

HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL - 20 SEPTEMBER 2023

PORTFOLIO: COMMUNITY, SAFETY AND WELLBEING

HEALTH AND WELLBEING ACTION PLAN UPDATE

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Panel consider the progress and updates to the Council's Health and Wellbeing Action Plan.

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 In October 2022, the Council adopted the first Health and Wellbeing Plan. This identified strategic priorities for the council, which included 'Working in partnership', 'Increasing Physical Activity', and 'Improving Mental Wellbeing'.
- 2.2 The Health and Wellbeing Plan covers the period from 2022 to 2025. It is based upon and supports the 'Strategy for the Health and Wellbeing of Hampshire 2019-2024' which is compiled on behalf of the Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board. The Plan uses insight from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to set the relevant priorities for the district and our communities.
- 2.3 In June 2023, Hampshire County Council (HCC) published a Public Health Strategy for 2023-2026 with the commitment to improving the health of everyone living in Hampshire. The two ambitions in creating a healthier Hampshire of; increasing the number of years Hampshire residents can expect to live in good health and reducing the unfair gap in healthy life years between the most and least healthy, are supported by the Council's Plan.
- 2.4 In September 2023, the Government published a new sport strategy "Get Active: A Strategy for the future of sport and physical activity". It outlines the desire to help build a happier, healthier, more active nation by tackling high levels of inactivity and making sure sport and physical activity is accessible, inclusive and sustainable. The District Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan is aligned to these priorities and well placed to support the identified outcomes.
- 2.5 The Health and Wellbeing Plan is supported by an Action Plan which sets out the specific actions that are being undertaken across the Council to address the issues and inequalities that are identified in the Health and Wellbeing Plan. The Action Plan is a live document and will be updated regularly and should be read in relation to the Health and Wellbeing Plan.
- 2.6 This report provides a progress update on current projects, highlights those that have been completed and new projects which have begun.

3. INCLUSION ON THE ACTION PLAN

- 3.1 The Action Plan is a working document which captures projects and initiatives being carried out across Council services which have a positive impact on the health of our residents. All of the projects contribute to one of the three priorities and project output/outcomes have been identified as a measure of successful implementation.
- 3.2 The Action Plan includes a wide range of projects across several services and where the council plays a variety of roles from leader or deliverer of the project to facilitator, enabler or provider of support.
- 3.3 The Action Plan captures the status of the projects through a RAG rating. Completed projects are coded as blue and once evaluated are removed from the Action Plan. They may lead to further projects being developed based on the evaluation and learning. Projects which are on track are colour coded as green and those in development or behind on timescales are highlighted as amber for further oversight.
- 3.4 HCC's Public Health Strategy for 2023 – 2026 updates the previous Strategy for Health and Wellbeing of Hampshire 2019 –24. It gives a clear direction on how partners can work together to improve health and tackle inequalities. This identifies themes around the wider determinants of health including healthy places and community, healthy people and healthy lives and recognises the wide range of services delivered by partners (including district councils) and their impact on the health of our communities. Further work will be carried out over the next few months to identify and include additional projects and work which has an impact on health protection, community resilience and the health of our workforce.

4. HIGHLIGHTS ON THE ACTION PLAN

- 4.1 The largest challenge that many residents have faced in 2022/23 is the rise in the cost of living. Whilst this has affected most residents it has had a disproportionate effect on the most vulnerable members in our communities. This has compounded the increase in health inequalities caused by the covid pandemic which negatively impacted on the most deprived communities. In response to this, several of the projects have been aimed at supporting these communities which has included help to heat their homes during the winter months, ensuring that there is accessible provision of food and making sure that people are aware of the support available to reduce stress and anxiety at difficult times.
- 4.2.1 Projects have included:
- Working with partners at Fairshare, the Foodbanks and Citizens Advice to set up 6 Community Hubs. These are working with the Food Larders around the district, offering advice and face to face support for residents on a range of issues including housing and rent support.
 - Delivering the Warmer Homes Grants initiative to upgrade energy inefficient homes of low-income households. The Council supported 45 of the worst performing off gas grid homes at a total cost of £555,000 and 169 households of low-income households heated mainly by gas at a total cost of £886,000.
 - In response to a survey on the mental wellbeing of rural workers in Hampshire the Council held a Yarn in a Barn event which over 60 residents attended. This brought together agencies such as the Police, HCC and the Farming

Community Network, to highlight support for issues raised by rural workers and commoning community.

- The Council has distributed £129,000 Community Grants to organisations that support our communities including New Forest Disability Information Service, Community First, Youth and Families Matter, The Crossings and The Handy Trust.

4.3 The Council has set up a new Community Forum, bringing together Town and Parish Councils, the voluntary sector and faith-based groups and other statutory partners to share good practice and identify gaps in the provision of support and assistance to those experiencing hardship in the District. The first meeting of the Community Forum will take place on 18 October 2023.

5. MEASURING THE IMPACT OF THE PROJECTS

5.1 The Council continues to work with the Hampshire Health and Wellbeing Board and other partners to establish a shared approach to measuring the impact and outcomes of specific projects for our communities.

5.2 Public Health intelligence is used to examine the needs of our population and the evidence base for our interventions which have subsequently been used to identify the priorities in the Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan.

5.3 The Action Plan identifies possible outputs and outcomes which are currently being measured for each of the projects.

5.4 Discussions will also take place with officers across the Council who are leading on projects, to identify how the projects will be monitored and possible output/outcome data to collect, which will support the priorities in the Plan. The Plan will be updated on a quarterly basis.

5.5 The outcomes and their measurements may be based on those identified in strategic plans or within partnership agreements and projects may be based on available national or regional data which demonstrates the benefits and impact on human health. More local service outcomes will be based around service user impact and feedback, performance targets or aligned to service plan objectives.

5.6 All Services will have a future role in identifying projects and work that they are involved with that support the outcomes of the Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan.

6.0 NEW PROJECTS IN THE ACTION PLAN

6.1 The Action Plan contains several new projects and as highlighted earlier in the report, further projects will be included as they are identified and developed.

The new projects included in the action plan are:

- A Minding Every Gap programme, which creates a smooth process of support for housing issues and prevention of homelessness. Work between the ICB (Integrated Care Board) and NFDC.
- A Resettlement programme supporting ex-offenders to prevent homelessness
- Developing a Clean Air strategy for the district.

- Working with HCC to develop Community Pantries to compliment Food Banks and Food Larder provision.
- The establishment of a New Forest Youth Forum, to work with youth groups and identify areas of support and development.
- The development of the LCWIPs (Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan).
- Working with AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust to develop opportunities to increase activity in targeted groups in Ringwood.
- Delivering Story Trails to encourage families to be more active.
- Developing new opportunities for targeted groups to become more active.

7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan identifies the needs and benefits of taking a whole system approach to tackling stubborn health inequalities in under-served communities. It outlines the evidence and insight for the approach taken and the areas and communities that we will look to support.
- 7.2 The Action Plan highlights the work being undertaken across the Council and through working with partners, which has a positive impact on the health of our communities. This demonstrates the Council's commitment to improving the health of everyone living, working and visiting the New Forest.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Delivery of the Action Plan will be met by existing resources, principally led by the Physical Activity and Partnerships Manager, drawing in other resources within the organisation, when required.

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Crime levels have been linked to poorer social and physical functioning and lower levels of subjective wellbeing. The proposed Action Plan will play a positive role to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities and in turn may have a beneficial impact crime and disorder issues in the district.

10. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 Increasing outdoor activities is a positive way to experience the tranquillity and special nature of the district, especially within the National Park. There will be times when residents need to limit disturbance to rare breeding birds which nest on the ground. There are numerous walking routes around the district to enable the community to enjoy the natural environment of the district.

11. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 The proposed Action Plan has a positive effect on equality and diversity, enabling a route for all to access the benefits of a diverse and multi-programmed approach to enhance health and wellbeing, catering for all in the community who wish to partake or are referred by social prescribers. It will particularly focus on improving health inequalities.

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Background Papers:

Health and Wellbeing Plan 2022-
2025