



Committee and date

Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board

23 January 2013

9.30am

Item

**6**

Public

## **Criminal Justice Agencies Role in Health and Wellbeing**

**Responsible Officer Rod Thomson**

Email: Rod.Thomson@shropshirepct.nhs.uk Tel: 01743 252295

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### **1. Summary**

- 1.1 Shropshire's Health and Wellbeing Board is being asked to consider the working relationship between Criminal Justice Agencies and the Board.
- 1.2 Criminal justice system agencies have an important role to play in improving the health and wellbeing of the Shropshire population. Preventing and reducing crime and disorder in an area creates obvious wellbeing benefits for the populous. Working with offenders to reduce substance misuse, engage with appropriate medical assistance, to lead less chaotic lifestyles will also work to reduce demand on our health and emergency services.
- 1.3 Reducing health inequalities will have a big impact amongst offenders and ex-offenders; providing lasting benefits for their families and future generations.
- 1.4 Effective joint working between criminal justice system agencies and health and wellbeing boards will support improved commissioning to achieve better health, justice and community safety.
- 1.5 The Board must also consider that while Criminal Justice agencies do have a significant impact on Wellbeing, so do other groups such as housing and environmental organisations, local councils, health service providers and other. Previously the HWB Board has taken the decision to involve these groups via the Stakeholder Alliance rather than on the board.
- 1.6 This report is accompanied by a document, **Health and wellbeing boards and criminal justice system agencies: building effective engagement** was developed by a working group that was part of the National Learning Network for health and wellbeing boards and provides good background information. It is cited a number of times in this report.

## 2. Recommendations

### 2.1 That the Board either:

- a) Provide a seat on the Health and Wellbeing Board for a Criminal Justice lead or provide a seat in an observing capacity; or
- b) Request that a Criminal Justice lead partake as an active participant in the Health and Wellbeing Executive group and/ or attend the Health and Wellbeing Executive in an observing capacity; or
- c) Actively participate with the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Executive in an ad hoc basis; or become a member of the Stakeholder Alliance; or
- d) Other solution that arises from the Board discussion.

## REPORT

### 3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

- 3.1 There are numerous opportunities and risks that arise from partnership working; below are a few highlights that will need to be considered as organisations work together.

Risks	Impact	Mitigation
Information sharing – personal details and health information	If problems occur it will have <b>High impact</b> on service users, however it is a <b>low likelihood</b> of occurring due to nature of this partnership working and mitigation	Information sharing protocols, information sharing procedures,  Sharing detailed information is probably not required for collaborative working as part of the Health and Wellbeing Board
Opportunities	Impact	Action
Collaborative commissioning across statutory agencies in the HWBB and the Criminal Justice System and the PCC	Potential <b>high positive impact</b> and reduction of total spend across agencies	Joint working and collaboration to determine best areas for closer working and commissioning

- 3.2 It is anticipated that all Human Rights, Equalities, Community and Environmental consequences are the responsibility of individual organisation, and no issues are anticipated to arise from directly from this report.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no immediate financial implications.

#### **5. Background**

- 5.1 There are compelling reasons to work closely with criminal justice agencies. From the report, 'Health and Wellbeing boards and criminal justice system agencies: building effective engagement':

*5.1.1 Offenders, ex-offenders and those at risk of offending experience significant health inequalities compared to the general population. They experience higher rates of mortality and suicide; drug and alcohol misuse; mental and physical health problems; homelessness, literacy and numeracy difficulties, and unemployment; and poor access to and uptake of health and care services.*

*5.1.2 Since there is an identifiable link between health inequalities and offending behaviour, improving their health outcomes can markedly reduce re-offending rates. In turn, a reduction in re-offending is likely to bring health and wellbeing benefits to a wider local population as a result of improved community safety.*

- 5.2 There are numerous statutory and non-statutory agencies and organisations who work with offenders. In Shropshire these include (but not limited to):

- The Police
- The Crown Prosecution Service
- HM Prison Service
- West Mercia Probation trust
- The Community Safety Partnership (CSP)
- West Mercia YOS
- YSS
- The Court Service
- Image Match
- Fresh Start New Beginnings
- Citizens Advice Shropshire

- 5.3 In Shropshire the Criminal Justice Forum of Interest, responds as the voice of community and voluntary organisations who work with both perpetrators and victims. Issues these organisations are facing, joint working and lobbying are coordinated through the Voluntary and Community Sector Assembly.

- 5.4 From April 2013 there are new commissioning arrangements for the provision of Health Services and support services for offenders, including services for those offenders who are in custody and those accessing services (such as drug and alcohol rehabilitation services). These are outlined on page six of the

paper, Health and Wellbeing boards and criminal justice system agencies: building effective engagement.

5.5 Largely the services commissioned by Shropshire Council will be preventative in nature and those commissioned by the CCG are treatment orientated, (although not limited to). There are clear benefits to be gained by working collaboratively in this area.

## 6. Additional Information

6.1 None at this time.

## 7. Conclusions

<b>List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)</b>
Health and wellbeing boards and criminal justice system agencies: building effective engagement
<b>Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)</b> Ann Hartley
<b>Local Member</b> N/A
<b>Appendices</b> Appendix A - Health and wellbeing boards and criminal justice system agencies: building effective engagement