Key success factors

- A local partnership dedicated to children and young people (linked into the governance of health and wellbeing boards) is essential.
- Commissioning of NHS services for children and young people must sit alongside commissioning of all services for children (the concept of holistic commissioning).
- Health and wellbeing boards should prioritise interventions for children and young people which are proven to work.
- Commissioning of services should be informed by the views of children, young people, parents and families.
- Health and wellbeing boards should ensure a focus on early intervention, within an overall understanding of a ‘lifecourse’ approach to provision.

Key strategic questions and challenges for boards

- Does the health and wellbeing board link effectively with the local children’s trust, safeguarding board and clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) to ensure cohesive governance and leadership across the children’s agenda?
- Does the health and wellbeing board have an agreed process to ensure children’s issues receive sufficient focus?
- Has the health and wellbeing board contributed to defining the early help offer, as recommended by Professor Munro?
- Is the health and wellbeing board making appropriate use of local mechanisms to listen to the views of children, young people and families?
- Does the local health and wellbeing strategy analyse and prioritise the health needs of children and describe success?
- Have the views of frontline staff and clinicians been factored into the board’s planning?
- Has the health and wellbeing board got an agreed method of engaging with schools?
- Has the health and wellbeing board got a clear plan to maximise the use of public assets (children’s centres, schools, youth services, health centres, etc.) to improve health outcomes for children?
- Is the health and wellbeing board satisfied that the common assessment framework is sufficiently embedded in the local partnership?

Further resources

- The Department of Health Children and Young People’s Health Outcomes Strategy (due to be published in July 2012)
- A plethora of Local Government Association resources, collated by the LGA: www.local.gov.uk/childrens-health
- Local authority child health profiles (published by the Child and Maternal Health Observatory – ChiMat): www.chimat.org.uk/profiles
- The NHS Atlas of Variation in Healthcare for Children and Young People: www.chimat.org.uk/variation
- NHS Confederation review of policy documents on children and young people’s health and wellbeing: www.nhsconfed.org/hwb
- Assured Safeguarding – GP and Health Leader Edition (safeguarding advice for GP and health leaders developed by the East Midlands group of Directors of Children’s Services): www.jriep.com
- Commissioning Child Health and Wellbeing Services (information and guidance framework developed by the East of England Strategic Network for Child Health and Wellbeing Commissioning Champions) – EOE Info and guidance framework
- National Institute for Health Research (for health-related research materials): www.nihr.ac.uk
- A guide for commissioners of children’s and young people’s and maternal health and wellbeing services NHS North West: www.northwest.nhs.uk/childhealth

The spectrum of children’s health needs

- Health promotion, prevention and improvement
- Primary care
- Children with poor mental health
- Urgent care for children with acute illness
- Children with long-term conditions
- Children with complex health needs
- Children with disabilities
- Looked after children
- Palliative care
- Ensuring the use of medicines for children optimises health outcomes
- The health sector’s contribution to safeguarding children
- The health sector’s contribution to support for troubled families