

Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board and Worcestershire Executive Committee

Joint Working Agreement

Development Session – 6 December 2021

1. Context

Integrated place-based working, across the county and district councils, NHS, the voluntary sector and wider local partners, is central to the new Integrated Care System (ICS) in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The function of the ICS is to ensure that public sector leaders work collectively with and on behalf of the local population, to reflect their needs and to deliver improved health and wellbeing for all.

The Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) and Worcestershire Executive Committee (WEC) recognise the importance, especially in the context of a rapidly changing health and care system, of working with a shared purpose and ambition to discharge the place-based leadership function effectively. As such, both boards met to shape and clarify their respective contributions and roles, and look forward to ensuring appropriate synergy, governance and planning to address key issues locally.

This is a record of the discussion, presented in the format of a draft joint agreement between the two boards on their roles, functions and interactions.

2. Role and Functions

Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board:

- delivery of its **statutory duties**, to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population, with a focus on **reducing inequalities**
- setting the **strategic direction** for health and wellbeing across Worcestershire
- focused on the needs of the local population, with an emphasis on **prevention** of ill health and addressing the **wider determinants**
- embracing the **whole life course** (starting well in life, living well, ageing well, and dying well), addressing issues for children through to adults
- promoting and embedding **asset-based working** with district councils, district collaboratives and Primary Care Networks (PCNs)
- committed to ensuring that, through membership and supporting forums, it can reflect the **full range of its population**
- operating as conduit, through its sub-groups, between local people, their communities, care providers, councils and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICS; identifying **local priorities** to calibrate with national NHS priorities and providing **democratic legitimacy**
- Informing the ICP Integrated Care Strategy and 5-Year Plan as to how NHS services can be delivered to meet local needs.
- delivering a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, shaped by its Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), which informs other local strategies to drive collective action to improve **local outcomes**
- primarily committed to taking a **medium to long-term** view of health and care issues, with a remit to consider longer-term strategic solutions to operational challenges.

Current Sub-groups: Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Health Protection Group, Health Improvement Group, and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment Working Group

Worcestershire Executive Committee:

- focused on integration, delivery and assurance of **high-quality health and care** across Worcestershire, aligned to the national **NHS priorities**, addressing operational issues in the **local** health and care system, role modelling integrated working and taking action where there are obstacles to progress
- identify and enable **efficiencies** through identifying pathway transformation and productivity improvements
- works differently, role modelling integrated working and striving to achieve **wider access to care**, reduce **inequalities**, and reinforce the principle of **prevention**, with recognition of **wider social determinants**
- promotes the value of **'place'**, working with its constituent provider organisations, including at district, PCNs and collaborative level to actively strengthen integrated care, and providing 'place'-based governance to enable this, including via its sub-committees
- operates with a line of accountability to the Herefordshire and Worcestershire **Integrated Care Board (ICB)**, with specific delegated functions and resources
- escalating to and working with HWB to 'shape **local resource** use' to address wider challenges
- operates largely in the **immediate and short/medium term** and supporting the HWB in considering longer-term strategic solutions to the short-term operational challenges.

Current Sub-groups: Home First, Elective Care, Worcestershire Transformation Group, Worcestershire Clinical and Practitioner Forum, Worcestershire Intelligence Cell, Worcestershire Communication cell, Worcestershire Engagement Cell. Quality and Finance Cells in development

3. Joint Working Agreement

The HWB and WEC, jointly will:

- adhere to the principle of **subsidiarity**, making **place-based, person-centered** health and care decisions;
- bring together **local knowledge** and experience to inform **local priority setting**;
- accept and inform **priorities from the ICS**, and where appropriate escalate issues to the ICB;
- ensure ongoing sharing of high-quality **data** across the Worcestershire system, using mechanisms such as the Worcestershire Intelligence Cell
- ensure that agreed **enabling programmes** are appropriately prioritised and resourced;
- deliver jointly agreed local, **measurable outcomes**; and
- ensure that the ethos of **co-production, partnership working** and **integration** sits at the heart of the Worcestershire system.

Joint governance practicalities include:

- a joint agreement and aligned, complementary work plans to avoid unnecessary duplication and ensure appropriate synergy;
- cross board membership;
- aligned business cycles and dove-tailed meeting rhythm overseen by a 'Core Group' of members from both boards meeting monthly initially, to consider joint issues for collaboration or escalation as appropriate;
- Chair to Chair meetings on a regular repeating basis;
- open and transparent recording of actions and meeting notes wherever possible, in line with the principles of good governance;
- a joint development programme, facilitated through the national support offer;
- scenario testing to enable greater understanding of each board's roles, working and delivering at 'place' level; and
- a periodic review of how the two boards work together (six months initially, then annually thereafter).