

## **COUNCILLOR TOBIN BYERS**

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health  
(Labour, Cannon Hill Ward)



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Dear Mr Meer

### **Merton Health and Wellbeing Board response**

Thank you for your letter of 22 January and request for Merton Health and Wellbeing Board's view on the contribution of Merton CCG to the delivery of our joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This response was discussed and agreed unanimously at the Health and Wellbeing Board on 29 January.

As partners in Merton Health and Wellbeing Board both the Council and the CCG have been working hard and made significant commitment to build relationships and genuinely collaborate. This is not always straight forward but both recognise it is vital to make best use of the Board and the joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

In recent years the Health and Wellbeing Board has developed from being a formal committee style meeting which noted and ratified reports, to a lively engaged partnership giving strategic leadership to health and wellbeing in Merton including active local GPs and Councillors. In practice this has involved regular development sessions and seminars as well as careful planning of the agenda by myself as Chair, Andrew Murray, Chair of Merton CCG and key officers from both the CCG and Council. It has also involved close working with the voluntary sector at all levels and an on-going dialogue with our local community.

A particular example of good practice was a series of [Diabetes Truth Conversations](#) held in 2018 in which Health and Wellbeing Board members and local GPs were paired with our 'expert witnesses' who were either living with diabetes, at risk of diabetes or caring for someone with diabetes. Through a series of one to one conversations Health and Wellbeing Board members were able to gain a real insight into the lives of people dealing with diabetes and how it impacted on them. This work has informed the development of the new Diabetes Action Plan which is now feeding into the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Recent joint work on the [Suicide Prevention Framework](#) has

also involved local GPs, councillors as well as officers across the CCG, Council and voluntary sector.

Merton Health and Wellbeing Strategy is an important tool in delivering the Health and Wellbeing Board's agreed priorities. Our previous [Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) ran from 2015 to 2018 and implementation of this was tracked in an [Annual Report](#) to the Health and Wellbeing Board. We are currently in the process of updating the Merton Health and Wellbeing Strategy which will run from 2019 to 2024 and our joint work and thoughtfulness in how we align this new [Strategy](#) with the Merton Local Health and Care Plan is evidence of how we jointly approach strategic leadership for health and wellbeing across our borough.

The CCG has played an active and constructive role in all of this work, through the clinical Chair (who serves as Vice Chair of the Board), Managing Director and others who sit as members of the Board. The CCG has also ensured a wide breadth of representation from different disciplines at the workshops we've held to develop the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, which the discussions have greatly benefited from.

Yours sincerely



**Councillor Tobin Byers**  
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cc: Sarah Blow, Accountable Officer, Kingston, Richmond, Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth CCGs