

**DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**28<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2013**

**Report of a Senior Development Officer of Dudley CVS prepared on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board Development Group**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRINCIPLES**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This report
  - a. provides a summary of findings from interviews with Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board members in relation to engagement
  - b. proposes principles in relation to involvement and engagement.
2. The Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board (H&WBB) is invited to consider the principles to guide processes and practice in relation to the engagement and involvement of local people in the commissioning and provision of services and in the realisation of vision, aspirations and priorities in Dudley's Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

**BACKGROUND**

3. Engaging patients and the public in the commissioning and provision of services is recognised as best practice and is also a statutory requirement under the Health and Social Care Act (2012).
4. The Health and Wellbeing Board Development Group has delivered activity on behalf of the board in relation to the Conference and Spotlight events, and is developing work around performance management, quality assurance and some of the national programmes which Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board are involved in, such as Think Local Act Personal's Strong Inclusive Communities Project. In relation to these engagement and involvement (and communications) have emerged as a priority for action.
5. Interviews have been carried out with 10 board members to date, and an Interim Report (see Appendix) brings together their perspectives in relation to engaging and involving individuals and communities and
  - a. local practice and resources
  - b. responsibilities of board members

- c. sharing knowledge and learning
  - d. understanding the impact of engagement and involvement.
6. The insights offered by board members paint a picture of the current context in Dudley borough in relation to current performance in relation to engaging and involving people, some examples of practice which can be shared and learned from, attitudes and aspirations in relation to engagement and the resources available locally to make improvements.
7. Board members articulated in detail some local strengths and good practice in relation to engagement and involvement and also the difficulties and complexities faced. There is an appetite among many to shift towards more asset based approaches, such as co-production.
8. There was widespread recognition of collective responsibility in relation to engagement and involvement, though often limited awareness of practice in other organisations, which impacts on assurance and understanding of the impact of engagement, which many acknowledged were complex issues. Accessible communication and concerns in relation to the formality of board meetings were raised independently in a number of discussions.

### **PROPOSED PRINCIPLES**

9. Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board has already articulated seven principles which inform the delivery of the vision in Dudley's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. One of these is:

**we will work in empowering ways, appreciating the potential of individuals and their communities to maintain and sustain health and wellbeing and the contribution they can make to shaping and delivering services.**

10. It is suggested that the above principle should underpin engagement and involvement activities, and in addition the following principles be used to guide engagement and involvement:
- a. **Engagement is the business and responsibility of every board member**
  - b. **There will be different types and levels of appropriate engagement, depending on the situation**
  - c. **Engagement activities should be based on evidence of what works**
  - d. **We will open ourselves to learning about the reach, impact and effectiveness of our engagement**

### **FINANCE**

11. Any financial implications resulting from these proposals will be met within existing budget arrangements.

### **LAW**

12. Engaging patients and the public in the commissioning and provision of services is recognised as best practice and is also a statutory requirement under the Health and Social Care Act (2012). The statutory duties of the Health and Wellbeing Board are detailed in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and related guidance.

### **EQUALITY IMPACT**

13. Improving equality and tackling health inequalities are key priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board and will be discharged through implementation of the Board's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, including related engagement and involvement activities.

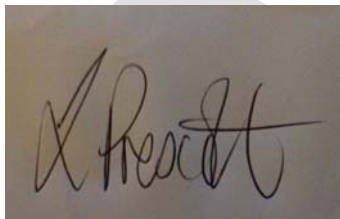
### **RECOMMENDATION**

14. That the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board discuss the proposed principles in relation to community engagement.

15. That the Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board Development Group develop plans which support the board to undertake responsibilities in relation to engagement and involvement and address the issues raised by board members which are highlighted in the appended report.

### **APPENDIX**

*Engaging Together? towards a collective approach to involving individuals and communities led by Dudley Health and Wellbeing Board, Interim Report, 2 January 2014*



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