

Recommendation from Joint Public Health Board – 4 February 2019

Task and Finish Group on the Future of Public Health Dorset : Future role and remit of the Joint Public Health Board

66. Having considered the future of Public Health Dorset at their meeting in November 2018, the Board considered a report by the Acting Director of Public Health on proposals for how the Board should be rationalised to better support the creation of two new unitary Councils from April 2019. This was so that the Board had a clearer focus on oversight, assurance and monitoring of the public health services delivered via the ring-fenced Public Health Grant. This would include the mandated public health programmes and any service commissioned or directly provided through the shared service using the grant. This would ensure a clearer distinction from the wider health and wellbeing policy and strategy work undertaken by the two sovereign Councils and their respective Health and Wellbeing Boards.

The Board agreed that the Joint Public Health Board should focus more on governance and accountability for the delivery of public health services, and the use of the Grant, which would make the Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic role in improving health and wellbeing clearer.

The Board also agreed revised Terms of Reference which set out what its membership, role, responsibilities and remit would be, how these would be governed and what its core purpose and focus was. The Board considered that it would be an advantage for there to be representation on the Board from by a General Practice/Practitioner, in a non-voting capacity. Clarification was provided that substantive members would be drawn from the respective authority's Executive.

The Board accepted and endorsed the proposals for how the Board should operate, in being able to effectively and efficiently deliver continued success in meeting those needs and outcomes identified.

Recommended

1. That the proposed role and remit of the Joint Public Health Board to provide oversight and assurance on public health services delivered via the Public Health Grant be supported;
2. That the updated Terms of Reference for the Joint Public Health Board, in particular the revised membership of the Board, be agreed.
- 3 That endorsement of the above proposals be sought via both Unitary Shadow Executive Committees, during March 2019.

Reason for Recommendation

To ensure that the work of the Joint Public Health Board was more clearly focused on the monitoring and assurance of the ring-fenced Public Health Grant, and delivery of public health services. This would provide assurance that the Councils were meeting their statutory duty to improve health and wellbeing, and reduce inequalities in health.