

East London Health and Care Partnership – Update on governance arrangements

Report to the Inner North East London Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 19 April 2017

1. Background

The launch of the Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STP) process signalled the move towards working in larger geographical areas and the need to develop governance arrangements to support strategy development and change at a system level. To achieve this, 20 organisations in East London have been working together to develop the East London Health and Care Partnership (ELHCP which previously known as NEL) STP.

The original governance arrangements for the ELHCP STP programme were designed to oversee and direct the development of the draft ELHCP STP document that was submitted to NHS England on 30 June 2016.

Following this submission, the STP moved into the next phase which was planning in detail to develop the next iteration of the ELHCP STP (which was submitted to NHS England in October 2016) and the mobilisation and implementation of the delivery programmes.

A governance task and finish group (including health organisations, local authorities and Healthwatch) was set up to review and update the governance arrangements to reflect this change in focus and to ensure that the governance arrangements remained effective with appropriate membership. Through this group the STP developed a shadow governance structure, and initial terms of reference for the key governance forums.

This governance structure recognised and respected the statutory organisations, while providing the necessary assurance and oversight for system level delivery. In addition to reinforcing some of the existing governance forums (i.e. re-focusing the membership of the ELHCP STP Board), several new bodies were added to strengthen the level of assurance and engagement, most notably:

- ELHCP Community Group – A council of local people, voluntary sector, and other key stakeholders to promote system wide engagement and assurance
- ELHCP Mayors and Leaders Advisory Group - To provide a forum for political engagement and advice to the ELHCP STP
- ELHCP Assurance Group – An independent group of audit chairs to provide assurance and scrutiny
- ELHCP Finance Strategy Group -To provide oversight and assurance of the consolidated East London (EL) financial strategy and plans to ensure financial sustainability of the EL system.

The ELHCP STP has been operating the governance arrangements in shadow form and will continue to do so until end of March 2017. This shadow working has been conducive to testing, reviewing and updating the governance arrangements.

2. Engagement with Local Authorities

The ELHCP engaged widely with stakeholders to shape its governance arrangements. Engagement with local authorities has been paramount and has been achieved through various forums.

Rob Whiteman, ELHCP Chair attended a joint meeting of all the Chief Executive Officers of Local Authorities to discuss the ELHCP STP including its governance arrangements. This meeting took place on 19 December 2016 and was hosted by Martin Esom, Chief Executive Officer, London Borough of Waltham Forest.

The East London NHS and Local Authority Communications and Engagement event took place on 26 January 2017. Rob Whiteman discussed the ELHCP STP and its governance arrangements with political leaders on 20 February 2017.

The ELHCP discussed the governance arrangements in relation to setting up of the ELHCP Social Care and Public Health Group with the Adult Directors of Social Services, Directors of Children Services and Directors of Public Health on 7 March 2017. The setting up and operation of the ELHCP Mayors and Leaders Advisory Group was discussed with the political leaders on 8 March 2017. In both instances, ELHCP is waiting for the stakeholders concerned to come back with their proposals on how they would like these groups to operate.

Further engagement with local authorities took place at the Communications and Engagement leads STP update meeting on 9 March 2017.

3. Development of the ELHC Partnership Agreement (originally called Memorandum of Understanding (MoU))

The ELHCP developed a draft Partnership Agreement for the governance arrangements of the STP between the health and social care partners. The governance arrangements are shown in **Appendix 1**.

The Partnership Agreement was not legally binding, but was intended to ensure a common understanding and commitment between the partner organisations on the ELHCP STP governance arrangements, specifically:

- The scope and objectives of the ELHCP STP governance arrangements
- The principles and processes that would underpin the ELHCP STP governance arrangements
- The governance framework / structure that would support the development and implementation of the ELHCP STP

This draft Partnership Agreement was discussed at the Partnership Board meeting in October 2016 and updated versions of the Agreement were taken to the November 2016 and January 2017 Partnership Board meetings where further discussion and debate took place.

The Partnership Agreement was circulated to Local Authorities, Trust Boards and CCG Governing Bodies in December 2016 with a request for comments and feedback to be sent by end January 2017.

4. Next steps

After extensive engagement, the Partnership Agreement has been revised in view of the comments received from stakeholders and the organisations involved in the STP process.

An updated version of the Partnership agreement has been sent to the 29 March 2017 ELHC Partnership Board for review. This will be discussed at the Partnership Board and following approval at the Board meeting, the governance arrangements outlined in the Partnership Agreement will be in place in ELHCP.