

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE Future of the Health and Wellbeing Board	
REPORT OF Executive Director of Adults and Health	
FOR SUBMISSION TO Camden Health and Wellbeing Board	DATE 10 July 2024
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT</p> <p>Board meetings provide a key opportunity for collaborative discussion among members on the enablers and barriers around improving wellbeing and reducing health inequalities in Camden. The Board currently functions well but more could be done to deepen the collaborative aspect of meetings and better reflect the degree of collaboration on the partnership's priorities that takes place outside of meetings.</p> <p>To this end the report contains two proposals aiming to broaden ownership of meeting agendas and create more space for collaborative discussion within meetings. Board members are invited to consider and comment on these proposals.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information No documents that require listing have been used in the preparation of this report.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Colin Gajewski Senior Policy & Projects Officer London Borough of Camden 5 Pancras Square N1C 4AG colin.gajewski@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note the report and to comment on the proposals outlined in sections 2.4 and 3.3 	

Signed:



Jess McGregor, Executive Director of Adults and Health

Date: 28th June 2024

1. Purpose of Report (and Reason for Urgency)

- 1.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is a key forum for driving the work of Camden's health and care borough partnership, in accordance with its joint Health and Wellbeing strategy. It has a legal duty to provide "collective leadership for the general advancement of the health and wellbeing of the Camden population", as per paragraph 6 of its Terms of Reference. Board members should also "collectively agree how they can mobilise their organisations' resources to support the delivery of integration priorities", as per paragraph 12.
- 1.2. Board meetings are the key forum for the activities and duties outlined above. They provide an opportunity for collaborative discussion among members on the enablers and barriers around improving wellbeing and reducing health inequalities in Camden. The Board currently functions well but more could be done to deepen the collaborative aspect of Board meetings and better reflect the degree of collaboration on the partnership's priorities that takes place outside of meetings.

2. Broadening agenda ownership

- 2.1. Currently the majority of items presented at Board meetings originate from the council. Efforts are made to source items from across the partnership and items from other partners do regularly feature, as well as co-owned items with contributions from multiple partners. Despite this an overall imbalance remains. The Board's status as a formal council committee, with meetings held in the council chamber, can also contribute to the sense of a council-dominated forum.
- 2.2. Outside of Board meetings work on the partnership's three short-term strategic priorities is ongoing and benefitting from established and effective collaboration between partners. This shared ownership of priorities is however not reflected at Board meetings as strongly as it could be. Relatedly, as all of our organisations work toward developing their population health approach there is space for partners to become more involved with priorities they have not hitherto been close to.
- 2.3. A method of formally sharing ownership of reports to the Board concerning the three short-term priorities could help to better signal the effective collaboration that happens outside of meetings, as well as helping to bring other partners closer to that collaborative work.
- 2.4. Proposal:
 - Each short-term priority to be sponsored by a non-council Board member who is made responsible for coordinating or commissioning a paper to be presented at the Board once annually.

- The responsible member to be invited to relevant agenda setting meetings and to maintain a degree of oversight of relevant partnership work on the stated priority outside of meetings.

3. Creating space for effective discussion

- 3.1. Board meetings present a valuable opportunity for consequential discussion and problem-solving between members, therefore adding clear value for the citizens of Camden. However, the information sharing aspect of presentations can take up a large portion of the agenda and leave little time for such discussion. In light of this a new format was adopted in 2022 whereby the second hour of each meeting would be devoted to a short-term priority and split evenly between presentation and discussion. This has been a success and Board meetings as a whole would benefit from being weighted further in favour of this type of action-oriented discussion.
- 3.2. The current meeting paper format encourages an information sharing approach to items, rather than focusing on presenting a problem for collaborative solution in the meeting. When the council commissions items for the Board, a stronger emphasis could be placed on the need for papers and presentations to serve primarily as a stimulus for an action-oriented, problem-solving discussion.
- 3.3. Proposal:
 - When meeting items are commissioned it is requested that papers and presentations go beyond information sharing and focus primarily on setting up an action-oriented, problem-solving discussion between members.
 - Authors are to consider the key issues they want to voice to Board members, such as enablers and blockers to the work in question, and include two or three discussion questions in their paper to frame the discussion.

4. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

The Executive Director of Corporate Services has been consulted on the contents of the report and has no comments to add to the report.

5. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

The Borough Solicitor has been consulted and has no comments to add to the report.

6. Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications to the contents of this report.

REPORT ENDS