

**Walsall Health and Wellbeing Board**

**12 September 2016**

**Development sessions for HWB members in 2016 -2017**

**1. Purpose**

Any members of Boards need to be constantly learning about the issues for which they are responsible, if they are to do their job well. The HWB development sessions are designed to meet the identified learning needs of members and so it is important that they are a priority for all concerned and well attended.

As a result of falling attendance at Walsall HWB development sessions, different options for the timing and placement of the sessions are set out in this paper in order to ensure the dates and timing is agreed well in advance to maximise attendance.

**2. Recommendations**

2.1 That members of the HWB consider the options given and decide which they prefer to put in place for 2016/17.

**3. Report detail**

Previous development sessions have taken place approximately 4 times in the municipal year. They have been acknowledged in the work programme as happening every quarter, but actual dates have not been set in advance. Instead they have been developed in response to expressed needs at HWB meetings. As a result, dates and timings to maximise attendance have been a problem and members have not always been able to prioritise and attend the sessions.

In response, it would seem sensible to agree the date, and timing of the sessions at the beginning of the year so that all members can make a note of them in their diaries. The actual content can be arranged, as before, in response to identified needs of members. Two options are set out below:

Option One:

One hour development sessions take place at the start of each HWB meeting, (6 times a year). Timings can be discussed, but it is suggested the development sessions take place from 4.30 -5.45 pm, allowing 15 mins break before the HWB meeting takes place at 6.00pm. It would be important to recognise that members have already been working for 1 hour and so the HWB meetings would need to be kept to a maximum of 2 hours duration wherever possible.

### Option Two:

Separate half day development sessions take place 4 times a year on the following dates:

- Wed October 5<sup>th</sup>
- Wed November 23<sup>rd</sup>
- Wed February 15<sup>th</sup>
- Wed April 5<sup>th</sup>

Conference Room 2 has currently been booked from 1.00 – 4.00pm for these suggested sessions, but members may wish to debate, and agree, other timings. If so, the venue may not always be the Council House.

#### **4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements:**

It is recognised that the members of the HWB all have other calls upon their time and certain timings impact upon some parties more than others. It is hoped that by encouraging discussion about timings as well as dates, these issues can be broadly overcome.

#### **5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:**

In order to do their job well and progress work on the identified priorities, HWB members need to be fully aware of their role and responsibilities, the health and wellbeing needs of local people, what is already being done, evidence of impact, barriers to success, learning from similar areas of the country and what else we need to do to improve.

The development sessions should be designed to aid HWB members in this and, as a result, it is important members are able to debate the structure, date and timings for the sessions to maximise attendance.

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