180/6101750/Stick+with+it+-+a+review+of+the+second+year+of+the+health+and+wellbeing+improvement+programme/5a54723b-d235-48c3-a499-327a29ba272b>

Local Government Association Peer Challenge programme. Information from:

http://www.local.gov.uk/peer-challenges/-/journal_content/56/10180/3511124/ARTICLE