

West Midlands Regional Assembly Health Partnership Terms of Reference

“The West Midlands Regional Assembly (the Assembly) and the Health Strategy steering Group have drafted these terms of reference.”

Vision Statement

Our vision is that the “West Midlands Region becomes a healthier region by 2020, by improving health, prosperity and opportunity”

The West Midlands Regional Assembly will work together with regional partners to:

- Address inequalities in health.
- Ensure health issues are promoted.
- Improve the quality of life of all citizens.
- Ensure NHS investment contributes to economic, social and physical regeneration.

The Assembly will co-ordinate this action by establishing a Regional Health Partnership (RHP).

The Regional Health Partnership will be a multi-sectoral partnership bringing together a variety of public, private and voluntary sector groups and representatives. It will promote work across organisational boundaries. It will have a clear vision that is evidence based in order to develop policy and practices aimed at: reducing inequalities, improving health, increasing opportunity and prosperity.

Shared Core Values

The RHP will develop a holistic approach to tackle the wider determinants of health.

Encourage the targeting of resources to areas of greatest health inequalities and opportunity for improvement.

Core Functions:

- To focus on reducing health inequalities in the broadest sense i.e. economic development, environmental and social issues.
- To show leadership in policy development by identifying, and where possible measuring, the implications for health in regional policies and to make recommendations accordingly to the Assembly and its policy partnerships.

- To ensure all regional policies and strategies address their impact on health.
- To agree/discuss the benefits of a regional action plan to address health inequalities and regeneration.
- To motivate, influence and lobby government departments and policy makers to take a fuller account of the factors, which affect health.
- To support regional research and best evidence policy making.
- To have an open and transparent approach to sharing information.
- To disseminate good models of practice.
- To develop a communication strategy to promote the work of the Regional Health Partnership.
- To commit to equity, diversity and social inclusion.

Method of working:

- The Partnership will be the Health Policy Partnership of the Assembly.
- The RHP will fulfil its purpose through collective commitment and resources of its members
- Each year the RHP will develop and agree a programme of action that identifies, in consultation with the Assembly and other regional partners, those areas that are in need of review and give these areas priority in the programme of action. This programme will promote a bottom up approach in tackling health inequalities and improving the quality of life, through Local Strategic Partnerships.
- The programme will provide a perspective on regional policies, e.g. by commissioning regional studies, health impact assessments and developing policy proposals on health improvements and health related issues. Examples include housing, transport, medical technology, supply chain developments, NHS Land holdings, training activity etc which will all support the development of regional strategies to improve health, increase prosperity and opportunity. This would include involvement with Advantage West Midlands and its cluster groups.
- The programme will be designed to support delivery of local responsibilities, leading at a regional level on those aspects that require cross boundary co-ordination.

Reporting and monitoring

- The RHP will provide a formal annual report that will include an assessment of its influence, its progress on linking with regional strategies and policies as well as delivery of its own Action Plan targets and recommendations.
- The Assembly will monitor the progress of the Partnership with the use of the Partnership Assessment Development Tool.

- There will be an annual review (by the Assembly) of the work and its effectiveness of the Regional Health Partnership.
- The Assembly will provide an officer to support the Partnership.

Launching the West Midlands Regional Health Partnership

- A launch event for the RHP will be held in March 2004 for regional partners to agree on the Partnership's way of working. It will also seek to achieve consensus on a first annual programme, agree priorities and specific targets and agree Partnership ways of working.
- The event will be facilitated by the Assembly and other partners.
- Information from interviews, stakeholder events and Health Strategy Steering Group will shape priorities and areas for discussion.
- The Health Strategy Steering Group will cease to operate on the establishment of the Partnership and any subgroups.

Proposed Partnership members

The Partnership will have a core membership with representation from:

The West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA)
 West Midlands Local Government Association (WMLGA)
 Government Office West Midlands (GOWM) including West Midlands Public Health Group (WMPHG)
 Advantage West Midlands (AWM)
 Regional Action West Midlands (RAWM)
 Health Development Agency (HDA)
 NHS Trusts; Strategic Health Authorities, Primary Care Trusts, Acute Trusts
 Ambulance Trusts
 Public Health Observatory
 West Midlands Business and Council (WMBC)
 Private Health Care Sector
 Higher Education / Further Education, Learning Skill Councils (LSC)
 Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health (CPPIH)
 Employment Services

A chair will be elected from this group.

There may also be additional members agreed by the Partnership.

Partnership sub groups may be established to take forward particular issues or priorities of the RHP. The sub groups should have a clear remit and be multi-sectoral.

Individual membership will be nominated from those regional partnership organisations or groups listed. Strategic Health Authorities will be invited to identify five representatives who will be a mix of Non Executives and Executive members' i.e. Chair of SHA, a Chair or Chief Executive of a large Trust, a Director of Public Health from a PCT all with appropriate knowledge, experience and skills. Which may include expertise in: procurement of supplies or capital development, skills recruitment, regional action and/or health developments?

Nominated representatives must be able to work effectively in a diverse partnership, operate at a senior level and be able to commit their organisation to any shared program.

Proposed Membership Composition

Nominated representatives from Regional Organisations	Numbers of nominated representatives
WMRA & WMLGA	6
NHS Trusts	15
GOWM including WMPHG	2
Public Health Observatory	2
Health Development Agency	1
RAWM	3
AWM	2
Business & Commerce	2
Private Health Sector	3
LSC	2
Higher Education /Universities	2
Employment services	2
CPPIH	1
Other	1