

NAME OF COMMITTEE	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
DATE	4th June 2013
REPORT TITLE	The new Health Agenda
Report of	Head of Environmental Health and Housing
WARDS AFFECTED	All

Summary of report:

To provide an Information Report on the Health and Well Being Board and to outline a future strategy for how the Council can effectively contribute to the local Health agenda.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the contents of the report are noted and that members consider items they make like to see included in a future local Health and Well Being Strategy.

Officer contact:

Ian Bollans, Head of Environmental Health and Housing, 01803 861241
ian.bollans@swdevon.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND TO THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING AGENDA

- 1.1. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 was introduced following the White Paper 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS'. Among many radical changes to be introduced by the Act was the introduction of Health and Well Being Boards (HWBB) which would operate within the Committee structures in upper tier and unitary authorities. The HWBB officially came into operation in April 2013 and currently has 12 members from a range of backgrounds. Councillor James McInnes is a member, representing all District authorities in Devon.

1.2. The functions of the HWBB are to:

- Ensure improved health and wellbeing within the area;
- Focus on health inequalities;
- Promote integration and partnership; and
- Improve local democratic accountability.

1.3. In addition to the establishment of the HWBB, other significant changes introduced under the Act include:

- The abolition of the Primary Care Trusts and Strategic Health Authorities;
- The transfer of Public Health responsibilities to upper-tier authorities;
- The creation of Public Health England – to oversee national issues;
- Creating a new Clinical Commissioning Framework for health services;
- The establishment of HealthWatch (a consumer-led organisation designed to engage with users of health services and the wider public).

1.4. The introduction of the HWBB provides an opportunity for the Council to re-evaluate its existing approaches to promoting the health agenda and to link in with the work of the HWBB and ensure that limited resources are being targeted effectively.

1.5. This report will outline the draft HWBB Strategy, local health issues and suggest a future approach to respond to the new Health Agenda.

2. THE HEALTH AND WELL BEING STRATEGY

2.1. The HWBB has produced a Health and Well Being Strategy – a summary of which is attached to this report as a Background Paper. The strategy was produced following consultation on the priorities that should be included. The strategy has been developed from information contained within the Devon Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

2.2. The main ‘themed’ priorities of the strategy are:

- Focus on families;
- Lifestyle choices;
- Independence in old age;
- Social Capital and the building of communities

2.3. There are a number of subject areas in each of these priorities. The Council through its activities has a bearing on a number of these. There is no obligation on the Council to directly support these priorities but Local Authorities do have a statutory duty to promote the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of their communities.

3. THE HEALTH AGENDA WITHIN WEST DEVON

3.1. West Devon is classed as having a population whose general health is 'better than the England average' with deprivation levels 'lower than the England average'. There are however, both areas of deprivation and health inequalities that exist within the district. For example it is estimated that nearly 1300 children are living in poverty and 13.2% of Year 6 children are classed as obese. From available statistics the Department of Health has identified the following as health priorities:

- Healthy weight;
- Skin cancer;
- Alcohol;
- Smoking.

3.2. Areas of deprivation have been identified and ranked on a scale 1 -5 (with 5 being the worst) with the rest of England. The highest ranking (worst deprivation) in the West Devon area are:

- Bridgestowe;
- Exbourne;
- Lydford;
- Milton Ford;
- Okehampton East;
- Tamarside.

3.3. The Council currently contributes to the Health Agenda through the carrying out of a wide range of statutory and discretionary services. Services such as Environmental Health and Housing, the Benefits team and Leisure all directly support the health agenda. To date, however, there has been no overall strategy which focuses and directs our contribution.

4. A PROPOSED STRATEGY FOR WEST DEVON

4.1. There will be a need to evaluate how the Council can make most effective use of its limited resources to support the health and well-being agenda. There are a number of priorities detailed in the HWBB Strategy where the Council can have a direct impact and influence. In addition there are a number of local health priorities and inequalities that members may also want to address.

4.2. It is therefore proposed that a local strategy is adopted to with a number of strategic themes:

- To continue to tackle the wider influences on health and well-being;
- To work with others to improve health within the Borough;
- To protect the health and wellbeing of our residents;
- This should be underpinned by a cross-cutting theme of reducing health inequalities.

4.3. Significant work is already being undertaken in some of these areas and it is not proposed to increase our resource allocation in this area, but to make sure that resources are effectively targeted and that we actively seek opportunities to work with others in the new health framework to identify new opportunities. As an example, as part of the Strategic Leisure Review the Council may wish to engage with health agencies to explore if there are opportunities to increase active participation in sport, while reducing the overall revenue cost of the service by generating new income streams.

5. Conclusion

5.1. The health agenda is a complex field, with a number of agencies having various roles to play.

5.2. Members may wish to consider issues that they wish to see addressed in any approach to implementing the Health and well-being agenda within West Devon.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. There are no direct legal implications associated with this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report.

8. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Corporate priorities engaged:	All
Statutory powers:	Local Government Act 1972 The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 Health and Social Care Bill 2012
Considerations of equality and human rights:	Health is a fundamental human right. The Council through the carrying out of its statutory and discretionary activities can have a direct effect on this.
Biodiversity considerations:	None directly related to this report.
Sustainability considerations:	None directly related to this report.
Crime and disorder implications:	None directly related to this report.
Background papers:	HWBB Health and Well Being Strategy
Appendices attached:	None

STRATEGIC RISKS TEMPLATE

No	Risk Title	Risk/Opportunity Description	Inherent risk status				Mitigating & Management actions	Ownership
			Impact of negative outcome	Chance of negative outcome	Risk score and direction of travel			
1	Failure to engage with HWBB Agenda	Failure to engage with the HWBB Agenda would have an adverse impact on the health of local residents	3	3	9	↓	Engagement with the HWBB to influence strategy and direction. Ensuring that any local strategy supports the work of the HWBB where appropriate.	Ian Bollans Head of EH&H
2	Lack of clear corporate strategy	Lack of a clear local strategy could lead to resources being directed at those who are not most at need.	3	3	9	↓	Ensuring that the local strategy helps to effectively direct the efforts of the Council	Ian Bollans Head of EH&H

Direction of travel symbols ↓ ↑ ↔

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Summary Health and Well Being Strategy

Further information – Devon Health and Well Being website: <http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/>