

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD			
Report Title	Voluntary and Community Sector Representative - Update		
Contributors	Voluntary and Community Organisations In Lewisham Peter Ramrayka- Voluntary and Community Sector Representative	Item No.	6
Class	Part 1	Date:	23 September 2014
Strategic Context	The Health and Social Care Act 2012 encourages Health and Wellbeing Board “to expand their membership to include a wide range of perspectives and expertise, such as representatives from the charity or voluntary sectors”. The Lewisham HWB had done this by including, amongst others, a representative from the sector in its membership in ensuring that “ the needs of local people as whole are taken into account”		
Pathway	None		

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides members of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) with feedback on consultations carried out with a cross section of voluntary and community organisations in Lewisham to understand their knowledge of, and engagement with, the work of the HWB, to gain their views on the nine priorities identified in the Board’s Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and to further the HWB’s aspiration of stakeholder engagement being at the heart of its work, in particular focusing on hard to reach groups who might not be represented elsewhere in the system.
- 1.2 The report also seeks to share with members of the Board the steps which are being taken to disseminate to the community and voluntary sector relevant issues which have been or are due to be discussed at Board meetings, to obtain feedback on initiatives and decisions taken by the Board in general pursuance of one of its objectives “to provide a forum for challenge, discussion and involvement of local people.”

2. Recommendations

Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- 2.1 To note the report;
- 2.2 To provide comments on specific suggestions put forward in sections 5.2, 5.4, 5.5 and 5.7.

3. Strategic Context

- 3.1 One of the key outputs of Lewisham's Sustainable Community Strategy is to provide ways for citizens to voice their opinions on local services and to be involved in how these services are designed and delivered in their communities.
- 3.2 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) identified nine priorities the delivery of which requires not only leadership from statutory organisations and their professional staff represented on the HWB but also the active and continuous public engagement and ownership of the priorities so that people and communities are at the centre of the health and care system.

4. Background

- 4.1 At its meeting on 30th May 2013 the HWB resolved that Tony Nickson, Director of Voluntary Action Lewisham (VAL) should develop a process to help the Board to select an additional representative from the voluntary and community sector. Following a report to the HWB on 11th July, 2013 it was resolved that VAL should run an election process to fill the position. VAL organised a Health and Social Care Forum, on 24th October 2013, open to all and attended by fifteen organisations. Peter Ramrayka, Chair of the Indo Caribbean Organisation was elected. The decision was reported to the HWB on 19th September, 2013 and, as a statutory Board of Lewisham Council, it was recommended to the full Council for approval which was given on 22nd January, 2014.
- 4.2. In consultation with VAL Peter has since been working on structured processes to widen the engagement of voluntary and community sector in Lewisham with the issues being discussed by the HWB and one of these was, in addition to the more well known community and voluntary organisation, to organise events particularly focusing on hard to reach groups, to give them an understanding of the structure and role of the HWB and encourage them to become more involved by seeing the Board not only as a forum for receiving reports and decisions which have already been made, but also as a vehicle where grassroots community health and social concerns can be raised.
- 4.3 A Representative Feedback Consultation event, organised with the kind assistance of Mark Drinkwater from VAL, was held on 23rd July 2014, a day after the HWB away day, which was attended by thirteen organisations, some with more than one representative, and the objectives of the day were to give attendees an understanding of how the HWB formed; what it is intended to do; how it is working; what are its major issues/outputs and how the local voluntary and community sector in Lewisham can be kept informed and contribute to the work of the HWB.

5. Outcome of the Representative Feedback Consultation

- 5.1 Most of the participants were pleased to get an insight into the organisation and functioning of the HWB and an understanding of how, when and where their organisations could contribute to its work.
- 5.2. It was felt that that as the HWB is a relatively new development there is merit in considering publicising its work through occasional informed articles in local media, appropriate Lewisham Council publications and local ethnic radio stations and newspapers.
- 5.2. There was general support for and understanding of the nine priorities identified in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy especially improving mental health and well being. The Vietnamese community, represented at the event, particularly welcomed this priority. Community involvement was recognised as the key interconnection between the priorities.
- 5.3. Perceived barriers to the delivery of the priorities that come from parts of local statutory organisations were highlighted and examples of these were given as: rooms that are too small to give care in the community; reduced provision of play spaces and low maintenance of infrastructure in parks for physical activities; charges for adult classes that price people out of classes and concerns that people are not listened to when consulting some health professionals.
- 5.4. Loneliness was identified as a particular issue of concern and there was support for a borough wide working group focusing on this topic and including physical activity, social activity and volunteering.
- 5.5. Creative reminiscence (using drama, dance, song and movement) was also highlighted as having an impact on self esteem and self confidence and therefore on well being and one of the organisations represented at the event uses it for older people who are healthy and well, those with dementia and their carers. Connections made through the group combat isolation and often widen people's network and friends. A suggestion was put forward that, when evidence is produced in November 2015 of the impact on wellbeing on those with dementia, a review is carried out on how this could be used in a range of community settings.
- 5.6. Some of the priorities affect people with learning disabilities, and it was observed that where people with learning disabilities are involved with meaningful occupations and activities which are fulfilling the less likely they are to have health problems. It was felt that these aspects should be promoted.
- 5.7. A suggestion was made by an organisation representing people with enduring mental illness, primarily ex offenders looking towards

recovery, that HWB should include in its work looking into what could be done to reduce offending and support people on their release from prison.

- 5.8 The representative from a cycling organisation drew attention to the importance of this activity in promoting wellbeing and urged that this is given due consideration in efforts to promote overall physical activity and wellbeing.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications currently identified. There are likely to be costs associated if suggestions in the paper are carried forward but this will be subject to further analysis and report.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.
- 7.1 Members of the Board are reminded that under Section 195 Health and Social Care Act 2012, health and wellbeing boards are under a duty to encourage integrated working between the persons who arrange for health and social care services in the area.”

8. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 8.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

9. Equalities Implications

- 9.1 There are no specific equalities implications arising from this report. However, addressing health inequalities is a key element in representing community and voluntary sector activities.

10. Environmental Implications

- 10.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report.

11. Conclusion

- 11.1 The main thrust of the report is to provide in summary form the views of the voluntary and community organisation consulted, appraising them of the work of the HWB and seeking the views on how they might contribute to its ongoing activities.

If there are any queries on this report please contact Peter Ramrayka, Community and Voluntary Sector representative on 07885 753755 / email: pramrayka@compuserve.com.