

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2014 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Voluntary Sector Commissioning Strategy**

Report of Director of Health & Community Services

Author: Ruth Harrington, Head of Community Wellbeing

**1.0 Purpose of report**

- 1.1 This report seeks the Health and Wellbeing Board's feedback on a first draft of a Voluntary Sector Commissioning Strategy before it is circulated for wider consultation with the voluntary and community sector and other key stakeholders.
- 1.2 All Health and Wellbeing Board partners already have good partnership working with the voluntary sector and many have their own funding arrangements with the sector. This ranges from smaller grant giving arrangements within District Councils to large commissioned services with contractual values of in excess of £500,000 through pooled budget arrangements between the local authority and the Clinical Commissioning Groups. Given the focus of developing more effective preventative services and promoting wellbeing the time is right for commissioning bodies to review existing commissioning arrangements with the voluntary sector and develop a more strategic commissioning model going forward.

**2.0 Summary**

- 2.1 The draft strategy (attached as Appendix A) is intended to communicate to the voluntary sector, the commissioning intentions, framework and expectations of commissioning organisations in Hertfordshire. The rationale of developing a Voluntary sector Commissioning strategy has been discussed with colleagues from both Clinical Commissioning groups (CCGs) in Hertfordshire and Public Health as partner commissioning bodies, based on our collective ambition that the role of the voluntary and community sector must be strengthened to help us deliver on our key priorities across the health and wellbeing agenda. We are keen to now extend these discussions

to the District Councils who often have unique links with smaller community based services.

2.2 It aims to agree on a set of characteristics, values and behaviours that We will be looking for when commissioning from the sector, and that statutory agencies will also commit themselves to, in order to improve communication and ensure a shared vision of how we will work together in the future.

2.3 It will outline:

- Our commissioning intentions with this sector
- Why we want to support the voluntary and community sector and recognition of the added value the sector brings
- Our commitment as commissioners
- Impact of the Social Value Act and the Localism Act
- Strategic approach across all statutory agencies in Hertfordshire
- An overview of the Third sector in Hertfordshire
- Our expectations of the values and behaviours we want to see in the voluntary and community sector
- A commitment to a 'refreshed' Compact with the sector
- A clear commissioning framework that sits within contract and procurement regulation

### 3.0 Recommendation

3.1 That the Board:

- (i) Endorse the broad principles outlined in the document and encourage all Hertfordshire health and wellbeing partners to sign up to this strategy.
- (ii) Notes that the Strategy will return to the Board to be signed off at its meeting in April 2015.

<b>Report signed off by</b>	Director of Health & Community Services
<b>Sponsoring HWB Member/s</b>	Iain MacBeath
<b>Hertfordshire HWB Strategy priorities supported by this report</b>	
<b>Needs assessment</b> Hertfordshire County Council alone spends over £120 million a year with the Voluntary sector across over 700 contracts.	
<b>Consultation/public involvement</b> Voluntary sector engagement through a web based survey and events run in collaboration with the Hertfordshire Community Foundation to support the readiness of the voluntary sector to respond to the new commissioning framework.	
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b>	
<b>Acronyms or terms used.</b>	