

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD PAPER

Report of: The Engagement Working Group

Date: June 24th 2021

Subject: Health and Wellbeing Board: Future Engagement

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Summary:

The Health and Wellbeing Board has a responsibility to engage with the public in the development and implementation of its strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Sheffield. A number of engagement approaches have been used in the past, and there are a number of options available for future engagement depending on what the Board wants to understand, how much it can resource this and what people can influence. Following a meeting in December 2020 an Engagement Working Group was established to identify how the Board can better connect to the communities it serves.

Recommendations for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- **Previous engagement:** Make better use of existing engagement pathways, previous engagement carried out by the Board and by individual partners. Endorse the SchARR report and commit to acting on its observations.
- **Coordination:** Board to act as coordination and information sharing centre for health and wellbeing engagement in the city: JSNA website to be adapted to host open access qualitative engagement data and reports
- **Standards:** Board to endorse revised Healthwatch engagement standards when completed
- **Planning and accountability:** The plan for the year ahead Health and Wellbeing Board meetings to be published. Partners to plan engagement together ahead of time. All papers/presentations at Board must include information about engagement on that subject.
- **Impact:** Implement a system to monitor/scrutinise impacts of engagement on Board decisions/community capacity/health outcomes. Commit to feeding back to participants in engagement projects about how what they have said is making a difference.

- **Finance:** All Partners to commit to agreeing an annual budget for engagement by the September public meeting.
- **Engagement Plan 2024:** Engagement working group to draw up three-year engagement plan which addresses points raised by SchARR. This plan will inform the next Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This plan should take an action learning approach to engagement: identifying themes and what works in an iterative process over the three years. As part of this investigate new digital platforms for engagement in conjunction with LACS/SCC
- **Engagement 2021-2024:** findings should be fed back to the Board on a regular basis and if necessary, the current strategy adapted to reflect their findings.

Context: Engagement Working group Update May 2021

The working group has been meeting regularly since January 2021 to find a way forward for future engagement for the Health and Wellbeing Board. The group has discussed a number of issues including previous engagement undertaken by the Board, how partners carry out their own engagement in these areas, the scope of HWBB engagement and what people can change, the standards to be used in engagement and issues or sharing and effectively using information from engagement projects. SchARR (The School of Health and Related Research at Sheffield University) has also completed its evaluation of what has worked in previous health and wellbeing engagement in the city, and where the Board can improve. Its findings are below. A number of options for trialling different forms, methods and stages of engagement for the Board have been explored including investigating what the Board has directly control over, what needs to be delivered by partners, what people who engage with the Board can reasonably expect to influence and whether or not the current strategy is included in the remit of any consultation and engagement.

Following a number of referrals back to full Board to refine the steer, as well as discussion within the working group, the group feels that it has enough understanding of the full picture to be able to draft up a comprehensive engagement plan for the next Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy if given a defined budget to work with. It is important to begin engagement for this now to ensure that as many different voices as possible are included in the design of the next plan, that we are able to build up long lasting relationships, and that we can take a reflective approach to engagement which allows us to work with communities to understand engagement processes that work best for them. The engagement group will be able to produce a draft plan by the next public meeting and start engagement from September if these recommendations are endorsed.

Key questions and findings from SchARR report:

1. Leadership: Who is leading and driving public engagement as a means to address inequalities in power, control and voice as a determinant of health across the city? There is an opportunity for the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) to occupy this strategic leadership role and to drive institutional changes in public engagement within Boards and organisations across the city.

2. Coordination and joining-up: How joined-up are spaces for engagement across the city, and how are insights shared and used proactively within decision-making across city partners? There seems to be an

opportunity for the HWBB to take on the role of a listening body and central point of coordination across decision-making relating to inequality, health and wellbeing; and to consider if or how partnerships and joined-up public engagement can be extended at a community-level.

3. Inclusion: How inclusive are different spaces for people with differing social and economic perspectives, and how inclusive are they for those who already experience forms of disadvantage and exclusion? Any engagement strategy going forward needs to consider unequal access to resources, capabilities and respect for individuals and groups across the city; including how, for example, people have been or can be excluded from participating due to age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, class, or a combination of these factors.

4. Depth of participation: How do different spaces offer opportunities for meaningful and ongoing engagement within communities for individuals or groups (as opposed to more transactional forms of 'consultation')? The COVID-19 pandemic has provided an opportunity to learn from, re-commit to and re-examine public engagement to inform the Health and Well-being Board's Strategy going forward. Also, an opportunity to consider ways to create safe spaces for challenging and potentially uncomfortable conversations about inequalities. Strategic ambition on inequality requires confronting issues of power and voice, and building capabilities, relationships and trust with people. It necessitates taking a longterm approach to:

- Identifying and addressing discrimination and deficits of respect, trust and feeling unheard
- Confronting socio-economic, class-based, gender, racial, ethnic and other inequities
- Tackling disability inclusion
- Confronting issues of power and control, stigma, identity and belonging

5. Prioritisation and resourcing: How are resources (people, time, skills, funding) prioritised and strategically coordinated towards engagement across the city? There seems to be an opportunity for HWBB members to have a leadership role in recognising, and considering how to adequately resource long-term approaches to public engagement that enable and develop individual's and group's capabilities to influence. This includes consideration of the role and sustainable resourcing of the VCS as valued partners in this process.

6. Governance and accountability: How are city partners 'held to account' for engaging people in ways that could address inequalities and other determinants of health and wellbeing outcomes across the city? HWBB members could explore opportunities to establish clear commitments, transparent processes and mechanisms to ensure organisations and leaders are formally accountable for public engagement and for addressing inequalities in power, control and voice as a determinant of health across the city.

SchARR report May 2021

Background Papers:

Appendix 1: SchARR report on health engagement (May 2021)

Which of the ambitions in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy does this help to deliver?

All of them: the strategy cannot be fully realised without meaningful public engagement

Who has contributed to this paper?

The HWBB Engagement Working Group comprising:

- Judy Robinson and Lucy Davies, Healthwatch
- Adele Robinson; Head of Equalities and Engagement, Sheffield City Council
- Alaina Briggs, Equalities and engagement officer SCC
- Dan Spicer Policy and Partnerships Manager, SCC
- Jane Ginniver Deputy Director ACP
- Helen Mulholland CCG
- Amy Barnes, Mary Crowder and Sue Baxter, SchARR