

Welsh Assembly Government – Consultations and Papers

Title of Consultation	Making the Connections- Local Service Boards in Wales
Date	29th January 2007
Website address	http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/makingtheconnections/news/1211078?lang=en
Overview	<p>The Welsh Assembly Government has issued consultation proposals for the first phase of Local Service Boards in Wales, as promised in Making the Connections: Delivering Beyond Boundaries, the Government's response to the Beecham report, published in November last year.</p> <p>The consultation does two things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it seeks views on proposals for introducing Local Service Boards across Wales in 2007-08, including development projects in a small number of areas; • it seeks applications from partnerships interested in becoming one of the development projects, whose role will be to develop the new Local Service Agreement model, and share learning with other areas. <p>The proposals have been formulated in discussion with stakeholders including the WLGA, the WCVA and the Welsh NHS Confederation.</p> <p>The proposals consider the roles, form and function of the new board model, as well as governance and scrutiny arrangements. The document seeks views on how to balance the need to engage a wide range of stakeholders (including citizens and the workforce) with the need for a strong action focus.</p> <p>The proposals do not prescribe the details of how the new arrangements should work, but rather challenge existing Local Strategic Partnerships to develop arrangements which are fit for purpose to deliver against the Beecham challenge - to strengthen capacity, change the culture and reduce complexity.</p> <p>The LSB is the local leadership team, comprising members of the statutory authorities, the voluntary and private sector and other key stakeholders. A senior official from WAG will work with each LSB. The LSB will be convened by the local authority.</p> <p>Key themes from the consultation paper</p> <p>Local Service Boards are not new organisations, but local leadership teams, pulling together all the partners, including local government, health bodies, the police, the voluntary and private sectors, to agree joint action to achieve better outcomes for citizens - where this depends on working across organisational boundaries. Boards will have a direct relationship with the Welsh Assembly Government, through Ministers and senior officials.</p> <p>The purpose of establishing the Boards is to strengthen local public service leadership so that it can tackle fundamental challenges from a</p>

	<p>citizen, not a sector, perspective. This includes complex issues such as tackling mental health problems in a holistic way, or providing better health and social care at home, as well as shifting the public service focus more to support and prevention and less to fire-fighting.</p> <p>Boards will work on critical issues - that are beyond the scope of individual organisations. The role is to ensure concerted and collective leadership across service boundaries. The role is not to oversee any individual service, but to ensure an effective whole-system response to the needs of citizens.</p> <p>The new approach will be introduced through a developmental, action-learning process. This will test key challenges such as: governance, accountability and how to create a structure which is inclusive enough to enable all of the partners to contribute, but is also capable of operating as a focused team, and delivering for citizens.</p>
<p>Implications for community pharmacy</p>	<p>Local Service Boards will focus on critical issues where services need to work better together across sectoral or organisational boundaries. The board will also look at the best use of resources in relation to these critical issues. The priorities the board choose to tackle will reflect local citizen and community concerns. It is envisaged that in a period of 2-3 years a LSB will focus on 3 local priorities.</p> <p>The priorities of the LSB will be published in the Local Service Agreement.</p> <p>The implications for community pharmacy are dependent on the chosen priority areas of the LSB.</p>
<p>Opportunities for community pharmacy</p>	<p>There are two opportunities for community pharmacy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look out for the publication of the Local Service Agreement and check if community pharmacy has any role to play in meeting the priorities. If community pharmacy has a part to play then CPW at a regional level should make contact with the LSB Chair. 2. The LSB will have a core membership which will be the working group of the LSB. However to be truly representational it is suggested that each LSB organises a wider stakeholder group or network and community pharmacy may wish to be represented on this wider stakeholder group.
<p>CPW: action taken</p>	<p>Letter sent in response to the consultation highlighting the opportunity identified in 2 above.</p>