

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 10 JUNE 2019
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PUBLIC PROTECTION, PLANNING
AND GOVERNANCE)

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY REVIEW

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides members with a brief update on the progress made since the report presented in November 2018 which was the start of the process to renew the Public Health and Wellbeing strategy
- 1.2 The purpose of the Public Health and Wellbeing Strategy is to provide an overarching evidence-based framework for the future planning and delivery of the wider determinants of health throughout the borough.
- 1.3 It is recommended to read this report in conjunction with the original report which was agreed at EOSC in November 2018.
- 1.4 Previous recommendations the November report were as follows:

For the committee to give delegated authority to the Head of Public Health and Protection in consultation with the Executive Director of Public Protection, Planning and Governance and the Portfolio Holder for Public Health and Governance in order to organise a Public Health Summit for the Borough of Welwyn Hatfield; to write the conclusions up into a refreshed draft of the Public Health and Wellbeing Strategy and to carry out a consultation exercise with relevant stakeholders including residents.

That the draft strategy is to be brought to EOSC for consideration and inclusion of the consultation responses prior to being sent to Cabinet for consideration and to Full Council for adoption

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 For the Committee to note the progress to date and approve the determined objectives required to complete the strategy.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 One of the recommendations of the initial report (1.4 above) was to hold a public health “summit” as part of the consultation exercise. This summit would be the first public health and wellbeing conference held by the Council.
- 3.2 The summit was held at the Fielder centre on the 28 February 2019. There was a wide range of speakers which provided delegates with information on the proposed development of Hertfordshire Healthy Hubs, evidence and health profiles for Welwyn Hatfield, Hoarding, Social Prescribing and Public Health in action.

- 3.3 Two workshops were also part of the day's proceedings which were used as an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss the identified public health priorities for Welwyn Hatfield and provide meaningful feedback.
- 3.4 Delegates were encouraged to write down their opinions and suggestions throughout the day and post them into the Thoughts and Ideas box on each table. This allowed for any comments that did not get a chance to be aired through questions or the workshops to be heard.
- 3.5 The Chief Executive opened the event and the Director of Public Health at Hertfordshire County Council gave the closing speech as well as his full support for the strategy and its purpose. The agenda is attached as an appendix to demonstrate the scope of the summit.
- 3.6 A marketplace of local services and information was set up adjacent to the main hall and gave delegates an opportunity for networking which was very much one of the added benefits of the day.

The final priorities for the Strategy are:

- Reduce Social Isolation and Improve Community Cohesion
- The Environment – the built environment, green space, transport, air quality
- Increase levels of Physical Activity and Reduce levels of Obesity
- Mental Health and Wellbeing: Improve the opportunities in the Borough to improve mental health and wellbeing and increase resilience within individuals
- Protect our communities from harm: Deliver robust and effective health protection arrangements

- 3.7 The remaining objectives to completing the strategy review and are:

- Objective 1) to identify all existing and relevant Council strategies that need to be linked to the Public Health and Wellbeing strategy. This will involve a task and finish group. A comprehensive approach is required when considering the wider determinants of health and how the Council services impact them.
- Objective 2) to produce two action plans; an internal action plan that produces an organisational system to improving public health delivery and an outward facing action plan that provides projects and initiatives for and by the Borough as a whole by its stakeholders.
- Objective 3) to deliver the County expectation for provision of Healthy Hub/s in the Borough as this will be the focal point for social prescribing which is a key aspect of the strategy. This work has started and a project initiation document has been submitted for approval.
- Objective 4) to utilise the findings from the summit to feed into the action plans. The findings have been analysed and collated and are attached as an appendix.
- Objective 5) draft the strategy and carry out consultation.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 The transfer of responsibility for significant areas of public health took place in April 2013 under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 from the NHS to upper tier local government including a new duty to take such steps as it considers appropriate to improve the health of the people in its area.
- 4.2 In two tier local government areas, public health work (including health protection, health improvement and work to support the wider determinants of health) is split between the county council and the districts/boroughs.

5 Financial Implication(s)

- 5.1 Public health Partnership fund; resource needed to carry out any additional work in the action plan

6 Risk Management Implications

- 6.1 The risks related to this proposal are:
- 6.2 Failure to deliver the current proposals for the district offer within the agreed timescales could result in the loss of the shared partnership with HCC and our joint responsibility for improving and protecting the public's health and well-being in the borough. If the required targets as set out in the District Offer are not met the County Council may recover the funds
- 6.3 Reputational risks of failing to achieve our stated aims.

6.4 Security and Terrorism Implication(s)

- 6.5 In complying with the Prevent duty Local Authorities need to ensure that publicly owned resources do not provide a platform for extremists and are not used to disseminate extremist views.

7 Procurement Implication(s)

- 7.1 If procurement is required as part of the delivery of the strategy then the Councils procurement rules will be followed.

8 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 8.1 The links between changing climate and public health are well documented, for example by the Health Protection Agency/Public Health England in their report "The Health Effects of Climate Change" (2012)
- 8.2 Some aspects of the strategy will relate to the Climate change strategy as well as encouraging and facilitating increased levels of physical activity, which in turn may reduce use of fossil fuelled transport.

9 Human Resources Implication(s)

- 9.1 It is a recommendation of this report that the Council introduce training for managers and report authors to ensure Health in All policies is understood and consistently applied to all our polices and service delivery.

10 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

10.1 Yes, positive impact.

11 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

11.1 Yes, there will be a need for various forms of promotion and engagement for the consultation as well as longer term need for various health improvement interventions. Similar work is currently being undertaken for health promotion.

12 Link to Corporate Priorities

12.1 The subject of this report is linked to the Council's Corporate Priority (Our Community), and specifically to the achievement of (improving public health and wellbeing) and is linked to the statutory requirements, under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

13 Equality and Diversity

13.1 An EqIA was completed on 26 October 2018 and no negative impact was identified on any of the protected groups under Equalities legislation.

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Background papers to be listed (if applicable)

Report to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council on 13 November 2018, "Health and Wellbeing Strategy Review

Appendices

Appendix 1 Agenda for the summit

Appendix 2 Feedback and findings from the summit