What is a Health and Wellbeing Board?
Health and Wellbeing Boards were established as part of the Health and Social Care Act in 2012. The Waltham Forest Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB), chaired throughout 2018-19 by Councillor Naheed Asghar, is a partnership of statutory and non-statutory organisations, representing those that plan and provide health services and the people who use those services across the Borough.

What is the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2020?
The Board Strategy sets out a comprehensive vision of how we plan to deliver health services in the borough improve people’s health and reduce health inequalities, focusing on three life stages:
- The best start in life: develop, thrive and achieve
- Healthy, longer, happy lives: prosperous, active and sustainable
- Thriving maturity and protected community: safe, supported and independent

What we have achieved in 2018/19
The Board intervened in key discussions affecting residents, including:
- Multi-agency discussions and action on housing and health; respiratory diseases, air quality and smoking cessation; dementia and immunisation.
- Provided critical feedback to task and finish groups for cross-cutting and Board-specific priorities with task and finish groups focused on alcohol & drugs, mental wellbeing, end of life care and children’s healthy weight. Substance Misuse and Mental Wellbeing Strategies both approved with detailed feedback on the Suicide Prevention Strategy.
- Healthwatch Waltham Forest runs a pre-Board forum attended by local projects and residents to give critical feedback on key Board agenda items to officers.

2018/19 saw the Board undertake key development work – this included:
- An independent observation of the Board
- Survey of Board members and
- An externally run focus group with key partners about engagement.

Key recommendations from the independent report are being implemented.

Ongoing work to continue the planned integration of health services between the local authority and the borough’s clinical commissioning group: this has been supported by the ongoing work of a senior multi-agency team overseeing change.

Progress on 25 multi-agency schemes supporting people’s care needs: towards finalising a resident-focused system called the ‘Managed Network of Care and Support’, providing joined up care for residents through an increased focus on early intervention and prevention, better information, integrated care and support pathways and engaging communities.

The Board’s Children’s Health and Wellbeing Board Sub Committee has focused on:
- Immunisations: partnership discussions to ensure all babies are offered BCG
- Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) improvement work
- Maternity & Early Years and Healthy Schools (task and finish groups)
- Services: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and sexual health

Our priorities for 2017/19:

- **Mental Wellbeing**
  To develop an effective multi-agency approach to key identified challenges to mental wellbeing

- **Drugs & Alcohol**
  To reduce the impact of problematic drug or alcohol use by working collaboratively across entry points into statutory services focused on prevention and early intervention opportunities for residents with very complex needs

- **End of Life Care**
  To develop and support initiatives and systems that improve how people get the care they want and can exercise greater choice over how and where they die

- **Children’s Healthy Weight**
  Our ambition is to deliver work that allows children to make healthy food choices, stay physically active and maintain a healthy weight going forward in their lives.