

# **Joining together on things to do with being healthy and feeling well**

**Information and questions we are  
asking: July 2012**



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**An Easy Read guide**

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## Who we are and what we do



We are the **Department of Health**. We are part of the **government**. The **government** is in charge of running the country. The **Department of Health** is in charge of everything to do with being healthy and feeling well.

## A new law to do with health and social care



The government made a new law to do with **health and social care**. **Health and social care** means things to do with making sure you feel well and get the right care. This law changes how things happen in health. For example, the new law says what will happen to health and social care in the area where you live. For example, the way things happen in your local area might change.

## What the government wants to do

The government wants the new law to

- make health and care better in the **local community** – the **local community** means where you live
- make it easier for everyone to get the care they need to feel well



This is called **health and wellbeing**. It means being healthy and feeling well.



They plan to make this happen by setting up **health and wellbeing boards**. These **boards** are groups of people that work together and decide things to do with health and wellbeing in your area.



## What this booklet is about

We are asking some questions to do with changing things to do with being healthy and feeling well. We want to know what you think about the questions. You can read the questions at the back of this booklet.

## Other things in the booklet

We want to tell you about our work in **health and wellbeing**. We want you to read about this work before you answer the questions. We want to tell you about

- how **health and wellbeing** boards will work together
- **joint strategies** to do with being healthy and feeling well - **joint strategies** are plans between different groups to make things happen



- how **local authorities** and groups will work together to do this work – **local authorities** are in charge of things where you live



Local authorities and boards can decide

- who they want to work with
- who they want to decide things



The **NHS** will be part of this work too. The **NHS** is in charge of health services. For example, the **NHS** is in charge of hospitals.

**It is important that everyone who is taking part in the plans and the work agree on things.**

## What the boards are doing

The boards need to find out what people need to be healthy and feel well. They need to do this for every local area. They need to look at things like

- what the whole **community** needs to be healthy and feel well – this means everyone who is living in the local area. For example, it might mean what older people and people who find life hard need





- things that make a difference to how you live – for example, having a house or feeling safe in your area
- what information people need on health and social care in their area



## Joint strategies and plans

Every board has to write a plan about being healthy and feeling well. The plan should say what each **health and wellbeing** board is going to do in their local area.

The plan should say what the most important things are to do with being healthy and feeling well.

The plan should follow what the government says about things to do with being healthy and feeling well.

The plans are very important. They will help the boards to plan services to do with being healthy and feeling well.

The groups who decide what services need to be there for people in the local area should follow the plans.

They need to do this to make things better for local people to be healthy and feel well.



The boards will check that this is happening.



## Making sure services work well together

The boards can do a lot to help different groups and services work well together in being healthy and feeling well. For example, they can work with people in charge of services working with places like schools and the police.

Working together with different groups will make health and feeling well happen in a better way.

## Working with other groups

The boards should work with and find out things from

- local councils
- local **Healthwatch** - **Healthwatch** is the new way for people to say what they think about their health and social care services. **Local Healthwatch** is to do with health in the local area



- different groups of people in the community, including people with learning disabilities and family carers.
- other services – in health and other things too







Doing this will help the boards find out as much as they can about things to do with health and feeling well.

## Keeping things open and clear



It is important that everyone knows what is happening and what the boards find out and decide to do. The boards should **publish** what they find out. **Publish** means to put in a booklet or on the internet where everyone can see it.



## Other things the board should be doing

The boards need to follow the law on things to do with keeping things good and fair. What the board decide could change things for people. If changes happen they should be done in a good and fair way.

## Questions



We want to know what you think about the new plans to do with being healthy and feeling well. We are asking **9** questions. When you have read them, you can send your feedback. You have **8 weeks** to do this. We need to hear from you by

**28 September 2012**

You can send your feedback by



Post      **JSNA and JHWS Development Lead  
People, Communities and Local  
Government,  
Department of Health  
Wellington House  
133-155 Waterloo Road  
London  
SE1 8UG**

Email      **JSNAandJHWS@dh.gsi.gov.uk**

Website

You need to tell us if you are sending your feedback

- from you, or
- as part of a group





## Keeping what you tell us private



We might share the things you tell us with other government departments. You will have to tell us if you do not want this to happen. We will take a note of this but we may still have to tell other people too. This is to do with a law called the **Freedom of Information Act**.

We will publish the things we find out later this year.

We will publish the final things we have to say about what we find out in **April 2013**.

We will follow the government guidelines in everything to do with this work. This is the law.



## Telling us what you think about the way we are doing things

If you want to tell us about the way we are asking for your feedback, you can get in touch by



Post      **Consultations Coordinator**  
**Department of Health**  
**3E48, Quarry House**  
**Leeds**  
**LS2 7UE**

Email

[consultations.co-ordinator@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultations.co-ordinator@dh.gsi.gov.uk)



## Questions about this work



### Question 1

**Do you understand what the new joint plans are going to do to change things about being healthy and feeling well?**

This question is to do with the law and the duties that boards and the joint plan have to follow.



### Question 2

**Health and wellbeing boards should decide when they want to do things at a time that suits them and take part in the joint plans – this will depend on what is going on in the local area**



This question is to do with the boards finding out what kind of services people need in local areas. They should be able to do things in a time that suits what is going on locally. For example, people may need different things at different times. This will depend on who is living there and what they need.

### Question 3

**Are health and wellbeing boards getting the right support to work with other people locally so that the joint plans can happen?**

This question is to do with health and wellbeing boards working with lots of different groups like the NHS, Public Health groups and local communities.



### Question 4

**Are the health and wellbeing boards able to work well together with other groups/members and with local partners - are they supported to do this?**



This question is to do with the boards working with local groups and with board members in a way that works well in the local area.

### Question 5

**We are working together with lots of different partners to do this work. Is there enough in the joint plans to show that everyone will be treated in a good and fair way?**



This question is to do with joint plans and joint working on things to do with treating people in a good and fair way.



### **Question 6**

**How do you think the new plans will give the right support to people and groups that need lots of help and support in things to do with health?**

This question is to do with finding out how people who have a lot of needs can get help through the new plans with being healthy and feeling well.

### **Question 7**

**What support would you like to see to make the best use of information that can help with the joint plans working well?**

This question is about looking at information and findings that have already happened with different groups. This should help the joint plans to work better.

### **Question 8**

**What do you think the NHS and other groups to do with being healthy and feeling well will do in a different way in the future after reading the new plans?**





### **Question 9**

**How do you think your local community might be better off from following joint plans in things to do with being healthy and feeling well?**

Thank you to Raincharm for the words

**[www.raincharm.co.uk](http://www.raincharm.co.uk)**

Thank you to Photosymbols for the pictures

**[www.photosymbols.com](http://www.photosymbols.com)**

