

Factsheet No 8

Health and Wellbeing Boards

What is a Health and Wellbeing Board?

Since April 2013 every local authority has to have its own Health and Wellbeing Board. This is a requirement of the Health and Social Care Act 2013. Health and Wellbeing Boards are there to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population and reduce health inequalities. To achieve this, they identify the needs of the local community, agree priorities and develop a health and social care strategy. Health and Wellbeing Boards also encourage commissioners to work in a more joined-up way. As a result, patients and the public should experience more joined-up services from the NHS and local councils in the future.

What do they do?

Their main functions are:

- They identify the needs of the population through the **Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**. The JSNA identifies key health issues and major health inequalities and what can be done to address them.
- Based on the JSNA, they work out a joint **health and wellbeing strategy**. This strategy identifies priorities and includes recommendations on how services will be commissioned or provided to meet the needs of the population.
- They encourage NHS commissioners and local councils to work closely together when they plan and buy health care services, social care services and other services such as housing or education (“joint commissioning”).
- They take part in the development of commissioning plans of Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and provide advice to the NHS Commissioning Board with regard to the CCGs and their plans.

Who sits on it?

Health and Wellbeing Boards bring together councillors, senior GPs, council officers and patient representatives. A Health and Wellbeing Board must include:

- At least one local elected representative
- The Director of Public Health from the local authority
- The Director of Adult Social Services from the local authority
- The Director of Children's Services from the local authority
- At least one representative from each relevant local Clinical Commissioning Group
- At least one representative of the local Healthwatch

Brent Health and Wellbeing Board

The Brent Health and Wellbeing Board has places for 15 members, representing the Council, the Brent Clinical Commissioning Group and Healthwatch Brent.

The current chair of the Brent Health and Wellbeing Board is Councillor Muhammed Butt, Leader of the Council.

The Brent Health and Wellbeing Board has identified five priority areas:

- Giving every child the best start in life
- Helping vulnerable families
- Empowering communities to take better care of themselves
- Improving mental wellbeing throughout life
- Supporting Vulnerable Adults

Meetings and agendas

Meetings of the Brent Health and Wellbeing Board are held in public. If you want to know when the next meeting is or if you want to read the meeting agendas, visit the following website:

<http://democracy.brent.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Committeeld=365>

and see the Brent Health and Wellbeing strategy at

<http://brent.gov.uk/your-council/about-brent-council/council-structure-and-how-we-work/strategies-and-plans/health-and-wellbeing-strategy/>

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Researched and prepared by a Healthwatch Brent volunteer

Please contact enquiries@healthwatchbrent.org.uk with any feedback