

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 23 JUNE 2015

REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

WARD(S) AFFECTED: *none*

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To review and determine the new Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee's (HWSC) future work programme for 2015/16

| <u>RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY</u> | |
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| That: | |
| (A) | the work programme shown in this report be agreed; and |
| (B) | the interim report on the implementation of projects within the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy be presented to Members only as an exceptions report, should problems arise. |

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the Panel work programme are set out in **Essential Reference Paper B**.
- 1.2 To support members in their reading of health and wellbeing related reports and in discussions with speakers from partner agencies the attached **Essential Reference Paper C** offers a quick checklist to the abbreviations and acronyms in common use. Updates and corrections made since the previous version of this publication are shown in italics.
- 1.3 On 20 May 2015, at Annual Council, Members agreed to establish a Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (effectively replacing

the previous Health and Wellbeing Panel) in recognition of the importance placed by the Authority on the health and wellbeing of its residents. The Scrutiny Committee's terms of reference can be found in the Council's (updated) constitution.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 The draft work programme, as presented here in **Essential Reference Paper B**, was considered to be comprehensive and cover all the main issues at this time. The timing of some items may have to change depending on availability of external speakers and essential data.
- 2.2 At the 24 February 2015 meeting, the predecessor body (the Health and Wellbeing Panel) agreed that it would like a presentation/report on the integration of public health agenda into the council's benefits service. This has been included in the October meeting's work programme.
- 2.3 At the 14 October 2014 meeting, the Health and Wellbeing Panel agreed that Officers continue to integrate the public health agenda into the council's core services (housing, planning, community safety and environmental health) and that baseline data identified at that time would be used to monitor future progress. A report on the extent of integration achieved after the first year is scheduled for the 8 December meeting.
- 2.4 The importance of the public health agenda has increased due to funding being devolved to the authority from Herts County Council (a District offer of £100,000 in 15/16 and 16/17) and this is being matched funded by the council. Thirteen projects have been grant-aided to date and it is important that this work is scrutinised by councillors on behalf of local residents. A report on progress of these individual projects is scheduled for February 2016.

2.6 It had been the wish of the Health and Wellbeing Panel to receive an annual report on the implementation of projects within the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy plus an interim report in December. With project information now available online, Members can monitor these throughout the year. The new committee is asked whether the interim report should be an “exceptions report” and only be submitted if any problems are becoming apparent. This would release space on the committee’s agenda for more substantive items.

2.7 Members are asked whether there are any additional topics they wish to put forward at this time for consideration in the Forward Plan for 2015/16. It has been agreed that scrutiny topics should be those where there is real scope for influencing change and where measurable benefits for residents can be seen but after that Members can ask to examine any issue that they believe to be:

- Of local public concern
- Linked to the council’s vision and priorities
- Capable of being influenced
- Not being scrutinised by another body

2.8 This year, communications released a press release explaining the role of scrutiny and inviting suggestions from residents. This was distributed to partners and tweeted. No new topics for scrutiny have been received from the public to date.

2.9 Members are also asked whether they wish to extend an invitation to one or more Executive members to attend a particular meeting or for a specific agenda item.

3.0 Implications/Consultations

3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper ‘A’**.

Background Papers

None

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