



# Title of report: Local Government Association offer

**Meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Meeting date: 15 December 2025**

**Report by: Zoe Clifford**

## **Classification**

Open

## **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

## **Wards affected**

All wards

## **Purpose**

The Health and Wellbeing Board have agreed to refresh the Health and Wellbeing Strategy in 2026. In preparation for this, the Local Government Association have provided an offer of support for the Board to assess ways of working. The purpose of this paper is to present the offer available to the Board.

## **Recommendation(s)**

**That:**

- a) The Health and Wellbeing Board agree to the offer of support from the Local Government Association to review ways of working in preparation for the Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh later in 2026.**

## **Alternative options**

1. For the Health and Wellbeing Board to undertake their own review of ways of working. However, there is value in having external facilitation.
2. To commission an alternative external provider to under to undertake a review. However, there is likely to be costs associated with this and it is beneficial to have a provider which is familiar with Health and Wellbeing Boards, the associated statutory duties and necessary governance.
3. To do nothing. This would not be of benefit to the forthcoming Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh.

## Key considerations

### 4. Background

The Local Government Association (LGA) provides tailored support to leadership for health and care through the Partners in Care and Health Programme (ADASS & LGA), which is funded by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and provided free of charge to councils.

Herefordshire Health and Wellbeing Board have invited the LGA in to review ways of working at the board.

### 5. Objectives:

- Support the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to have clearer understanding of where it is – and can – make a difference by adding value, having impact and not duplicating work being done elsewhere
- Support the HWB to explore and gain clarity on the role of the board as a strategic partnership, with clarity on statutory role as well as the role beyond that
- Support to navigate partnership working and governance complexity at system, place and neighbourhood levels for maximum collective impact
- To consider what the intention is for Herefordshire with its neighbourhood health plan, what are the gaps, what is the implementation plan, how are partners going to get there, to ensure the board is fit for purpose and future proofed
- Provide clarity on the role and purpose of the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to the wider determinants of health, within the local and strategic context including in relation to governance
- Test the potential for ways of working as a strategic partnership based on the model of what works and learning from elsewhere

### 6. Expected outcomes/benefits:

- Clarity on how the partnerships currently operate, in relation to health and care, and in relation to communities, neighbourhoods, and prevention
- Purpose and roles of the HWB identified and clarified, including the distinct role within the partnership landscape
- Potential of the HWB as a strategic partnership explored
- Partnership working is strengthened and partners supported to maximise impact through ways of working

### 7. Proposed approach

Drawing on expertise from working around the country, the LGA will spend some time with the Health and Wellbeing Board to:

- Understand the governance/partnership arrangements for health and care
- Attend the 15 December 2025 Health and Wellbeing Board to set the scene for the board to this development work and answer any questions.
- Undertake 1:1 conversations with partners to understand what works well and the potential for improvement
- Provide recommendations for the best way forward
- Facilitate a workshop/s to pull together findings and insights to enable discussion and agree next steps at a workshop on the 12 January 2026 (tbc).
- Potential for further support as agreed following the initial workshop

## **8. Evaluation of impact**

Feedback at the end of the support to determine how the support has been received and immediate impact/improvement.

Three to six month follow up to determine how the support has added value.

## **Community impact**

9. The proposed offer will benefit the Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh in 2026 which in turn will have a positive impact on communities by prioritising local health and wellbeing needs.

## **Environmental impact**

10. Through the refresh of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, there is likely to be a positive impact on the environment.

## **Equality duty**

11. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy addresses health inequalities and the process of refreshing this and assessing the Health and Wellbeing Board ways of working is likely to enhance this further.

## **Resource implications**

12. This proposed approach requires the time of Health and Wellbeing Board members to one-to-one interviews with the LGA and attendance at a workshop in January 2026.

## **Legal implications**

13. None identified.

## **Risk management**

14. None identified.

## **Consultees**

15. None identified.

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background papers**

None identified.

## **Glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report**

ADASS - Association of Directors of Adult Social Services

DHSC - Department of Health and Social Care

HWB – Health and Wellbeing Board

LGA - Local Government Association