

Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny (External) Committee**

Date: **15 March 2016**

Title: **UPDATE ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING WORK**

Portfolio Area: **Customer First – Cllr Samuel**

Wards Affected: **All Wards**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: Any recommendations generated by the Committee will be considered by the Hub Committee on 22 March 2016

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RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. To receive an update and have the opportunity to comment on the work carried out by the Council and its partners in the area of Public Health and Wellbeing; and**
- 2. To support the establishment of a Public Health Working Group with its remit being to identify and deliver actions under the Health and Well Being theme of the Our Plan Delivery Plan.**

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 Health and Wellbeing is a priority of the Council identified in the Councils Our Plan strategy. In February 2015 members asked for an annual update report on work undertaken in 2015/16 to be presented to the Committee
- 1.2 This report also recommends the future approach to health and wellbeing work at the Council and in particular the setting up of a

Public Health Working Group to monitor and review progress under the Health and Well Being theme of the Our Plan Delivery Plan.

- 1.3 Public Health is a statutory responsibility of the County Council but the district supports the County in this function by delivering many services that impact on health including ; leisure, development, housing conditions, homelessness prevention , fuel poverty , food safety, community safety and water quality for example. In recent years Devon County Council has provided grant funding to District Councils to commission a number of health interventions.
- 1.4 The Our Plan delivery plan for 2015/16 contains an action that the Council will set up a Public Health Working Group to develop the strategy for health and wellbeing.
- 1.5 This report recommends setting up this group to monitor and review actions from the Health and Wellbeing theme of the Our Plan delivery plan.
- 1.6 The Council has received funding from Devon County Council over the last three years to enable the Council to commission various health intervention programmes aimed at addressing key local public health priorities. This report provides a summary of these interventions, updating Members as requested following a previous report in February 2015.

2. Background

- 2.1 In 2013/14 Devon County Council allocated a total of £40,000 grant over a 3 year period to all District Councils in Devon to enable them to achieve the following:
 - To undertake specific public health focussed work locally to help people live healthy lifestyles, make health choices, and to reduce health inequalities.
 - To make improvements in wider factors that affect health and wellbeing and health inequalities.
- 2.2 The funding was specifically for new public health activity and was not permitted to be used to fund existing work. The following Projects below have been allocated funding from the Councils Public Health Fund.

- 2.3 Please see the table attached to this report that provides a summary of West Devon funded interventions.
- 2.4 The projects are at various stages of delivery and have all been assigned funding based upon a detailed application submission.
- 2.5 The funding process changed for year 2015/16, instead of allocating funding to each of the Devon authorities a pot of £80,000 was agreed to be shared between Devon's local authorities. The projects that were designated funding are shown below. An update regarding the outcome of the interventions may be provided once the Projects have progressed further.

Mental Health Toolkit- a mental health awareness course (aimed to aid starting conversation) and a web-based toolkit for frontline staff.

Physical Activity – a series of initiatives aimed at getting new mums active through supported bike rides.

Air Quality – a project aimed at reducing traffic emissions from commercial vehicle fleets by promoting the Eco stars initiative.

Fuel Poverty - supports the district-wide fuel poverty initiative overseen by the Cosy-Devon group. The Central Heating Fund is for households currently not connected to mains gas or without central heating.

- 2.6 Devon County Council have informed the District Councils that there will be no further funding for Districts in 2016/17.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 The outcomes of the Projects that have been summarised above and in the attached table need to continue to be measured and reviewed. The success of the projects should focus the direction of future public health work.
- 3.2 There are a number of areas of work carried across the Council that have an impact on public health. These areas need to be drawn together to ensure a co-ordinated approach.
- 3.3 Although there will be no funding available from Devon County Council to commission new projects it is hoped that a co-ordinated approach across the Council, coupled with a continuation of the contacts established over the last three years, will enable the Council to provide a number of positive health and wellbeing related outcomes to its residents.
- 3.4 The monitoring and review of these outcomes will be an important

part of ensuring that we are delivering maximum benefit to our local communities. This will form part of the Our Plan Delivery Plan reporting.

- 3.5 The role of the Council's Public Health Working Group should be to continue to develop a public health and wellbeing strategy, targeting interventions, co-ordinating action across the Council, working with key partners to develop opportunities and identify funding and to monitor and review existing interventions and projects.
- 3.6 The health and wellbeing theme of the Our Plan delivery plan will continue to be influenced by the Devon Health and Wellbeing Board, the Devon Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Devon Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 The Council may choose not to set up a Public Health Working Group. The risk of not doing so would be that activity continues that has an impact on public health, but would not be as effective as it would not be co-ordinated or focussed on the health priorities of the local area. The impact of this would be that we would not be making the most use of the resources that we have, partnership and funding opportunities may be missed.
- 4.2 Members agreed as part of setting the Our Plan strategy that public health and wellbeing was a key activity for the area and that it needed to be coordinated across the Council.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 It is proposed to set up the Public Health Working Group across West Devon and South Hams with a clear remit to monitor and review progress with the Council's Public Health and Wellbeing Our Plan delivery plan.
- 5.2 This fits with the Our Plan priority of public health and wellbeing
- 5.3 The positive impact of this work will be to improve public health and wellbeing, focussed on the priority issues in the Council's area. This will co-ordinate the existing work of the Council and benefit from well-established partnerships. The Working Group will also provide a link to the strategic Devon Health and Wellbeing Board that promotes the integration of health, social care and public health.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance		Devon County Council has a statutory duty for public health in Devon. The District Council supports this work through a number of work areas, some statutory, and has a general duty to co-operate.
Financial		The public health grant previously provided by the County council will cease in 2016/17. The funding has supported interventions provided by external organisations. The funding did not contribute to WDBC or SHDC staff salaries or any "business as usual" activity of the Councils.
Risk		The main risk to the Council would be a failure to improve the public health and welfare of its residents and not seizing the opportunity to coordinate and focus its public health activity into the areas of most need.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		There are no equality of diversity issues in this report
Safeguarding		There are no safeguarding issues
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		Community safety is an area of work that falls into the wider Public Health and Wellbeing remit
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		Public health and wellbeing is the main focus of the report
Other implications		None

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Summary table of public health interventions

Background Papers:

None