

Read HSMC's latest policy paper on partnerships

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'We have to stop meeting like this': what works in health and local government partnerships? (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/Documents/college-social-sciences/social-policy/HSMC/publications/PolicyPapers/we-have-to-stop-meeting-like-this-PP13.pdf>) by Jon Glasby

Although Liberating the NHS has some exciting things to say about the importance of local accountability and of closer joint working with local government, it remains to be seen what powers and functions Health and Wellbeing Boards take on in practice.

While many areas are understandably focused on setting up these new structures, the danger is that we concentrate too much on issues of process – and not enough on outcomes or on how we want Health and Well-being Boards to be different from the Health and Well-Being Committees of previous Local Strategic Partnerships.

In particular, this policy paper argues that new Boards could help consider:

- The importance of values and culture
- The limits of relying on large-scale structural changes
- The need to focus on outcomes