

West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board Compact

Report being considered by: Health and Wellbeing Board

On: 29 January 2026

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Report Sponsor: Matt Pearce (Director of Public Health)



Executive Summary

Following the Local Government Association review of the Health and Wellbeing Board last year, a number of changes to governance and working practices were proposed and agreed at the Board meeting on 24 September 2025. These included the development of a West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board Compact setting out how members will work collectively as a strategic partnership to drive meaningful action and achieve the vision articulated in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This report presents the draft Compact for approval and adoption.

1. Purpose of the Report

This report presents the draft West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board Compact for approval and adoption.

2. Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To approve and adopt the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board Compact as set out in Appendix 1, and agree to adhere to the principles and ways of working set out within it.

3. Implications

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Human Resource:	There are no HR implications arising from this report.
Legal:	There are no legal implications arising from this report.
Risk Management:	There are no risk management implications arising from this report.
Property:	There are no property implications arising from this report.
Policy:	The operating principles and working practices outlined in the Compact are consistent with the aspirations of the NHS's 10 Year Plan.

	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		There are no equalities impacts arising directly from this report.
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		As above
Environmental Impact:		X		There are no environmental impacts arising directly from this report.
Health Impact:	X			The Compact is intended to drive meaningful action and achieve the vision articulated in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
ICT Impact:		X		There are no ICT impacts arising directly from this report.
Digital Services Impact:		X		There are no digital services impacts arising directly from this report.
Council Strategy Priorities:		X		There are no Council Strategy priorities directly impacted by this report.
Core Business:		X		This is considered to be business as usual
Data Impact:		X		There are no data impacts arising directly from this report.
Consultation and Engagement:	<p>The following have been consulted on the draft Compact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Nigel Foot (Chairman of Health & Wellbeing Board) • Dr Ben Riley (Vice Chairman of Health & Wellbeing Board) 			

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 One of the recommendations arising from the recent Local Government Association review of the Health and Wellbeing Board was to develop a Compact – this was agreed at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 24 September 2025.
- 4.2 The intention was for the Compact to set out how Board members will work collectively as a strategic partnership to drive meaningful action and achieve the vision articulated in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 4.3 The Compact has been drafted by the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board and is provided in Appendix 1. It has been developed with reference to other best practice examples.
- 4.4 The Compact seeks to establish a mutual understanding of how the Board will operate and to define members' roles and responsibilities in delivering its function to deliver meaningful change and improve outcomes for people in West Berkshire. It sets out a number of core principles and how these should be practically supported.
- 4.5 Development of the Compact is timely given the current focus on neighbourhood health, which will require more integrated working amongst Health and Wellbeing Board partners.

5. Proposal(s)

It is proposed that members review and endorse the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board Compact as set out in Appendix A, and to agree to adhere to the principles and ways of working set out within it.

6. Options Considered

None.

7. Conclusion(s)

Adoption of the Compact will help to improve how Board members work together to deliver meaningful change and deliver the vision set out in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

8. Appendices

Appendix A – Draft West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board Compact

Background Papers:

None

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following priorities:

- ☒ Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- ☒ Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- ☒ Help families and young children in early years
- ☒ Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- ☒ Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by improving how partners work together to deliver meaningful change and improve outcomes for people in West Berkshire.

Appendix A: Draft Health and Wellbeing Board Compact

Draft West Berkshire Health & Wellbeing Board Compact



This document defines the shared principles and jointly sets expectations for how West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board members will work collectively as a strategic partnership to drive meaningful action and achieve the vision of its Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS).

The compact seeks to establish a mutual understanding of how the Board will operate and members' roles and responsibilities in delivering its function to generate impact on improving outcomes for people in West Berkshire.

Regarding operating principles, members agree that the West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board will:

1. Behave as a genuine strategic partnership, recognising its distinct role and function from scrutiny, establishing a culture of shared responsibility, accountability and collaboration, and endeavour to utilise a common language.
 2. Clearly establish its role in promoting prevention, equity and driving improvement on the building blocks of health.
 3. Seek to maximise opportunities that are within the board's control and commit to exploring opportunities that are negotiable across its membership in a supportively challenging way.
 4. Ensure that system leadership is collaborative across its membership, with commitment from its nominated organisations to take a proactive role in enabling, influencing, actioning and championing the work of the Board.
 5. Seek to prioritise its focus based on evidence of need and where it can add most value as a strategic partnership, whilst retaining oversight of the wider Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
 6. Ensure parity between its members by providing sufficient opportunity to influence its work programme/activities within and between Board meetings, supported through an annual development session.
 7. Use 'additionality' as an essential criterion when prioritising its work programme, ensuring that the Board is adding value by giving focus to a topic, above and beyond that of a single member organisation and is not duplicating activity elsewhere in the system.
 8. Ensure the format of discussion is appropriate for the focus and purpose of any topic, in order to enable action. This may include formal meetings, task and finish groups or workshops, recognising a high frequency of formal meetings and volume of reporting does not equate to success.
 9. Ensure that wider stakeholders are engaged in the Board's work where appropriate, to better identify opportunities to drive action and make connections across relevant agendas.
 10. Seek to better engage and reflect the voice of residents in the work of the Board, including through working groups/workshops where people may have an interest or expertise.
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West Berkshire Health and Wellbeing Board members agree they will support these principles by:

1. Recognising that although it will sometimes be appropriate to seek assurance or further understanding, their role on the Board is distinct from scrutiny.
 2. Representing the group, organisation, and / or partnership that they speak for and ensuring they enable a feedback loop between the Board and that group, organisation and / or partnership.
 3. Bringing the system leadership, insight, knowledge, perspective and strategic capacity they have through their role and taking responsibility for recognising where their group, organisation and / or partnership can add value in relation to a particular topic.
 4. Ensuring that contributions within meetings are evidence based and when bringing in local insight, recognising the need to have a population (rather than individual) focus.
 5. Being proactive and willing to propose and take away actions on behalf of the group, organisation and / or partnership they represent and report back progress within agreed timescales.
 6. Proactively informing the Board's work programme, ensuring appropriate items are brought to the Board's attention for consideration.
 7. Acting in an inclusive and open manner, recognising the strengths, constraints and contributions other partners may be able to make, to collectively identify constructive action.
 8. Viewing the Board as a network and understanding its role is broader than formal meetings, recognising the importance of making connections and implementing actions in between.
 9. Supportively challenging each other to adhere to the principles set out within the Health and Wellbeing Board compact.
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