

## **South Hams District Council**

### **MEMBERS INFORMATION SHEET**

#### **Update on Health and Wellbeing work in 2015-16**

##### **Purpose**

- **To update Members on work carried out in 2015-16**
- **To discuss setting up a Health and Wellbeing group to lead on the development and delivery of future public health initiatives**

##### **Work carried out in 2015/16**

##### **Devon County Council funding**

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.

The funding was specifically for new public health activity and was not permitted to be used to fund existing work. Tina Henry and Nicola Glassbrook from DCC are our designated Public Health Specialists who are assisting in this work and are responsible for assuring the intended spend is in line with the Public Health Plan.

**The following Projects below have been allocated funding from the Councils Public Health Fund.**

**South Hams Funded Interventions**

**Name of Intervention**

Health Impact Assessment of Local Plans - Identify, examine and respond to the health impacts, both positive and negative of the Local Plan

Mental Health Awareness Training for frontline staff

More Comfort with Less Cost - training frontline staff to provide energy saving advice to residents

The Big Community Switch – partnership with iChooser electricity contract switching provider

Mental Health Toolkit - an online resource for frontline professionals for dealing with mental health issues encountered when dealing with residents

Caring Town Totnes Needs Analysis - create a replicable model for the community-led delivery of aspects of health and welfare

Gardening for Health –to improve physical, social and mental well- being through exposure to co-ordinated gardening activity

The projects are at various stages of delivery and have all been assigned funding based upon a detailed application submission. The Councils are required to allocate any remaining funding by April 2016. Any unallocated funding will be returned to Devon County Council. We are currently considering other bids and are confident that the funding will be fully allocated to further initiatives that will make a real difference to public health and wellbeing.

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.

**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.

There is no information available regarding the structure of funding from Devon County Council for 2016/17. It is hoped that a verbal update may be given.

### **Future working**

Public Health and Wellbeing is currently at the forefront of much of the operational work carried out in the Environmental Health and Licensing CoP. We will work hard to establish clear links between our work and the public health agenda. The new structure of the Council has enabled good relationships between different Community of Practice areas and the result has been much better joined up thinking. The Council will continue to work in partnership with other agencies and focus on providing for the needs of its residents. As information gathering improves with new software coming into place it is hoped that the Council's interventions to improve health and wellbeing can be much more focussed on local need, providing local solutions for local people.

We are currently reviewing the progress of each of the projects against their proposed outcomes and this work will inform the future direction of public health initiatives in South Hams.

To address the priority issues for in a co-ordinated way Members should consider supporting setting up a health and wellbeing group, comprising of key representatives from a range of stakeholders. This group should have a purpose to lead on the development and delivery of public health initiatives. The scope of the group will be determined in part by future public health funding allocation, however the group would also have a co-ordinating role over public health activity that falls outside of Devon County public health funding.

### **Further Information**

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