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**Meeting:** Executive  
**Date:** 4 October 2011  
**Subject:** Establishing a Central Bedfordshire Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board  
**Report of:** Councillor Mrs Turner, Executive Member for Economic Partnerships  
**Summary:** This report sets out the background to the establishment of a Central Bedfordshire Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board. It sets out the purpose of the Board and proposed Terms of Reference and how the Board will engage with stakeholders.

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**Advising Officer:** Julie Ogle, Director Social Care, Health and Housing  
**Contact Officer:** Patricia Coker, Head of Partnerships. Social Care, Health & Housing  
**Public/Exempt:** Public  
**Wards Affected:** All  
**Function of:** Executive  
**Key Decision** Yes  
**Reason for urgency/ exemption from call-in (if appropriate)** N/A

## **CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Council Priorities:**

The White Paper, Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS sets out the Government's plans to create a more responsive, patient-centred NHS. It has far reaching implications for local government and will impact on all of the Council's priorities but importantly on:

- Promoting health and reducing inequalities.
- Supporting and caring for an ageing population and those who are most vulnerable.

### **Financial:**

Overall financial implications cannot be determined at this stage. There are however some potential financial and resource implications. The enhanced role in local democratic accountability, through the establishment of Health and Wellbeing boards is likely to have some cost implications.

**Legal:**

Section 178 of the Health and Social Care Bill 2011 sets out the statutory requirement to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board for the local authority area. The Board is a committee of the council under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 178(2) proposes the core membership of the Board. The Health and Wellbeing Board will assume statutory powers when the Health and Social Care Bill is enacted.

**Risk Management:**

The council remains mindful of the implications for service provision and reconfiguration of services during this period of transition and change.

**Staffing (including Trades Unions):**

None

**Equalities/Human Rights:**

The Shadow Board will remain mindful of the Equality Act 2010 and other relevant legislation in discharging its functions. Equality Impact Assessments will be completed for the key strategies and reports of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Community Safety:**

None

**Sustainability:**

None

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1. that the Executive notes the work being undertaken to develop a Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.**

*Reason for Recommendation:*

Health and Wellbeing Boards will allow local authorities to take a strategic approach with key stakeholders to promote integration across public health, health, adult social care, children's services including safeguarding, and the wider local authority agenda. This enhanced role for local government is proposed as the means of ensuring greater local democratic accountability of the shared health and wider Council agenda.

**Background**

1. The NHS White Paper: Equity and Excellence Liberating the NHS set out the Government's intention for local authorities' increased responsibilities and involvement with health, and the need to create Health and Wellbeing Boards. This is an important aspect of the wider NHS Reforms that will create, if enacted, a revised approach to commissioning of health services and the responsibility and accountability for the delivery of public health services.

2. These Boards will allow local authorities to take a strategic approach and promote integration across public health, health, adult social care, children's services including safeguarding, and the wider local authority agenda. This enhanced role for local government is proposed as the means of ensuring local democratic accountability with elected Members.
3. The Health and Social Care Bill 2011 requires the Council to establish a Health and Wellbeing Board. The Board will be a committee of the local authority and is to be treated as if it were appointed under section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972. There is an expectation that each council will establish a health and wellbeing board in shadow form by April 2012. Health and wellbeing boards will assume statutory duties and powers from April 2013.
4. The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will be a partnership without statutory powers and duties but will provide the mechanism for preparing to perform the functions envisaged in the Bill. In particular, continuing to carry out Joint Strategic Needs Assessments; develop Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies and link these to emerging commissioning plans.

### **Current Position**

5. The Council currently works in partnership with NHS Bedfordshire and Luton (PCT), local Practice Based Commissioning Groups (PBCs) and other health organisations, with representation across the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Framework. Recently, the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group has been formed which will become a key partner for the Council.
6. There is a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Central Bedfordshire, which has importantly influenced local health and social care commissioning decisions. The JSNA will be refreshed to reflect new emerging policy directions and further needs assessments of Central Bedfordshire's population.
7. There are established structures for joint planning and commissioning of services with health across both Children's Services and Adult Social Care. These existing arrangements will underpin the work of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board.
8. Central Bedfordshire Council successfully applied to be part of a network of early implementers for the Health and Wellbeing Boards. Any shared learning will be used to further support the development of the Board.

### **Health and Wellbeing Boards**

9. The core purpose of the new Health and Wellbeing Boards is to join up commissioning across the NHS, social care, public health and other services that the board agrees are directly related to health and wellbeing, in order to secure better health and wellbeing outcomes for their whole population. This also includes securing better quality of care for patients and social care users as well as better value for the tax payer. The Board will also ensure democratic, patient and carer input and will become a forum for public accountability of those services which influence the health and wellbeing of the community.

10. The Board will have four main functions:
  1. To assess the needs of the population, leading on a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which will provide a clear statement of the health and wellbeing needs of the local population.
  2. To develop a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) across the NHS, public health, social care and children's services which includes the wider determinants of health and sets out how the needs of the population will be addressed.
  3. To encourage integrated working between partners and joint commissioning across health, social care and public health.
  4. To support the development of joint commissioning and pooled budget arrangements.
11. Health and wellbeing boards will provide a key forum for public accountability of the NHS, social care for adults and children, Public Health and other commissioned services.
12. Attached in Appendix A are the proposed Terms of Reference for the Shadow Board which set out its purpose, key functions, membership and governance.
13. The Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will engage with a wider network of stakeholders which will include local providers of health and social care as well as other voluntary and community organisations. Providers will be able to continue to influence commissioning decisions and plans through their involvement in the key delivery partnerships and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).
14. The Central Bedfordshire Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board held its inaugural meeting on 28 July 2011. A pen portrait for the Shadow Board is attached in Appendix B.
15. A stakeholder Forum is planned for the Autumn. This event will help to shape the priorities and outcomes the Board would wish to set for the people of Central Bedfordshire. It is intended that the Stakeholder Forum will develop into a network to ensure that there is a continuing influence on the Board's priorities.

## **Conclusion**

16. The establishment of a Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board is consistent with wider transitional arrangements being made across the health economy to implement the NHS Reforms in Central Bedfordshire. Further reports will come to the Executive to determine the Council's approach to delivering its public health responsibilities from April 2013 when the national and local requirements are clearer.

17. The Board, building on existing partnerships, provides the strategic platform from which the council with its key partners can lead on joint commissioning and an integrated approach to health and wellbeing services for Central Bedfordshire.
18. Early establishment of a Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board will assist in ensuring that the Council is able to maximise its ability to support those transitional arrangements including the transfer of public health to the Council as well as influence commissioning decisions.

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Proposed Terms of Reference

Appendix B – Pen Portrait for Central Bedfordshire Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board

**Background Papers:** (open to public inspection)

Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. Consultation document

Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. Legislative Framework and next steps