



NEW FOREST HEALTH STRATEGY – “IMPROVING LIFE IN THE NEW FOREST 2003/2004”

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 New Forest District Council is one of the leaders in joint at thinking on strategic health issues. The strategy attached to this report signposts a way forward for the continuing partnership in this area. This is the first fully joined up health strategy this organisation has produced. It has been developed widely with both statutory and non-statutory organisations and there has been considerable amount of consultation with specialist groups to determine the priorities within it. We hope this strategy will be widely owned and the priorities in it identified by many.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The District Council has had its own Health Strategy for many years. In addition other organisations concerned with health care have had their own strategies, for example, PCG's and the PCT had their own health improvement plans and local delivery plans. This strategy for the first time joins up all that work into one single document owned and developed by the partnership.
- 2.2 Through its consultation phases this document has been extremely well received. Members of GOSE visited the PCT for a joint meeting to consider public health in the New Forest. When looking at the strategy and the way it had been produced they commended it as an example of excellence. They felt that it was both clear to those with a non-medical background but contained all the necessary detail for those working within the NHS. The strategy builds on previous work undertaken by the NHS and local authorities and focuses upon the needs of the people in the New Forest and how we can deliver our agendas through partnership. The strategy has a basis in law through the health act, which introduced a requirement for the local authority, and its partners to look at health in a more joined up manner.

3. LINKS WITH OTHER GROUPS

- 3.1 The Health Strategy is intrinsically linked with the community planning process, which New Forest organisations have committed to. In addition it encompasses the local delivery plans, which were formerly in the ownership of the health authority, and seeks to integrate them into mainstream public health. The aim of the strategy is to “improve the health and well-being of the people and communities of the New Forest by reducing health in equalities and enable people to make informed

choices about their health". It is therefore hoped that this council will endorse the adoption of this strategy with our partners as a way forward and true partnership working.

4. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The aim of the strategy is to improve the health of those living in the district. Part of the effects of a poor environment is poorer health. Therefore, in order to make some of the changes required by the strategy environmental improvements would be necessary.

5. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Again, those suffering high crime rates and those in fear of their safety have associated health problems be it physically or mentally. As a result of the environment they live in.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Wherever there are financial implications for any organisation with the strategy there will be bid for within the relevant expenditure plan rounds of the organisation concerned or through the partnership grant fund, which is jointly contributed to.

7. PORTFOLIO HOLDER COMMENTS

- 7.1 The Portfolio Holder fully supports the recommendations contained in this report.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended
- a) That the District Council adopts the strategy fully; and
 - b) That the work carried out by the partnership on the development of the strategy, in particular Neil Frost, Bob Coats and Chris Stiling, be noted.

For further information contact:

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