



**wandsworth voluntary sector development agency**  
enabling voluntary action

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## Health and Wellbeing in Wandsworth

### First meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership

4 February 2011

#### WVSDA round-up for the voluntary and community sector

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### Update

The NHS is undergoing major changes. In Wandsworth as elsewhere in the country, there are several implications of the switch to GP commissioning and the abolition of Primary Care Trusts. We know so far that:

- Local Authorities will take over responsibility for Public Health.
- The Public Health department is moving into Wandsworth Town Hall.
- GPs in Wandsworth will take over healthcare commissioning (with a few exceptions).
- GP surgeries will come together to form a borough wide commissioning consortium, divided into three local commissioning groups – West Wandsworth, Wandle and Battersea (see map).

A Health and Wellbeing Board has been set up (as detailed in the [Health Bill](#)) and has met once. The Board will operate as a Council Committee. The membership of the board is as follows:

- the director of adult social services ([Dawn Warwick](#))
- the director of children's services ([Paul Robinson](#))
- the director of public health ([Houda al-Sharifi](#))
- at least one councillor ([James Cousins](#) – at the time of writing we are unaware if there are additional Councillors represented on the board),
- a representative of the Local Healthwatch Organisation ([Wandsworth LINK](#) - Roger Appleton), and
- representatives from the GP commissioning consortium (Doctors Nicola Jones, David Finch, Helen Pugh, Tom Coffey, Rod Ewan, Peter Ilves, Patrick Bower and Jeremy Grey).
- such other persons, or representatives of such other persons as the local authority thinks appropriate.



In addition to the Board, a wider Health and Wellbeing Partnership has been established. It had its first meeting on 2 Feb and attendance was by invitation. Many voluntary groups were represented, including Wandsworth Carers' Centre, Age Concern, Katherine Low Settlement and the Older People's Network. The idea is for this to eventually become an open meeting.

## What happened at the first meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership?

Voluntary and community groups joined public agencies to discuss health and wellbeing in the borough. The meeting took place at Wandsworth Town Hall on Wednesday 2 February 2011 and was chaired by the NHS Wandsworth Chairman [Ian Reynolds](#). Around 40 people attended representing mental health, public health, social care, hospitals, pharmacies and a range of care organisations and interest groups.

Ian Reynolds updated people at the meeting on the latest developments around the changes to local health commissioning (see introduction) and on the establishment of local commissioning structures.

Councillor James Cousins talked about the new roles for the Council and the opportunities for better joined up working when the Council gets more control over the local health agenda. See [Councillor Cousin's blog](#) for his account of the meeting.

Houda al-Sharifi introduced the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Wandsworth (not yet online, but should appear [here](#)). The areas of low or poor health outcomes in Wandsworth are (in no particular order):

- High excess winter deaths
- High under-75 mortality for cancer (particularly female)
- High number of falls and fractured neck of femurs
- High levels of chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis.
- High teenage conceptions.
- High childhood obesity levels.
- Low childhood immunity for measles, mumps and rubella.

The people to contact about the JSNA are Laurence Gibson ([laurence.gibson@wpct.nhs.uk](mailto:laurence.gibson@wpct.nhs.uk)) and Richard Wiles ([RWiles@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:RWiles@wandsworth.gov.uk))

After the presentations, participants asked questions about the powers of the Health and Wellbeing Board (no decision making power, but leadership role, no budget, but members include the key decision makers with departmental budgets) and about how the Board and Partnership will connect with local people via the voluntary and community sector. Several local organisations raised concerns over the closure of several groups and the difficulty of running services and activities for vulnerable people without funding.

## What could we make of these meetings?

The establishment of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership is a significant development in the borough and it has the potential to reshape how key decision makers in health, care and wellbeing in the widest sense work together to improve the lives of local people. The challenge is of course how we jointly use the partnership to make it a useful forum, a place where new ideas can be aired and tested and where proposals for innovative solutions to the borough's health inequalities can be put on the table.

Three basic things are required for this to happen:

- The senior figures that make up the Health and Wellbeing Board need to continue to attend the Partnership meetings. They were all there on February and we commend the Council and the NHS for managing to gather such an impressive line up of decision makers. This must continue, for it is only by direct interaction that we can

keep in touch with what happens at the centre of power and, conversely, what the situation looks like from the frontline.

- The Partnership needs to be open and inclusive, actively (ensuring that this happens) not passively (leaving it up to 'the willing' to engage).
- The issues dealt with by the Partnership need to be directly linked to the work of the members of the Health and Wellbeing Board and a mechanism needs to be established by which the Partnership can work to advice, propose and help implement solutions to health inequalities and needs in Wandsworth. Having these meetings is an excellent start. Making them a useful vehicle for action is our joint challenge.

This will be an item at our next Voluntary and Community Sector Forum on 10 February and we are looking forward to talking more about the potential of this partnership and what we could make of it. If you are interested in talking to us, email [policy@wvsda.org.uk](mailto:policy@wvsda.org.uk) or give us a call on 020 8875 2843.

If you would like to send your feedback directly to the Council regarding how you think the Partnership should work, email your suggestions to Richard Wiles [rwiles@wandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:rwiles@wandsworth.gov.uk)

**Contact:**

Jo Lofgren

Policy Officer

Wandsworth Voluntary Sector Development Agency

[policy@wvsda.org.uk](mailto:policy@wvsda.org.uk)

[www.wvsda.org.uk/voluntary-sector-development/policy](http://www.wvsda.org.uk/voluntary-sector-development/policy)



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