



## Public Document Pack

**Jeff Hughes**

*Head of Democratic and Legal  
Support Services*

**MEETING** : HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
**VENUE** : COUNCIL CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD  
**DATE** : TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 2015  
**TIME** : 7.00 PM

**PLEASE NOTE TIME AND VENUE**

### **MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**

Councillor Norma Symonds (Chairman)  
Councillors D Abbott, A Alder, S Cousins, H Drake, Mrs D Hollebon,  
J Kaye, M McMullen, P Moore and R Standley

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## **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

1. A Member, present at a meeting of the Authority, or any committee, sub-committee, joint committee or joint sub-committee of the Authority, with a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI) in any matter to be considered or being considered at a meeting:
  - must not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting;
  - must not participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting;
  - must disclose the interest to the meeting, whether registered or not, subject to the provisions of section 32 of the Localism Act 2011;
  - if the interest is not registered and is not the subject of a pending notification, must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days;
  - must leave the room while any discussion or voting takes place.
2. A DPI is an interest of a Member or their partner (which means spouse or civil partner, a person with whom they are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were civil partners) within the descriptions as defined in the Localism Act 2011.
3. The Authority may grant a Member dispensation, but only in limited circumstances, to enable him/her to participate and vote on a matter in which they have a DPI.

4. It is a criminal offence to:

- fail to disclose a disclosable pecuniary interest at a meeting if it is not on the register;
- fail to notify the Monitoring Officer, within 28 days, of a DPI that is not on the register that a Member disclosed to a meeting;
- participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which a Member has a DPI;
- knowingly or recklessly provide information that is false or misleading in notifying the Monitoring Officer of a DPI or in disclosing such interest to a meeting.

(Note: The criminal penalties available to a court are to impose a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale and disqualification from being a councillor for up to 5 years.)

## AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Minutes (Pages 7 - 14)

To receive the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2015

3. Chairman's Announcements

4. Declarations of Interest

To receive any Member's Declaration of Interest and Party Whip arrangements.

5. East Herts Draft Fuel Poverty Strategy (Pages 15 - 40)

6. Update on the Integration of Public Health into the Council's Core Services (Pages 41 - 54)

7. East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Submission of ideas for Workplan 2016/17 (Pages 55 - 62)

8. East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Viewing of Public Health Training (Pages 63 - 68)

Report and Presentation.

9. Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee - Work Programme (Pages 69 - 82)

10. Minutes: from Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Health and Wellbeing Officers' Group (Pages 83 - 86)

11. Minutes: Ageing Well Group - Dementia Initiative (Pages 87 - 90)

12. Minutes: Hertfordshire County Council Health Scrutiny Committee

(A) An Update from the Chairman on HCC Health Scrutiny; and

(B) The Minutes of the meeting (12 November 2015) are not yet available.

13. Urgent Business

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chairman of the meeting, is of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration and is not likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information.

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MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE  
HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, WALLFIELDS, HERTFORD ON  
TUESDAY 13 OCTOBER 2015, AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT: Councillor N Symonds (Chairman)  
Councillors D Abbott, A Alder, S Cousins,  
H Drake, J Kaye, M McMullen, P Moore and  
R Standley

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillors D Andrews, E Buckmaster,  
L Haysey and P Ruffles

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Simon Barfoot	- Environmental Health Promotion Officer
Lorraine Blackburn	- Democratic Services Officer
Simon Drinkwater	- Acting Chief Executive/Director of Neighbourhood Services
Will O'Neill	- Head of Communications, Engagement and Cultural Services
Claire Pullen	- Engagement and Partnerships Officer (Grants)
Mekhola Ray	- Community Projects Team Manager
Su Tarran	- Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Service
Paul Thomas-Jones	- Environmental Health Manager

309 APOLOGY

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs D Hollebon.

310 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2015 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

311 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Members and Officers to the meeting.

The Chairman referred to the Task and Finish Group which had been established to visit the Year One District Offer funded projects. The aim was for Councillors to take a “light touch” approach to projects which had benefitted from the match funded grant of £100,000 from Hertfordshire County Council (HCC). Further information would be circulated to the group and plans made for the visits over the next few weeks.

The Chairman referred to an invitation to attend the Community Scrutiny Committee meeting on 17 November 2015 to hear plans to review the council’s leisure strategy.

312 THE INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH AGENDA INTO THE DELIVERY OF HOUSING BENEFIT AND COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT

The Chairman welcomed the Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Services to the meeting. The Scrutiny Officer explained that last year, core services had been asked to ensure that they were integrating public health into the Council’s services. The Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Services had been invited to the meeting to provide assurances that the service, as a main contact point for vulnerable customers, was integrating the wider public health agenda and providing clear information to its customers.



The Chairman reminded Members that whilst the Council administered the service, the Council only acted as agent for the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP).

The Head of Revenues and Benefits Shared Services provided statistical background information in terms of the number of non-domestic rates and council tax determinations processed and benefit claims made and processed. She explained how much grant the Council received from the DWP to support the service. It was noted that last year, the service had sent out 300,000 letters.

The Head of Revenues and Benefits acknowledged the importance the service had in ensuring its customers received timely help and advice and how this could impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals and families who might have to make decisions on whether to heat their homes or feed their families. She explained that staff were trained to ensure that they did not act judgementally but considered claims objectively and to signpost its customers to agencies where further help could be given, especially those who were vulnerable and people with mental health issues.

The Head of Revenues and Benefits summarised alternative methods of service delivery in terms of moving forward, including reviewing how customers contacted the service by the use of technology (e.g. “Nudge Technology” where customers would be provided with reminder texts on a Council Tax bill falling due).

The Head of Revenues and Benefits explained the importance of making personal visits to individuals, especially vulnerable customers, as a means of speeding up the administrative process and in ensuring timely referrals to other support agencies such as the Citizens’ Advice Service (CAB). She referred to the need to use information it had on its customers to ensure they received the right service.

The Head of Revenues and Benefits referred to the impact the welfare reforms would have on individuals in terms of their requirements and the training needed to support staff and

those staff working from home. She referred to the need to continue to work closely with other colleagues within the Council, such as Housing Services, to ensure support mechanisms were in place.

In response to a query regarding staff who could be affected by stress, the Head of Revenues and Benefits explained the processes in place to ensure managers stayed in daily contact with their teams and telephone rotation arrangements.

In response to a query from Councillor M McMullen regarding links to other services, the Head of Revenues and explained the tools in place to ensure Officers made appropriate connections and referrals.

In response to a question from Councillor J Kaye, the Head of Revenues and Benefits explained the legislative role of the DWP and the role of the Council as its agent in delivering the service. In response to a further query regarding information provided to the elderly, the Head of Revenues and Benefits explained that, when needed, Officers would carry home visits to ensure that they were provided with relevant information and were signposted on where to get further help.

Councillor J Kaye queried the use of “Mosaic Data” and how this could help customers. The Head of Revenues and Benefits explained how data the Council held could be layered over other information to provide a more detailed view of potential need subject to the restrictions in terms of the Data Protection Act and use of individuals’ data.

In response to a query from Councillor A Alder regarding working with other volunteer organisations and mentoring, the Head of Revenues and Benefits explained that the Council worked with agencies appropriate to the client’s needs. She referred to the long term relationship with the CAB and its links with support agencies. She confirmed that the Council did not have the resources to facilitate mentoring, but referred to the importance of directing customers to the right agency.

In response to a query from Councillor R Standley regarding “going the extra mile”, the Head of Revenues and Benefits

explained that for a person who might be identified as vulnerable, an officer would make arrangements for a home visit, where all the information could be obtained in one visit and an assessment of other need from other support agencies could be identified.

In response to a query regarding assisting those with learning difficulties, the Head of Revenues and Benefits explained that the service was always willing to try to work with groups to ensure that communication channels were open.

The Committee Chairman, on behalf of Members thanked the Head of Revenue and Benefits Shared Services for her thorough and informative presentation. She suggested that the recommendation should include a reference to Hertfordshire Year of Mental Health and that the Council should be supporting appropriate national campaigns. This was supported.

The Committee approved the report, as amended.

RESOLVED – that (A) initiatives to distribute healthy lifestyle information to vulnerable customers from Shared Services be supported and promoted, including Hertfordshire’s Year of Mental Health and other appropriate national campaigns, as a contribution to the wider public health agenda;

(B) any resulting actions arising from (A) be tracked within the context of the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy Action Plan; and

(C) the Members’ Development Group be asked to approve the inclusion of the NHS Online Training Programme in the Members’ Training Programme and be made available to key Officers.

### 313 UPDATE ON ACTIONS UNDER THE AGEING WELL AGENDA

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The Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing submitted a report providing an update on East Herts Strategic

Partnership's initiative on the District-wide Ageing Well Programme. The Engagement and Partnerships Team Leader provided a summary of the initiative and the embargo placed on the publicity in relation to the success of the bid.

In response to a query regarding Dementia Friends and training, the Scrutiny Officer explained what training was offered by the Council, how this was advertised and that those interested could attend.

In response to a query from Councillor D Abbott regarding encouraging the use of volunteers, the Engagement and Partnerships Team Leader explained the principles behind "Time Banking" aimed at using individuals' skills to assist others in the community and building up "credits" as a result. The Chairman provided a statistical breakdown of volunteers provided by Hertfordshire County Council.

The Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing referred to the important role of volunteers and the ideas generated by the Ageing Well Steering Group.

The Committee agreed the report.

RESOLVED – that (A) the progress made by the multi-agency Ageing Well Steering Group be noted; and

(B) Members actively promote and support projects in their wards and identify residents to become physical activity champions, dementia friends or "Time Bankers".

#### 314 HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY - WORK PROGRAMME

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The Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee submitted a report on the Committee's future work programme for 2015/16.

Councillor P Moore suggested that the Head of Community Safety and Health Services be invited to a future meeting to discuss progress on the new Licensing Policy. This was

supported.

The Leader suggested that the Committee might want to consider a presentation/report on planning and place, including housing, for older people in the health and wellbeing agenda. She further suggested that Officers review the implications of town and rural isolation. These suggestions were supported.

Councillor A Alder suggested that Disabled Facilities Grants (DFG) be reviewed and that “Cross Roads” and the officer responsible for DFGs be asked to attend a meeting to address this. The Chairman explained that Members needed to support and scrutinise more in depth projects and explained who, within the Council, administered DFGs.

Members asked that an Officer provide an update on the District Plan and how this supported the health and wellbeing agenda.

The Committee approved the report, as now amended.

RESOLVED – that the work programme, as now amended, be agreed.

#### 315 MINUTES: HCC HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AND UPDATES

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The Minutes of Hertfordshire County Council’s Health Scrutiny Committee on 18 June 2015 were submitted for information.

Councillor S Cousins explained that, at the request of the Chairman, he had attended the Hertfordshire Health and Wellbeing conference which had included the launch of the Hertfordshire Year of Mental Health at HCC on 9 July 2015. He provided a summary of the event.

The Committee noted the Minutes.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes be noted.

316 MINUTES: LSP HEALTH AND WELLBEING OFFICERS' GROUP

The Minutes of LJP Health and Wellbeing Officers' Group held on 15 July 2015 were submitted for information.

The Committee noted the Minutes.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes be noted.

317 MINUTES: LOCAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP - AGEING WELL STEERING GROUP

The Minutes of Local Strategic Partnership Ageing Well Steering Group held on 21 July 2015 and 8 September 2015 were submitted for information.

The Committee noted the Minutes.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes be noted.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

Chairman .....

Date .....

## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE,  
8 DECEMBER 2015

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REPORT BY THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND  
WELLBEING

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EAST HERTS DRAFT FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

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### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To inform the Committee of the publication earlier this year of the Fuel Poverty Strategy for England 2015 and of a new statutory fuel poverty target.
- To seek the Committee's support for a new Fuel Poverty Strategy for East Herts based on the guiding principles in the national strategy
- To appraise the Committee of a potential range of local actions aimed at reducing fuel poverty within East Herts.

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY**

**That :**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>the draft Fuel Poverty Strategy for East Herts as appended to the report be supported; and</b>
<b>(B)</b>	<b>further reports on specific measures within the draft strategy be submitted as they develop.</b>

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Environment Scrutiny Committee previously received a report on Fuel Poverty in East Herts in September 2014. Members of that Committee recommended that a new Fuel Poverty Strategy be prepared for the District, to replace the Council's previous

Affordable Warmth Strategy 2007-2012, in the light of the anticipated publication of the Fuel Poverty Strategy for England.

- 1.2 Unfortunately the Government Strategy document was repeatedly delayed with final publication just prior to the election this year.
- 1.3 Fuel poverty as an issue for East Herts has now been moved from the terms of reference of Environment Scrutiny to that of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.3 This report aims to provide a brief background to fuel poverty and to present and seek support of Members for a draft Fuel Poverty Strategy for East Herts.
- 1.4 East Herts Council first adopted a Fuel Poverty Strategy in December 2000. This outlined the Council's plans to alleviate fuel poverty in East Herts. The Strategy was reviewed in 2007 and renamed the Affordable Warmth Strategy.
- 1.5 Since 2007 there has been a huge range of initiatives and activities in the domestic energy efficiency sector, however, despite this fuel poverty amongst some households has continued to be an issue across the Country.
- 1.6 Almost all of the nationally available options for assistance with improving energy efficiency (such as the Green Deal) have now ceased, with the Energy Company Obligation expected to finish within the next two years.
- 1.7 The last coalition Government published a new National Fuel Poverty Strategy in March 2015 designed to set new targets for reducing the number of households in fuel poverty and to take a more focussed approach to providing assistance to eradicate fuel poverty in the future.
- 1.8 To reflect the objectives of the Government's Strategy as well as a new definition for those in fuel poverty, together with the many recent changes in the national domestic energy arena, the Council has produced a draft new East Herts Fuel Poverty Strategy (**Essential Reference Paper "B" refers**).
- 2.0 What is Fuel Poverty?
- 2.1 In the UK the concept of fuel poverty has traditionally been taken as occurring when a household is unable to afford to heat their



home to the level required for health and comfort. The generally accepted definition has been when more than 10% of the household income is required to be spent on heating the dwelling to a comfortable level.

- 2.2 However, the Government commissioned a review of fuel poverty in 2012 known as the *Hills Review*. This introduced a revised definition known as the *Low Income High Costs Indicator (LIHC)* and this was formally adopted in July 2013.

Under the new measure of fuel poverty, fuel costs are “equivalised” to reflect the fact that different types of household will have different levels of spending power. Therefore the new definition of a fuel poor household is where:

- They have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level)
- Were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line

- 2.3 The key elements in determining whether a household is fuel poor or not are:

- Income
- Fuel prices
- Fuel consumption (which is dependent on the dwelling characteristics and the lifestyle of the household)

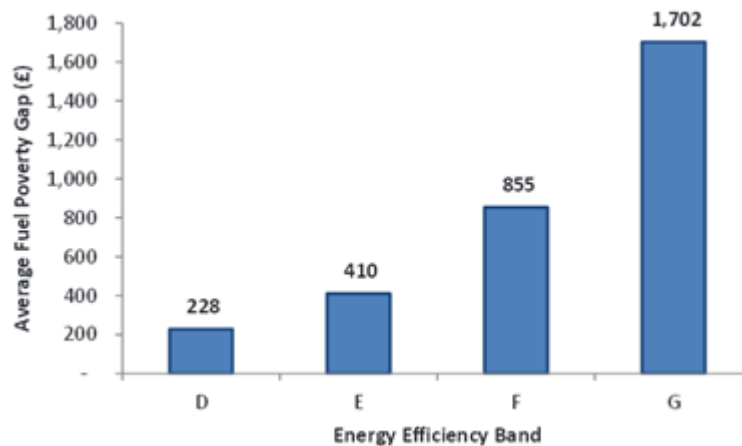
- 2.4 An innovation is that the measurement of fuel poverty will now include an assessment not only of the extent of the problem, but also the depth of the problem i.e. how badly affected each household actually is. This is achieved by looking at how much more a fuel poor household needs to spend to keep warm compared to a typical household.

- 2.5 Department of Energy and Climate Change research (DECC 2013) has shown the following general attributes for a fuel poor household:

- Annual income after tax and housing is less than half that of non- fuel poor
- Household energy costs are 20% higher
- 70% are of working age and of whom 80% are in work
- 45% are families
- 85% live in private tenure, mostly owner occupiers

- Most live in energy inefficient older homes, with 65% of such homes rated as band E or below

2.6 Fuel poor households tend to use the most expensive fuels for heating. Thus those deepest in fuel poverty have a fuel poverty gap of over £800 (off gas) compared with £332 for those using mains gas (DECC 2014). The fuel poverty gap also increases for those living in poorly insulated homes as the graph below indicates.



2.7 Taken together the information above allows us to build a picture of those most likely to be in fuel poverty along with the types of home most likely to be affected. In turn using this information the Government is intending to develop a policy to direct action to those that are in most need and that this policy framework can then be used by local authorities in directing energy efficiency activity in their own local area.

### 3.0 Fuel Poverty in East Herts

3.1 In East Herts data (DECC 2013) indicates that approximately 7.5% of local households are fuel poor. This is average for Hertfordshire as a whole. Watford Borough has the largest proportion of fuel poor at 10.3% whilst Stevenage and Broxbourne the least at 6.3%.

3.2 Whilst the figure of 7.5% for East Herts is average for the county as a whole this is based on a wide range of 2.4% to 17.1%, with the higher proportion within the rural north of the District and within those communities that are off gas and solid wall. The East Herts Council's House Condition Survey in 2009 found that rural housing was less energy efficient than housing in our towns, e.g., a Standard Assessment Profile (SAP) rating of just 41 in the Rural North, compared with 57 in Buntingford and with the overall rating for East Herts of 52.

#### 4.0 The Government Framework

- 4.1. The Government has set a new statutory target for reducing the number of fuel poor homes and this is that “as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable will achieve a minimum energy efficiency standard of band C, by 2030”.
- 4.2. In order to meet this target the Government has established three guiding principles:
- Prioritisation of the most fuel poor
  - Developing a cost effective policy to support the fuel poor
  - Prioritise “vulnerable” households in future fuel poverty policy decisions.

#### 5.0 Making the National Strategy Local to East Herts

- 5.1 In order to reflect the aspirations of the National Policy and to assist in contributing to the statutory target the draft Fuel Poverty Strategy for East Herts is split into seven challenges. A range of proposed actions is suggested for each. It is suggested that progress against the Strategy be reviewed within three years from adoption.
- 5.2 The draft Fuel Poverty Strategy for East Herts is appended as **Essential Reference Paper “B”**.

#### 6.0 Implications/Consultations

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

#### Background Papers

Fuel Poverty; a Framework for Future Action – DECC (August 2013).

Fuel Poverty Data – DECC (2013 and 2014)

Cutting the Cost of Keeping Warm – DECC (March 2015)

Contact Member: Councillor Eric Buckmaster -Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing  
[Eric.buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:Eric.buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Brian Simmonds – Head of Community Safety and Health Services – Extn 1498  
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Report Author: David Thorogood – Environmental Strategy and Development Manager - Ext No – 1621  
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## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

### IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives (delete as appropriate):	<p><b>People – Fair and accessible services for those that use them and opportunities for everyone to contribute</b></p> <p>This priority focuses on delivering strong services and seeking to enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing, particularly for those who are vulnerable.</p> <p><b>Place – Safe and Clean</b></p> <p>This priority focuses on sustainability, the built environment and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.</p> <p><b>Prosperity – Improving the economic and social opportunities available to our communities</b></p> <p>This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic opportunities and delivering cost effective services.</p>
Consultation:	<i>This will be carried out as appropriate with members and partner organisations.</i>
Legal:	<i>An Equality Impact Assessment will be produced following agreement of the draft strategy.</i>
Financial:	<i>Any financial implications arising from the implementation of the Strategy that are not contained within existing agreed budgets will be subject to further reports and approval as appropriate.</i>
Human Resource:	<i>There are no significant implications arising from this report.</i>
Risk Management:	<i>There are no risk management implications arising from this report.</i>
Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:	<i>Fuel Poverty has a significant effect on people's health and well being, with cold, poorly heated and uninsulated homes a recognised cause of excess winter deaths and other health issues.</i>

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**East Herts Council**  
**Fuel Poverty Strategy**

**December 2015**

DRAFT

## **Foreword**

East Herts District Council first adopted a Fuel Poverty Strategy in December 2000. This outlined the Council's plans to alleviate fuel poverty in East Herts. The Strategy was reviewed in 2007 and renamed the Affordable Warmth Strategy.

Since 2007 there has been a huge range of initiatives and activities in the domestic energy efficiency sector, however, despite this fuel poverty amongst some households has continued to be an issue across the Country. The last coalition Government published a new National Fuel Poverty Strategy in spring 2015 setting new targets for reducing the number of households in fuel poverty.

To reflect the objectives of the Government's Strategy as well as a new definition for those in fuel poverty, together with the many recent changes in the national domestic energy arena, the Council has produced a new East Herts Fuel Poverty Strategy.

Through this Strategy the Council will endeavour to develop advice, guidance and assistance to eligible private sector residents to assist those in fuel poverty in the District to achieve adequate and affordable warmth. Residents in the private sector will be actively encouraged to undertake energy efficiency measures to achieve affordable warmth within their own homes and private landlords will be encouraged to improve their dwellings. In line with the Government's National Strategy it is this Council's aim to eradicate fuel poverty where reasonable, practicable and possible and in so doing help to improve the quality of life of lower income households by assisting them in accessing affordable warmth.



## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 East Herts Council is committed to reducing the number of fuel poor households in the District and improving access to affordable warmth for all private sector residents. This strategy sets out the Council's plans for reducing fuel poverty in the light of the publication of the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy for England 2015.
- 1.2 The East Herts 2009 House Condition Survey provides a comprehensive assessment of the condition and energy efficiency of dwellings across all housing tenures within East Herts. It also considered the characteristics of the occupiers. The survey estimated there were over 12,000 vulnerable households across all tenures within the district. Whilst many vulnerable tenants of housing associations have benefited from substantial investment in their homes many vulnerable households across all tenures, but particularly those in the private sector, struggle to maintain a reasonable level of thermal comfort in their homes.
- 1.3 It is these residents that are most likely to live in cold, damp homes which they cannot afford to heat to a level sufficient for health and warmth. This can result in discomfort, fuel debt and ill health. The inability to access affordable warmth impacts upon quality of life and also places increasing demands upon health, housing and other services. Indeed in its most severe form it is calculated that 73.8 extra winter deaths are directly attributable to excess cold weather in East Herts each year (East Hertfordshire Health Profile 2015, Public Health England – three year rolling average).
- 1.4 This strategy identifies key priorities and objectives for East Herts based on the framework for action proposed in the Government's Fuel Poverty Strategy 2015. It is hoped that the adoption and implementation of a local Fuel Poverty Strategy for East Herts will contribute towards wider objectives of sustainable development, social inclusion and an overall improvement in the quality of life for people in the District.

## **2.0 What is fuel poverty?**

### **2.1 Definition**

In the UK the concept of fuel poverty has traditionally been taken as occurring when a household is unable to afford to heat their home to the level required for health and comfort. The generally accepted definition has been when more than 10% of the household income is required to be spent on heating the dwelling to a comfortable level. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has suggested that in order to achieve thermal comfort temperatures should be 21°C in the main living room and 18°C in other occupied rooms. It considers that at temperatures below 16°C there are serious health effects to the elderly and vulnerable, with a high risk of hypothermia below 10°C. (The Effects of the Indoor Housing Climate on the Health of the Elderly, WHO, 1984).

2.2 However, the Government commissioned a review of fuel poverty known as the Hills Review, which was formally adopted in July 2013. The Hills Review identified a new measure of fuel poverty known as the Low Income High Costs Indicator (LIHC). Under the new measure, fuel costs are “equivalised” to reflect the fact that different types of household will have different levels of spending power. Therefore under the new definition a household is considered to be fuel poor where:

- They have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level)
- Were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line

2.3 The key elements in determining whether a household is fuel poor or not are:

- Income
- Fuel prices

- Fuel consumption (which is dependent on the dwelling characteristics and the lifestyle of the household)
- 2.4 The main effect of the new definition is to reduce the number of households in apparent fuel poverty, since the old definition was heavily influenced by fluctuating fuel prices. The new definition, however, aims to better understand the number of ongoing fuel poor.
- 2.5 An innovation is that the measurement of fuel poverty will now include an assessment not only of the extent of the problem, but also the depth of the problem i.e. how badly affected each household actually is. This will be achieved by looking at how much more a fuel poor household needs to spend to keep warm compared to a typical household.
- 2.6 Department of Energy and Climate Change research (DECC 2013) has shown the following general attributes for a fuel poor household:
- Annual income after tax and housing is less than half that of non- fuel poor
  - Household energy costs are 20% higher
  - 70% are of working age and of whom 80% are in work
  - 45% are families
  - 85% live in private tenure, mostly owner occupiers
  - Most live in energy inefficient older homes, with 65% of such homes rated as band E or below
- 2.7 In particular the privately rented sector is disproportionately represented amongst fuel poor households. This has been recognised by the Government and by 2018 it will no longer be generally possible to let a home that has an Energy Performance Certificate of band F or G.

- 2.8 Fuel poor households tend to use the most expensive fuels for heating. Thus those deepest in fuel poverty have fuel poverty gap of over £800 (off gas) compared with £332 for those using mains gas. The fuel poverty gap also increases for those living in poorly insulated homes for example solid wall houses with no additional insulation and park homes.
- 2.9 Traditionally it has been thought that those households using prepayment meters are particularly likely to be fuel poor. The latest DECC research does not support this view, indicating instead that these tend to have the lowest fuel poverty gap whilst those on standard credit tariffs are the most affected (DECC 2014).
- 2.10 Taken together the information above allows us to build a picture of those most likely to be in fuel poverty along with the types of home most likely to be affected. In turn using this information the Government's Strategy aims to direct action to those that are in most need. It is the intention of the East Herts Strategy to utilise the national policy framework to direct and focus energy efficiency activity within the District.

### **3.0 Why Fuel Poverty Matters**

- 3.1 After many years of continued price rises in the domestic energy sector, over the last year there has been some reduction in unit cost, although there remains an upward trend in long term energy costs.
- 3.2 Whilst fuel poverty can be characterised as a cost of living issue, the Government recognises it as a distinct problem. It is therefore best considered as a function of household income adequacy and the thermal and energy efficiency of housing stock and domestic appliances. Thus for any given level of income households and individuals have an unequal ability to convert income into affordable warmth.

- 3.3 The Hills Review of Fuel Poverty (2012) identified fuel poverty as an “overlap issue” cutting across poverty, health and wellbeing and carbon reduction.
- 3.4 In terms of poverty households with the lowest incomes (in the bottom 20%) spend around 8% of their household budget on fuel compared to just 3% for the highest earning households - despite the fact that the highest earners tend to spend more on fuel in absolute terms ( DECC Fuel Statistics Report 2014). Fuel poor households therefore tend to trade off warmth against other necessities and typically under heat their homes.
- 3.5 Living at lower temperatures in a cold damp home contributes to a range of health and well-being consequences, including direct health issues such as cardiovascular and respiratory conditions, followed by hypothermia, which are the key cause of death linked to cold. In addition fuel poverty is linked to a strong correlation with social isolation and lower outcomes for young people (Warmer Homes Report, Policy Exchange 2015). In total it has been estimated that the health effect of living in cold homes costs the NHS in excess of £1.36 billion per year (Fuel Poverty, Age UK, 2014).
- 3.6 Fuel poor households generally live in less energy efficient properties – the average Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating being band E for fuel poor households compared to band D for non-fuel poor homes. In addition of course, the fuel poor are least able to afford capital improvements to their homes and this is compounded by the fact that the least efficient homes are often those that require the most works to improve their energy efficiency standard. For example there is a higher incidence of fuel poor households living in solid wall homes and the insulation of such homes to modern standards can be prohibitively expensive.

#### **4.0 Fuel Poverty in East Herts**

- 4.1 In East Herts Government data (DECC 2013) indicates that approximately 7.5% of local households are fuel poor. This is average for Hertfordshire as a whole. Watford Borough has the

largest proportion of fuel poor at 10.3% whilst Stevenage and Broxbourne the least at 6.3%. Interestingly East Herts has a very similar level of fuel poor as typical inner London Boroughs confirming that fuel poverty is not necessarily an inner city problem.

- 4.2 Whilst the figure of 7.5% for East Herts is average for the county as a whole this is based on a wide range of 2.4% to 17.1%, with the higher proportion within the rural north of the District and within those communities that are off gas. This reflects a similar picture across the UK where there is usually a significantly greater proportion of the fuel poor in more rural communities, off mains gas and living in “hard to treat” properties (DECC 2014). Indeed the East Herts Council’s House Condition Survey in 2009 found that rural housing was less energy efficient than housing in our towns; e.g. a Standard Assessment Profile (SAP) rating of just 41 in the Rural North, compared with 57 in Buntingford and with the overall rating for East Herts of 52.
- 4.3 The East Hertfordshire Housing Needs Survey 2014 provides additional evidence with some 21% of households in the District indicating that their homes are too costly to heat and over 11% claiming to have no/insufficient heating (DCA East Herts Housing Needs Survey Data 2014).

## 5.0 The National Fuel Poverty Target

- 5.1 Through use of the Warm Homes and Energy Act 2000 as amended by the Energy Act 2013 the Government has created a new statutory target for reducing the number of fuel poor homes as detailed in its Fuel Poverty Strategy for England 2015. The target states that “*as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable will achieve a minimum energy efficiency standard of band C, by 2030*”, with intermediate milestones of 2020 to achieve band E and 2025 to reach band D. This may be seen as a challenging ambition as currently just 4% of fuel poor households live in homes of band C or better, compared to over 18% for non-fuel poor households.

5.2 The Government has also stated that it sees these targets as contributing to the UK national carbon reduction targets of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 80% by 2050. Further it believes that the target is necessary to ensure that the fuel poor do not get left behind as standards improve in the general housing stock.

5.3 In order to meet the 2030 target significant activity will be required to improve the energy efficiency of housing stock both at a national level and more locally.  
The guiding principles recognised by the Government in relation to action on fuel poverty in order to achieve the target are as follows:

- Prioritisation of the most fuel poor - fuel poor households face the highest costs of maintaining an adequate level of warmth in the home. In addition they face the starkest trade-off between heating their home and spending on other essentials.
- Developing a cost effective policy to support the fuel poor – adopting a cost effective approach means obtaining the best returns in relation to many contending challenges and the Government indicates that it sees the use of new technology as one way by which intervention costs for fuel poverty initiatives may be maintained at an acceptable level.
- Prioritise “vulnerable” households in future fuel poverty policy decisions – some fuel poor households are more at risk from the impacts of living in a cold homes than others, even if they are not the most severely fuel poor in simple financial terms. The Government’s Strategy considers the particular needs of the vulnerable referring to the oldest old and the youngest young along with those with specific long term health conditions or disabilities.

## 6.0 The Role of Local Authorities

6.1 The National Strategy makes clear that it sees local authorities as having a key role to play in delivering action on the ground to combat fuel poverty. In particular it indicates that local authorities

may wish to work with local Health and Wellbeing Boards, as well as local health partners in developing specific initiatives. Local authorities are especially seen as key in their ability to engage customers and provide trusted support to the local community and to act as the honest broker in an area where customers often feel the need for technical support and advice. Secondly local authorities are seen as having valuable experience of targeting support to specific households due to their local knowledge.

- 6.2 In addition to the new national Fuel Poverty Strategy for England, the Care Act 2014 and its associated statutory guidance imposes a duty on District Councils to cooperate with a duty imposed on County Councils to ensure well-being of an individual, including the general suitability of living accommodation.

The guidance recognises that housing or suitable living accommodation is a place which is safe, healthy, and 'suitable for the needs of a person, so as to contribute to promoting physical and emotional health and wellbeing and social connections – a healthy home would be dry, warm and insulated' (Department of Health, October 2014).

- 6.3 The Housing Act 2004 prescribes the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) as the methodology to be used by the local Housing Authority (the District Councils in Hertfordshire) for evaluating potential risks to health and safety from housing deficiencies.

The underlying principle of the HHSRS is that any residential premises should provide a safe and healthy environment for any potential occupier or visitor. Statutory guidance is provided on a range of 29 housing hazards including excess cold and damp for specific vulnerable groups (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, Housing Health and Safety Rating System Operating Guidance, February 2006).



## **7.0 A Strategy for Action in East Herts**

7.1 The East Herts Fuel Poverty Strategy is shaped by the guiding principles of the Government's own Fuel Poverty Strategy as discussed in in section 5.3 above. In order to take these into account at a local level the following seven challenges from the National Strategy have been identified as requiring action:

- Challenge 1 - improving energy efficiency standards in fuel poor homes
- Challenge 2 - working together to help the fuel poor through partnership and learning
- Challenge 3 - increasing effective targeting of fuel poor households
- Challenge 4 - improving support to certain high cost homes such as non-gas or park homes
- Challenge 5 - improving support to certain low income households such as those who have health conditions linked to living in a cold home
- Challenge 6 - tackling the financial burden of energy bills for those on low incomes
- Challenge 7 - ensuring the fuel poor are able to get maximum benefit from the energy market

7.2 The definition of vulnerable household for the purposes of this Strategy is taken as one where a member of that household is in receipt of a means tested or disability related benefit, or is over 65 years of age or contains children under five years old. In addition should a hazard of damp or mould be identified

under HHSRS guidance then the vulnerable age group will include all persons aged 14 years or under.

- 7.3 The table below sets out a range of proposed activities to help alleviate each of the challenges identified above. Potential tasks are identified along with indicative timescales. Progress against the Strategy will be reviewed within three years.

Challenge	Activity	Timescale
Challenge 1 - improving energy efficiency standards in fuel poor homes	a) Continue to promote availability of free loft and cavity wall insulation, which is available through nationally funded Energy Company Obligation Scheme (ECO). Promotion via website, telephone advice, LINK magazine, flyers, partner organisations, Herts Healthy Homes. Seek to develop further promotional opportunities where ever possible. (Herts Healthy Homes is a partnership between all local authorities in Hertfordshire and the third sector aimed at providing advice, information and practical action to help the elderly and vulnerable stay healthy in their own homes. It is led by Herts County Council)	Currently Ongoing although ECO funding will cease by March 2017 at latest.
	b) Promote statutory requirement on private sector landlords that homes for rent will require minimum energy efficiency standards of band E or above from 1 April 2018. Promotion via usual outlets and local landlord forum meetings.	Ongoing
	c) Continue to promote East Herts Home Insulation Grants. The scheme provides 50% grant of up to £200 towards loft insulation and a 50% grant of up to £300 towards cavity wall insulation.	Ongoing
	d) Investigate and report on a possible extension of the East Herts Home Insulation	September 2016

	Grants to include a wider range of higher cost measures e.g. external and internal wall insulation. Insulation of fuel poor homes to current standards is proportionally more costly than for non-fuel poor homes as both more expensive <i>and</i> extensive measures are usually required. Consider refocusing of grants to the most fuel poor either directed to rural north and/or most vulnerable.	
	e) Continue to utilise the East Herts Discretionary Decent Homes Grants to provide means tested grants towards the costs of works to help homes meet the Decent Homes Standard. As part of this standard, there is a requirement for homes to provide a reasonable degree of thermal comfort, and so energy efficiency measures, along with the repair of seriously defective boilers can be provided through this criterion in exceptional circumstances. Currently, there is a £1000 limit for energy efficiency assistance, raised to £2000 for energy efficiency works in hard to treat homes. The cash limit is removed for households falling within government's vulnerable household definition.	Ongoing
	f) Continue to deliver through Herts Healthy Homes small scale home insulation improvements such as minor draught proofing works at no cost to vulnerable householders.	Ongoing
Challenge 2 - working together to help the fuel poor through partnership and learning	a) Continue to work in partnership with Herts Healthy Homes to raise awareness, amongst the vulnerable, of the potential health effects of inadequate home heating.	Ongoing
	b) Investigate and report on opportunities for encouraging community energy projects, in conjunction with local third sector organisations, to deliver social benefit for the fuel poor through establishment of local lower cost energy tariffs and/or funding for energy efficiency measures directed at the fuel poor.	March 2017

	c) Continue to work with Herts Sustainability Forum to raise awareness of domestic energy efficiency measures through presence at community events and production of promotional material e.g. Home Insulation guide and Energy Vampire challenge. (Herts Sustainability Forum is a partnership of most district authorities across Hertfordshire along with several third sector organisations and the University of Hertfordshire. It is currently led by East Herts Council)	Ongoing
	d) Facilitate “bite-size” training sessions on energy efficiency awareness for East Herts front line staff, particularly those that undertake home visits. This will enable those staff to provide better help and advice and knowledge of appropriate referral pathways for those householders at risk of fuel poverty.	October 2016
	e) Investigate the potential for joint working with heating engineers to determine if there are any opportunities for establishing a referral service about insulation and tariff switching following a visit by an engineer to service a boiler.	January 2017
Challenge 3 - increasing effective targeting of fuel poor households	a) Undertake a mapping exercise utilising Lower Super Output Area data (once released by DECC) on gas networks, fuel poverty levels, housing type, energy performance opportunities for renewable energy together with results from the forthcoming East Herts Housing Modelling Project. Improved mapping will provide the Council with a more comprehensive understanding of the issues and constraints and direct possible solutions for fuel poverty within the District; especially as within East Herts fuel poverty tends to occur in pockets and is not possible to treat on a street by street approach.	November 2016
	b) Investigate if there are opportunities to seek funding from the remaining reprioritised national Energy Company Obligation (ECO) for specific funding for improvements to off-gas homes.	ECO funding will cease by early 2017

	c) Investigate the potential through Herts Healthy Homes for closer working with GP's and health workers to identify those householders at risk of fuel poverty. A significant cohort of fuel poor households is not currently identifiable using centralised, data driven approaches, local health agencies may be able to assist with improving this data set.	September 2016
Challenge 4 - improving support to certain high cost homes such as non-gas or park homes	a) Investigate potential for more detailed mapping of non-gas homes in East Herts, with a view to identifying those properties that are within 23 metres of the grid in order to determine potential for moving additional homes onto the gas network.	January 2017
	b) Continue to investigate and submit bids for external grants, should they become available, for projects aimed at improving energy efficiency in high cost homes.	Ongoing
	c) Investigate and promote improved insulation methods for park homes including new insulation technology and keep options for seeking external funding under review.	Ongoing
Challenge 5 - improving support to certain low income households such as those who have health conditions linked to living in a cold home	a) Continue to work in partnership with Herts Healthy Homes to deliver a range of targeted energy efficiency assistance to vulnerable and fuel poor residents, including advice on energy efficiency and benefits, home visits, draught proofing improvements, emergency portable heaters and electric blankets.	Ongoing
	b) To work with health centres, principally in conjunction with Herts Healthy Homes to deliver energy efficiency advice for the winter period through flu clinics and home visits by district nurses and other health professionals.	Ongoing
	c) Subject to agreement with partners to extend joint working with health centres and Herts Healthy Homes to include basic assessment of actual energy efficiency of a client's home during routine house calls by health professionals and for those professional to refer potential fuel poor householders to East Herts and the Herts	November 2016

	Healthy Homes programme for assistance.	
Challenge 6 - tackling the financial burden of energy bills for those on low incomes	a) Continue to promote uptake of the national Warm Home Discount (via website and Herts Healthy Homes), which provides £140 toward electricity costs for vulnerable low income households. Government has yet to confirm commitment for scheme beyond 2015/16.	Winter 2015/16
	b) Continue to promote availability of national cold weather payments during periods of very severe cold weather to pensioners on low incomes and those on means tested benefits with young children	Ongoing
	c) Further promote the "Ready to Switch scheme" through the East Herts web site, literature and Herts Healthy Homes. Ready to Switch is a collective tariff switching scheme coordinated by a consortium of local authorities of which Herts County Council is a part. Some 35% of UK households – with older householders disproportionately represented (Energy Saving Trust 2015) - have never switched energy supplier and may therefore be on higher cost tariffs.	July 2017
	d) Identify those oil buying clubs operating in East Herts, with a view to promoting their use by local residents and also encouraging the formation of further community ventures. A significant proportion of fuel poor households are those whose homes are off-gas and heated by oil (approx. 30%). Local oil buying clubs enable groups of people to combine their orders for fuel oil in order to achieve a more competitive price from suppliers. Several clubs currently operate in East Herts and generally achieve savings of at least 10% below base which can be a useful means to reduce fuel costs.	March 2018
	e) Wood fuel is becoming an increasingly popular option in East Herts, and may provide opportunities for the fuel poor particularly in off- gas areas. However, suitable commercial wood supplies can be costly. There is believed to be considerable potential to establish a local wood fuel	November 2017

	network within the district and it is proposed that this be investigated with possible local suppliers.	
Challenge 7 - ensuring the fuel poor are able to get maximum benefit from the energy market	a) see 6c above.	July 2016
	b) Promote, via the East Herts website and Herts Healthy Homes, the concept of regular tariff switching, in order to encourage local residents to review their own household energy suppliers to ensure they continue to achieve best value for money.	Ongoing
	c) Encourage householders to apply to their utility company for installation of smart meters in advance of main national rollout, which is to be completed by 2020. Smart meters offer real time information on energy use, including energy use in pounds and pence and as such have been shown to be a useful tool in helping those in fuel poverty budget effectively. In particular those householders currently on prepayment type meters will see greater convenience and choice in payment top-up and the ability to switch between credit and prepayment modes.	Ongoing to 2020

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## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY – 08 DECEMBER 2015

#### REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

#### EAST HERTS HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY: UPDATE ON INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To update Members on the integration of Public Health across the Council Departments one year on from the October 2014 Health and Wellbeing Panel meeting

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY :</u></b> <b>That:</b>
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<b>(A)</b>	<b>the progress of integrating the public health agenda into core services of Community Safety and Health Services, Planning and Development Manager, Environmental and Leisure Services and Housing be supported</b>
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#### 1.0 Background

On October 16 2013 the Council approved its second Public Health Strategy, the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018. The new strategy combines the public health wellbeing, prevention and protection principles of the first East Herts Public Health Strategy alongside the life course approach linked with the central aspects of environmental, social, health economic and population factors. This strategy seeks to mainstream the public health role within the Council and its partners, recognising the contribution and joint working by different services (both inter-departmental and external). It will enable us to deliver projects and partnership approaches that contribute to the areas highlighted as being of greater importance to East Herts residents, based on statistical data that is available.

- 1.1 In seeking to mainstreaming public health across the Council, six months on from the adoption of the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018, the Health and Wellbeing panel

chose the October 2014 meeting to assess the extent of public health integration across different departments. Heads of Service from Community Safety and Health Services, Development Management and Planning, Environmental Services and Housing responded to a series of questions and presented information how their Department was integrating public health into its service delivery. This was demonstrated through overall health and wellbeing strategic focus alongside specific examples of projects or areas that delivered or connected with health and wellbeing influence.

## 2.0 Report

The information presented in October 2014 has been captured and is presented below in the first column. Heads of Service were asked to reflect on the extent of integration one year ago, and further review any significant public health progression since; including additional strategic development or new areas of contribution. The updated content is reflected in the second column.

### East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

- 1 Healthy children starting off well
- 2 Empowering children, young people and adults to achieve their life potential
- 3 Creating health and work together
- 4 Promoting positive health and wellbeing life quality for all
- 5 Healthy places and sustainable communities
- 6 Pro-active health prevention

<b>Integration of Public Health Delivery at October 2014 HWP</b>	<b>Update on Public Health Progress at December 2015</b>
<p><b>Community Safety and Health Services</b></p> <p>HWB of EH Residents – essential Council role</p> <p>Licensing Policy &gt; public health capacity and influence high (could be legal challenge involved)</p> <p>Work to help those suffering with Dementia</p> <p>Community Cab Scheme, BHCVS Accreditation and Assessment in progress</p> <p>Private rented and social housing: From approximately 200 enquiries relating to housing around 50% of these related to Damp and Mould.</p>	<p><b>3 Creating health and work together</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Statement of licensing policy has been completed in a draft format which has raised a significant number of questions by the reviewing Barrister. Document needs to be refined with more work and by reference to empirical data and reviewed again before it will be in fit state to be considered. This is a slow burning project which whilst considered important does not have any priority or resource behind it.</li> </ul> <p><b>4 Promoting positive health and wellbeing life quality for all</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New project started in partnership with CrossRoads Care North Herts aimed at supporting individuals with dementia and their families. It works by providing simple adaptations to their home environment to assist in maintaining their independent living and enhance their wellbeing.</li> <li>• The pilot took place but the scheme did not take off. The accreditation was to be conducted by Herts Regional college who were unable to meet the requirements of BHVSC and EHC</li> </ul> <p><b>5 Healthy places and sustainable communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A significant proportion of housing requests are from social housing tenants. The balance may change due to new legislation on retaliatory eviction.</li> <li>• A new draft Housing and Health Strategy currently being consulted on.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Planning and Development Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance on National Policy and Planning Framework presentation – application of HWB influence and adaptation</li> <li>• H and S cross connections</li> <li>• Purpose of Service-assessment against HWB Priorities –</li> <li>• *Measurement Framework for tracking and evaluating Service progression – single example perhaps</li> <li>• Planning have a fully developed and informed infrastructure District Plan, from this scope/scale of development can be linked to proportionate infrastructure.</li> <li>• Current situation – many aspects to consider and balance in any series of planning decisions in relation to HWB which interconnect</li> <li>• Pressure for development</li> <li>• Sustainability is key</li> <li>• Decision of Policy makers including Planning inspectorate is to reference range of considerations</li> </ul>	<p><b>5 Healthy Places and Sustainable Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy position in planning terms is largely unchanged.</li> <li>• No new national policy of significance has been released and the NPPF (March 2012) remains in place. The Councils District Plan – which sets out future planning policies – remains in preparation with the intention that the next stage in preparation – with the release of the pre-submission draft – will be reached in Spring 2016.</li> <li>• In the interim, the development management team continues to deal with development proposals against the background policy objectives of enabling sustainable development, securing appropriate and sufficient infrastructure and seeking to deliver adequate new development to meet housing, employment and other needs of communities. There remains a continuing need however to respond to a range of competing issues and priorities when reaching development management decisions.</li> </ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need with planning and licensing to establish cumulative (HWB and Evidence) affect.</li> <li>• Option to use policies to inform evidence base around usage rates and applying legislative classes</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Environmental and Leisure Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleansing/waste collection services (Public protection)</li> <li>• Parks and Open Spaces and Leisure Influence</li> <li>• Appropriate standard / attractiveness &gt; increase usage of Parks and enjoyment of green space</li> <li>• 120 parks and open spaces – 45 larger coverage amenities including early years provision</li> <li>• All age provision – directly and indirectly managed</li> <li>• MUGA's Multi-use-games-areas &gt; informal recreation</li> <li>• Adventure Play capacity</li> <li>• Organised Recreation facilitated also</li> </ul>	<p><b>2 Empowering children, young people and adults to achieve their life potential</b></p> <p>Continuing to encourage more people, regardless of age or ability, to become more physically active in the parks and open spaces of East Herts</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continuing the volunteer lead Health Walks programme.</li> <li>• Creation of signed walking routes e.g. Foxholes and Bishop's Stortford.</li> <li>• Installing trim trail / fitness style equipment in public open spaces e.g. Grange Paddocks</li> <li>• Continuing to improve the play equipment within the council play areas e.g. more physically challenging play equipment proposed for The Bourne.</li> <li>• Encouraging and supporting leisure provider to develop use of outside areas; e.g. Moonlight Walk and The Relay Run at Hartham and other outreach initiatives with schools and local charities.</li> <li>• Development of 3G all-weather pitches (e.g. Hartham Common) to widen the sports offering to different groups of</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adult/Older people – innovation approaches including fitness/trim trail installations</li> <li>• Geocaching/Orienteering</li> <li>• Boot camps</li> <li>• Get Park Active – 2014 saw highest level of customer base interaction across age profile in excess of 1100 families and children, adults attended.</li> <li>• Leisure SLM provision &gt; formal provision in Gym and Swim classes and Exercise referral/cardiac</li> </ul>	<p>residents and customers including; offering football to all ages; walking football initiatives for older people; girl's football development.</p> <p><b>4 Promoting positive health and wellbeing life quality for all, by:</b></p> <p>Encouraging more people to access to greenspace, including those with disabilities, to improve both physical and mental health and wellbeing. Improving access to and within the parks and open spaces of East Herts. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Installation of new gates at The Bourne play site to make access easier.</li> <li>• Completion of the Foxholes circular walking route and creation of a leaflet to promote.</li> <li>• Working with external providers to expand 'Boot Camp' style outdoor exercise.</li> </ul> <p><b>5 Healthy places and sustainable communities</b></p> <p>Continuing to engage with local communities to promote use of greenspace, and the use of sports and leisure facilities. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friends of Groups established for major parks. Recently expanded to develop 'Friends of Group' at Hartham Common and extending the role of Southern Country Park group to include other parks in Bishop's Stortford.</li> <li>• Get Park Active community events run annually in Southern Country Park and Pishiobury Park.</li> <li>• Free swim sessions for disabled users and carers at Hartham and Grange Paddocks leisure centres.</li> </ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free summer swims to all enrolled on Everyone Active swim school, young and old.</li> <li>• Working with Amateur Swimming Association to develop and provide an effective school swimming programme.</li> <li>• SLM awarded 'ASA Facility Operator of the Year'</li> <li>• Developing new leisure management contract, reviewing:</li> <li>• The current provision and sustainability of leisure facilities</li> <li>• Articulation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy through the new leisure management contract.</li> <li>• Undertaking a Non-User Survey of Leisure Facilities to provide an insight into the barriers that exist to participation.</li> </ul> <p>Continued promotion of waste and recycling services, and assisted services available to enable people to live in healthy and sustainable communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assisted waste collection services</li> <li>• Working with Health Service providers – sharps box collection service</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Housing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choice based lettings</li> <li>• Individual accommodation &gt; always guided by provision and relation to community/familial impact</li> <li>• Clear Assessment and Provision procedure in place (with recognition of staying in local environment for individual/family matched to available housing options for individual)</li> <li>• Bishop's Stortford – acknowledged that shortage of stock housing in BS</li> </ul>	<p><b>1 Healthy children starting off well</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopted Housing Register and Allocations Policy that clearly prioritising applicants by housing need reflecting issues such as impact of healthy from current accommodation, insecurity of tenure (secure accommodation has positive impact on wellbeing and life chances particularly for children).</li> </ul> <p><b>2 Empowering children, young people and adults to achieve their life potential</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy and Choice based lettings system and procedures do prioritise connection to district and also has procedures for recognising ties to local communities within the district for applicants.</li> </ul> <p><b>5 Healthy places and sustainable communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General shortage of affordable homes across the district (across all tenures) but Bishop's Stortford is particularly acute.</li> </ul> <p><b>4 Promoting positive health and wellbeing life quality for all</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impact of welfare reform changes be to be implemented when the welfare and Work Bill becomes Act is likely to be significant on residents particularly those on low incomes who are often high of indices for healthy, wordlessness, literacy etc.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Overall Summary of emerging themes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of current HWB wider influence and momentum</li> <li>• Need to establish wider cross connections within Councils and across County between</li> </ul>	

<p>Councils e.g. Leisure provision and delivery and connecting Sports and Physical Activity with injuries and specialist professionals with Sports medicine expertise</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition that existing provision and pressures create underlying climate and environment in which HWB has to be embedded and mainstreamed into e.g. housing stock in specific locations could be in short supply or pressure and power of developers in relation to development</li> <li>• Support for whole system approach and national lobbying for increased influence and delivery in public health at local level</li> <li>• Countywide approach to the management of those living with Long Term Conditions (LTC)</li> <li>• Cultural change aspect – people and communities taking responsibility for themselves – scope for local projects tailored to local solutions e.g. acknowledging the role of economics and profit margins, making more efficient use of local monies.</li> <li>• Pro-activeness in way</li> </ul>	
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<p>which Councils and partners seize opportunities and role of corporate/social responsibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition that people and health are social issues so there needs to be a wider thinking and understanding of the health determinants and factors that influence people's lives and communities</li> </ul>	
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2.1 It is proposed that the next public health update be reported on a two yearly basis, October 2017.

### 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

- East Herts Public Health Strategy ([link](#))
- East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018 ([link](#))

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**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives:	<p><b><i>People – Fair and accessible services for those that use them and opportunities for everyone to contribute</i></b></p> <p>This priority focuses on delivering strong services and seeking to enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing, particularly for those who are vulnerable.</p> <p><b><i>Place – Safe and Clean</i></b></p> <p>This priority focuses on sustainability, the built environment and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.</p> <p><b><i>Prosperity – Improving the economic and social opportunities available to our communities</i></b></p> <p>This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic opportunities and delivering cost effective services.</p>
Consultation:	<p><i>This is carried out with members, partners and population/community participants as appropriate in relation to the feedback and evaluation of health and wellbeing project delivery.</i></p>
Legal:	<p><i>The East Herts Health Wellbeing Strategy Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and relates to the equality and diversity approaches as part of an inclusive public health delivery approach. It is available on request.</i></p>
Financial:	<p><i>The East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the delivery of workplan projects is facilitated by three main funding streams:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• Core Environmental Health Budgets including the Public Health Projects Delivery code which has a total annual budget of £6800.</i></li><li><i>• LSP funding opportunities available to the LSP Health and Wellbeing group upon application; and other external partnership or awarding bodies for sums in the range of £5000 to £20000 for example.</i></li><li><i>• The District Offer Public Health Outcomes capability which means that the Council has £100, 000 for 2014/15 and £100, 000 for 2015/16 to</i></li></ul>

	<i>deliver public health outcomes for East Herts residents working with local partners.</i>
Human Resource:	None.
Risk Management:	N/A
Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:	<i>The Health and Wellbeing impact is as a result of the Strategic and deliverable aspects of the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy and associated annual workplan.</i>

## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY – 8 DECEMBER 2015

#### REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

#### EAST HERTS HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY: SUBMISSION OF IDEAS FOR WORKPLAN 2016/17

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To consult with members on the development of the workplan

#### **RECOMMENDATION FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY:**

**That:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>project ideas be submitted by Members on a form as detailed in paragraph 2.2</b>

#### 1.0 Background

On October 16 2013 the Council approved its second Public Health Strategy, the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018. The new strategy combines the public health wellbeing, prevention and protection principles of the first East Herts Public Health Strategy alongside the life course approach linked with the central aspects of environmental, social, health economic and population factors. This strategy seeks to mainstream the public health role within the Council and its partners, recognising the contribution and joint working by different services (both inter-departmental and external). It will enable us to deliver projects and partnership approaches that contribute to the areas highlighted as being of greater importance to East Herts residents, based on statistical data that is available.

- 1.1. Each year at the December meeting of the previously named Health and Wellbeing Panel members were invited to submit ideas for potential inclusion in the following financial year's health and wellbeing action plan. The draft health and wellbeing plan would then be presented at the following February meeting for approval.

The themes of the strategy and examples have been presented then ideas were sought from members and recorded for consideration.

## 2.0 Report

- 2.1 Members will be asked for their contributions to the East Herts Health and Wellbeing workplan 2016/17. Each member of the Committee will be asked to submit one idea linked to one of the 6 strategy priority elements. Examples of project ideas that have featured in the past and could be a helpful guide are found below. A submission template is included for the submitted ideas on the next page.

East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priority	Examples of projects or areas of health and wellbeing focus previously submitted
Healthy children starting off well	Working to support and encourage the valuable work of East Herts Children's Centres in their early years prevention work with children and families.
Empowering children, young people and adults to achieve their life potential	Supporting schools in accessing funding to enable healthy lifestyle learning.
Creating health and work together	Alongside staff health and wellbeing pages, suggestion to replicate similar member health and wellbeing intranet pages.
Promoting positive health and wellbeing life quality for all	Men's Health project with specific focus asked to include women as well.
Healthy places and sustainable communities	Linking project 106 monies from housing developments to specific development of outdoor



	leisure and community health and wellbeing fitness facilities
Pro-active health prevention	Designing healthy eating and cookery skills courses with budgeted meals so families who have less income can be helped to have improved health outcomes.

- 2.2 Members are also asked to include any ideas that may arise from consideration and discussion of the Update on Integration of Public Health as part of the main agenda items.

## 2.2 Submission of project or idea for 2016/17 Workplan

Project idea being submitted:	
Strategy area project links to: (please indicate from priorities on previous page)	
Reason for focusing on group/community:	
Health evidence (JSNA) basis for project and/or anecdotal feedback:	
Local partners who may be able to assist in project delivery:	
Name of Councillor submitting project for future follow up:	

Once completed please tear this page from your pack and pass to either Simon Barfoot or Christine Gillham. Thank you.

### 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

- East Herts Public Health Strategy ([link](#))
- East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018 ([link](#))

Contact Member: Councillor Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing  
[eric.buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:eric.buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Brian Simmonds, Head of Community Safety and Health Services – Extn 1470  
[brian.simmonds@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:brian.simmonds@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Simon Barfoot, Environmental Health Promotion Officer – Extn 1471  
[simon.barfoot@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:simon.barfoot@eastherts.gov.uk)

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**IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS**

Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/Objectives:	<p><b><i>People – Fair and accessible services for those that use them and opportunities for everyone to contribute</i></b></p> <p>This priority focuses on delivering strong services and seeking to enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing, particularly for those who are vulnerable.</p> <p><b><i>Place – Safe and Clean</i></b></p> <p>This priority focuses on sustainability, the built environment and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.</p> <p><b><i>Prosperity – Improving the economic and social opportunities available to our communities</i></b></p> <p>This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic opportunities and delivering cost effective services.</p>
Consultation:	<p><i>This is carried out with members, partners and population/community participants as appropriate in relation to the feedback and evaluation of health and wellbeing project delivery.</i></p>
Legal:	<p><i>The East Herts Health Wellbeing Strategy Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and relates to the equality and diversity approaches as part of an inclusive public health delivery approach. It is available on request.</i></p>
Financial:	<p><i>The East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the delivery of workplan projects is facilitated by three main funding streams:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><i>• Core Environmental Health Budgets including the Public Health Projects Delivery code which has a total annual budget of £6800.</i></li><li><i>• LSP funding opportunities available to the LSP Health and Wellbeing group upon application; and other external partnership or awarding bodies for sums in the range of £5000 to £20000 for example.</i></li><li><i>• The District Offer Public Health Outcomes capability which means that the Council has £100, 000 for 2014/15 and £100, 000 for 2015/16 to</i></li></ul>

	<i>deliver public health outcomes for East Herts residents working with local partners.</i>
Human Resource:	None.
Risk Management:	N/A
Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:	<i>The Health and Wellbeing impact is as a result of the Strategic and deliverable aspects of the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy and associated annual workplan.</i>

## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY – 8 DECEMBER 2015

#### REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING

#### EAST HERTS HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY: VIEWING OF PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING VIDEO

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To view the recently produced public health film which was part of a three-phase training approach for members and officers involved in the work of the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee (formerly the Health and Wellbeing Panel).

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY:**

**That:**

<b>(A)</b>	<b>the wider dissemination of the film through Members Development Group, external partners and public health promotion channels be supported; and</b>
<b>(B)</b>	<b>The future adoption of appropriate public health training and development approaches be supported.</b>

#### 1.0 Background

On October 16 2013 the Council approved its second Public Health Strategy, the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018. The new strategy combines the public health wellbeing, prevention and protection principles of the first East Herts Public Health Strategy alongside the life course approach linked with the central aspects of environmental, social, health economic and population factors.

This strategy seeks to mainstream the public health role within the Council and its partners, recognising the contribution and joint working by different services (both inter-departmental and external). It will enable us to deliver projects and partnership approaches that contribute to the areas highlighted as being of

greater importance to East Herts residents, based on statistical data that is available.

- 1.1 In September 2012, following reflection on the training and development needs of members and officers who were involved in the then Health and Wellbeing Panel, the Director of Neighbourhood Services suggested a training package be developed to enable increased public health knowledge and application of the Council public health role. Richard Shircore who ran an independent public health promotion consultancy and was known to East Herts through his work on the Royal Society of Public Health (RSPH) Awards process (2011 and 2014) was approached to develop a training package.

## 2.0 Report

- 2.1 The training package consisted of four elements:

**Initial Phase** – scoping exercise took place through series of interviews with members and officers carried out in December 2012 and January 2013. A report was produced and these findings supported the informed development of the successive phases.

**Phase one** - drafting of facilitated training package.

These training needs and proposals were originally linked to the development of the video production in May 2013. Since this time the majority of these training aspects have occurred in bite-size workshops over the past 3 years and been integrated into new Members orientation.

**Phase two** - writing and production of support video

**Phase three** - planning and running of facilitated training Programmes.

Examples of training that have been recommended by the Members Development Group have included Making Every Contact Count (MECC) individual online training, specific training on using the JSNA more effectively and opportunities to attend the RSPH Health Improvement Training courses.

- 2.2 The public health film represented in phase two has been a substantial project featuring a range of public health professionals,



partners, members of the public, members and officers who contribute together to the health and wellbeing work of East Herts. Due to the complexity of the project both in representing the diversity of the health and wellbeing profile and the technical aspects of film making the project has taken longer than expected. The film entitled “Bedrocks and building blocks, the changing nature of the public health landscape” is one film with three complimentary strands:

The importance of public health

What is public health?

The future of public health

- 2.2 The public health film, whilst originally intended specifically for training and development purposes; has seen an additional wider remit develop in terms of promoting and showcasing the work of the Council public health role and its partners. It is suggested that it could be promoted through Members Development Group and a number of public health partners and venues who could be asked to display it on a range of media sources.

Selected portions of the film will be shown at the December Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee meeting so members and officers can experience watching the film for themselves.

- 2.3 Members are asked to note that during production of the film the Health and Wellbeing Panel became a full scrutiny committee, increased its size and has also taken on a more influential role. The training and development need of officers and members may also have changed and be different to when the original training programme package was proposed.

### 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

- East Herts Public Health Strategy ([link](#))
- East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018 ([link](#))
- HWP Training Development Report – final

- Proposal for training programme 2013

Contact Member: Councillor Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing  
[eric.buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:eric.buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Brian Simmonds, Head of Community Safety and Health Services – Extn 1470  
[brian.simmonds@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:brian.simmonds@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Simon Barfoot, Environmental Health Promotion Officer – Extn 1471  
[simon.barfoot@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:simon.barfoot@eastherts.gov.uk)

### IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

<p>Contribution to the Council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives:</p>	<p><b>People – Fair and accessible services for those that use them and opportunities for everyone to contribute</b></p> <p>This priority focuses on delivering strong services and seeking to enhance the quality of life, health and wellbeing, particularly for those who are vulnerable.</p> <p><b>Place – Safe and Clean</b></p> <p>This priority focuses on sustainability, the built environment and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.</p> <p><b>Prosperity – Improving the economic and social opportunities available to our communities</b></p> <p>This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic opportunities and delivering cost effective services.</p>
<p>Consultation:</p>	<p><i>This is carried out with members, partners and population/community participants as appropriate in relation to the feedback and evaluation of health and wellbeing project delivery.</i></p>
<p>Legal:</p>	<p><i>The East Herts Health Wellbeing Strategy Equality Impact Assessment has been produced and relates to the equality and diversity approaches as part of an inclusive public health delivery approach. It is available on request.</i></p>
<p>Financial:</p>	<p><i>The East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the delivery of workplan projects is facilitated by three main funding streams:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Core Environmental Health Budgets including the Public Health Projects Delivery code which has a total annual budget of £6800.</i></li> <li><i>• LSP funding opportunities available to the LSP Health and Wellbeing group upon application; and other external partnership or awarding bodies for sums in the range of £5000 to £20000 for example.</i></li> <li><i>• The District Offer Public Health Outcomes capability which means that the Council has £100, 000 for 2014/15 and £100, 000 for 2015/16 to</i></li> </ul>

	<i>deliver public health outcomes for East Herts residents working with local partners.</i>
Human Resource:	None.
Risk Management:	N/A
Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:	<i>The Health and Wellbeing impact is as a result of the Strategic and deliverable aspects of the East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy and associated annual workplan.</i>

## EAST HERTS COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 8 DECEMBER  
2015

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### REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY

### HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

WARD(S) AFFECTED: *none*

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#### **Purpose/Summary of Report**

- To review and agree Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny (HWS) Committee's future work programme

<b><u>RECOMMENDATION FOR DECISION:</u></b>	
<b>That</b>	
<b>(A)</b>	the work programme shown in this report be agreed.

#### 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Items previously required, identified or suggested for the HWS 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*.

#### 2.0 Report

- 2.1 The draft work programme for future meetings of Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny is presented here in **Essential Reference Paper "B"**. It was considered to be comprehensive and cover all the main issues at this time.

- 2.2 At the 13 October 2015 meeting, it was agreed that the Head of Community Safety and Health Services would be invited to speak on the council's draft licensing policy and the implications for health and wellbeing of residents at the December meeting. However, this item has had to be postponed as Hertfordshire County Council has not reviewed the policy yet.
- 2.3 Other topics identified at the 13 October meeting are listed below:
- Presentation/report on planning and place (including housing for older people)
  - Presentation/report on Disabled Facilities Grants and a dementia project being delivered by Crossroads Care North Herts
  - Presentation on the EH District Plan and integration of health and wellbeing agenda
- 2.4 A request was also put forward for Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny to review the implications of town and rural isolation.
- 2.5 Members are asked to prioritise the above topics so they can be included in the forward plan for 2016/17. Please note that scheduling is dependent on availability of speakers and essential data.
- 2.6 The director of public health for Hertfordshire has provisionally agreed to attend the 16 February 2016. Members are asked whether there is any specific topic they would like an update on.
- 2.7 Members are asked whether there is any additional topic they wish to put forward for inclusion on any future agenda.
- 2.8 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

Contact Member: Cllr Norma Symonds – Chairman Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

[norma.symonds@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:norma.symonds@eastherts.gov.uk)

Contact Officer: Jeff Hughes – Head of Democratic and Legal  
Support Services Extn 2170  
[jeff.hughes@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:jeff.hughes@eastherts.gov.uk)

Report Author: Claire Pullen – Scrutiny Officer, Extn 1459  
[claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk](mailto:claire.pullen@eastherts.gov.uk)

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## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER 'A'

### IMPLICATIONS/CONSULTATIONS

Contribution to the council's Corporate Priorities/ Objectives	<p><b>People – Fair and accessible services for those that use them and opportunities for everyone to contribute.</b> This priority focuses on enhancing the quality of life, health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities, particularly those who are vulnerable.</p> <p><b>Place – Safe and Clean.</b> This priority focuses on the standards of the built environment and our neighbourhoods and ensuring our towns and villages are safe and clean.</p> <p><b>Prosperity – Improving the economic and social opportunities available to our communities</b> This priority focuses on safeguarding and enhancing our unique mix of rural and urban communities, promoting sustainable, economic opportunities.</p> <p>Effective use of the scrutiny process contributes to the Council's ability to meet one or more of its corporate objectives.</p>
Consultation:	Potential topics for scrutiny are always invited from the Executive and all Members and the public are asked through an annual item in the 'council tax' edition of LINK magazine which is delivered to every household. Members of each scrutiny committee are consulted at every meeting as their work programme is a standing item on the agenda.
Legal:	According to the council's constitution, the scrutiny committees are responsible for the setting of their own work programme in consultation with the Executive and in doing so they shall take into account wishes of members on that committee who are not members of the largest political group on the Council.
Financial:	Any additional meetings and every task and finish group has resource needs linked to officer support activity and time for officers from the services to make the required input.
Human Resource:	There are no additional human resource implications to those already contained in the report.
Risk Management:	Matters which may benefit from scrutiny may be overlooked. The selection of inappropriate topics for review would risk inefficient use of resources. Where this involved partners, it could risk damaging the reputation of the council and relations with partners.
Health and wellbeing – issues and impacts:	The broad remit of scrutiny is to review topics which are of concern to the public, many of which have an indirect impact on the general wellbeing of residents of East Herts. HWSC is set up to specifically focus in on issues and topics which have a direct and immediate impact on the health and wellbeing of all those who live, work or study in the district.

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HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015/16

<b>JOINT SCRUTINY</b>	19 Jan 2016	<b>BUDGET Report(s)</b>		
<b>JOINT SCRUTINY</b>	09 Feb 2016	2016/17 Service Plans 2015/16 Performance Indicator Estimates and 2016/17 Future targets		

2015/16	CIVIC YEAR			
meeting	date	topic	Contact officer/lead	Next Exec
Meeting 4/4 in 2015/16	16 February 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jim McManus, director of Public health has confirmed. Any specific topic you would like him to address?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny officer</li> </ul>	8 March 2016 5 April
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EH Head of Community Safety and Health Service to discuss new licensing policy and implications for health and wellbeing –TBC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny officer</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on Health and Wellbeing Community Fund supported projects (formerly District offer) – 6 month update</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead Officer and Members of Working Group</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report, review and approval of draft 2016/17 EH Health and Wellbeing Action Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead Officer</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from HCC Health Scrutiny</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HWP Chairman</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Health and Wellbeing Officers group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead officer</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from LSP Ageing Well Steering Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny officer or Exec member</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny work programme – planning for 2016/17 (LAST on agenda this time)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny officer</li> </ul>	

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING SCRUTINY PROPOSED COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

2016/17	CIVIC YEAR	•		
meeting	date	topic	Contact officer/lead	Next Exec
Meeting 1/4 in 2016/17	14 June 2016 TBC	• Any visitors?	• Scrutiny officer to arrange once directed by committee	5 July 2016 2 Aug 2016 6 Sept 2016 provisional
		• HWB proposed scrutiny committee work programme for the year	• Scrutiny officer	
		• Report on full year 2015/16 East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy – progress and outcomes against action plan	• Lead officer	
		• Minutes from HCC Health Scrutiny Committee	• HWP Chairman	
		• Minutes from Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Health and Wellbeing Officers group.	• Lead officer	
		• Minutes from LSP Ageing Well Steering Group	• Scrutiny officer or Exec member	

## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER B

2016/17	CIVIC YEAR			
meeting	date	topic	Contact officer/lead	Next Exec
Meeting 2/4 in 2016/17	13 Sept 2016 TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal visitors? <i>Traditionally this has been reports/presentations on the integration of public health agenda into delivery of different council services</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny officer to arrange once directed by committee</li> </ul>	1 Nov 2016 6 Dec 2016
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report – update on actions under Ageing Well agenda</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will O'Neill, Mekhola Ray</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from HCC Health Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HWP Chairman</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HWB proposed scrutiny committee work programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny officer</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Health and Wellbeing Officers group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead officer</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from LSP Ageing Well Steering Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny officer or Exec member</li> </ul>	

## ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER B

2016/17	CIVIC YEAR			
meeting	date	topic	Contact officer/lead	Next Exec
Meeting 3/4 in 2016/17	13 Dec 2016 TBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any external/internal visitors?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny officer to arrange once directed by committee</li> </ul>	January 2017 February 2017  TBC
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on Integration of Public Health, two years on - Scrutiny to look at the extent of integration achieved in core services and where improvements can be made. <i>It is proposed that the public health update be reported on a two yearly basis, October 2017.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead officer</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interim progress report – EH HWB Strategy 16/17 work plan. This is now an exemptions report only. Not required at this time.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead officer to confirm if needed</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation on projects for inclusion in 2017/18 Health and Wellbeing action plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead officer</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from HCC Health Scrutiny Committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HWP Chairman</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HWB proposed scrutiny committee work programme</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny officer</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Health and Wellbeing Officers group.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead officer</li> </ul>	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes from LSP Ageing Well Steering Group</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scrutiny officer or Exec member</li> </ul>	

The four principles of good public scrutiny:

- ***provides ‘critical friend’ challenge** to executive policy-makers and decision-makers*
- ***enables the voice and concerns of the public** and its communities*
- ***is carried out by ‘independent-minded governors’** who lead and own the scrutiny role*
- ***drives improvement** in public services*

### Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

To consider matters relating to health in East Herts, in particular to:

1. scrutinise local public health issues in the East Herts area
2. scrutinise partner actions to reduce health inequalities in the East Herts area
3. scrutinise arrangements for the provision of public health initiatives in the East Herts area; community wellbeing, Ageing Well, fuel poverty, East Herts Wellbeing Grant Fund, Disabled Facilities Grants, Dementia Friendly Homes and the East Herts Local Strategic Partnership
4. make recommendations to the Executive on health issues; and
5. consider matters referred to it by the Executive

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**ESSENTIAL REFERENCE PAPER C**  
**Abbreviations and Acronyms which may be used in HWB reports**

CCG	Clinical Commissioning Group
CDAT	Community Drug and Alcohol Team
CMHT	Community Mental Health Trust
CMS	Countryside Management Service
CQC	Care Quality Commission
CRI	Crime Reduction Initiative
<i>DPH</i>	<i>Director of Public Health</i>
DH (DoH)	Department of Health
DQHH	Delivering Quality Healthcare for Hertfordshire
EHO (EHPO)	Environmental Health (Promotion) Officer
E&NHT (E&NHHT)	East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust (East and North Herts Hospitals Trust)
ENCCG	East & North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group
<i>EHHWBS</i>	<i>East Herts Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018</i>
FCCARS	First Contact & Community Referral Scheme
FSA	Food Standards Agency
GP	General Practitioner
HCC	Hertfordshire County Council
HCT	Hertfordshire Community Health Trust
HEEP	Herts & Essex Energy Partnership
HIA	Home Improvement Agency
HPAA	Hertfordshire Physical Activity Alliance
HPFT	Hertfordshire Partnership Foundation Trust
HSP	Herts Sports Partnership
HVCCG	Herts Valley Clinical Commissioning Group
HLWB	Herts Legacy & Wellbeing Board
JCPB	Joint Commissioning Partnership Board
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
LAA	Local Area Agreement
HWH	Healthwatch Hertfordshire
LSP (EHLSP)	(East Herts) Local Strategic Partnership
<i>Life course</i>	<i>Set of priorities based on the recommendations of the Professor Marmot Health Inequalities review. Life course describes the journey through life from birth to death and how supporting and enabling the best life opportunities for individuals can lead to improved health and wellbeing at each stage of life.</i>
<i>LG</i>	<i>Locality Groups – Groups of GP Practices which form part of the wider Clinical Commissioning Groups</i>

MIU	Minor Injuries Unit
NCMA	National Childminders' Association
NICE	National Institute for Health & Care Excellence
OOH	Out of Hours
PAH	Princess Alexandra Hospitals NHS Trust
PALS	Patient Advice and Liaison Services
PCSO	Police Community Support Officer
PHSE	Personal Health and Social Education
<i>PHE</i>	<i>Public Health England</i>
Q1/Q2/Q3/Q4	Quarter 1, 2, 3 & 4
QEII	Queen Elizabeth II Hospital
QIPP	Quality, Innovation, Productivity & Prevention
QOF	Quality and Outcomes Framework
RSPH	The Royal Society for Public Health
SCG	Specialist Commissioning Group
SCP	Southern Country Park
SCS	Sustainable Community Strategy
SFBB	Safer Food, Better Business
SHA	Strategic Health Authority (NHS East of England)
SLM	Sports and Leisure Management Ltd
UCC	Urgent Care Centre
UH	University of Hertfordshire
WHHT	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP GROUP EAST HERTS TOGETHER**

Draft notes of meeting held on Wednesday 14th October 2015 10am – 12.00pm  
at Future Living Hertford, 43 Cowbridge, Hertford. SG14 1PN.

### **Attendance:**

Simon Barfoot, Environmental Health Promotion Officer, EHC  
 Claire Pullen – Engagement and Community Partnerships Officer  
 Sandra Conte – Future Living Hertford CEO  
 Victoria Sims – Future Living Hertford  
 Karon Gordon – Herts Mind Network  
 Lucy Eldon – Practice Nurse  
 Kay Pitt – Home-Start EastHerts  
 Christine Gillham – Public Health Projects Co-ordinator, EHC  
 Jan Stock – Wodson Park Manager and Active East Herts  
 Christopher Bland – Mind in Mid Herts  
 Lindsey Day – Sustainable Travel Team, HCC  
 Kellie Ahl – Relax Kids  
 Councillor Steve Cousins  
 David Brewer – Head of Engagement, E and N Herts Foundation Trust.

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

SB Welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made.

### **2. Apologies**

Debra Field, Michal Siewniak, Jacqui Brown, Laura Hyde, Mark Kingsland

### **3. Minutes of last meeting**

Minutes of the July 15th 2015 meeting were reviewed and accepted.

### **4. The role and work of Future Living Hertford (FLH) Sandra Conte**

Sandra Conte explained in a verbal presentation the nature and range of programmes currently being offered as well as potential new areas of work:

- Core focus of Drug and Alcohol Therapy, Eating Disorders and Healthy Lifestyle advice through 1-2-1 counselling and group sessions
- The Jamie Oliver Cooking skills course arrangement was still continuing and the launch of Café Forty Three was seen as an additional opportunity for supporting clients to obtain the necessary skills to work in the café.
- Art and Craft therapies, Acupuncture and assessing Children and Family and Adult 18+ needs along with establishing Stop Smoking support and looking to develop Furniture donation scheme as well as continuing to develop skills and employment opportunities for clients were seen as new and expanding areas of work.
- Victoria outlined the evaluation tracking for clients progress through different programmes at FLH
- Sandra reminded group members that the services provided were free and clients could be referred by health professionals or self-refer.

- The service was staffed by volunteers and they also had 6 training placement Counsellors working with them who were studying at Barnet college.
- This is a summary of what Sandra presented; please speak to her directly if you would like to follow up on the wider services that FLH offer.

**5. Insight into the role of the Practice Nurse** Lucy Eldon

- Lucy gave a helpful insight into the work of the Practice nurse explaining the varied role sought to provide a range of nursing health prevention and promotion support for a range of people from cradle to grave.
- The career path for practice nurse means either an RGN or Health Visitor qualified background. Many tasks make up the role including individual support ranging from supporting care of minor illnesses to organising group health access such as arranging baby vaccinations clinics or referring on to or being aware of Mum's health and diet/exercise groups or the new Sporty Mum's project in East Herts.
- Oversight of patient groups is another task such as Diabetes Awareness etc.
- The role is both challenging and engaging and more work is being done around the career development of the role and attracting people to go into the practice nurse role.

**6. Introducing Public Health Projects Co-ordinator** Christine Gillham

- Christine introduced herself in her new role at East Herts, explaining that her remit was to plan and introduce a wider strategic project to address improvement in health and wellbeing services and outcomes across East Herts.
- East Herts had set aside some of its own funds in addition to the HCC provided District Offer monies to facilitate Christine's post and the project planning and implementation.
- Christine was planning to research and meet with a range of contacts in East Herts and further afield to scope how such a project idea might develop.

**7. District Offer Progress** Simon Barfoot

- Simon reported that the Year one projects were progressing well and most had now started and were beginning to see a number of clients benefit from the projects.
- The evaluation on these projects and the impact of their effectiveness would become clearer over the coming months, particularly into the January 2016 and beyond.
- A number of partners and their organisations were recipients of funding from the Year One District Offer (known as the Health and Wellbeing Community Fund).
- A number of partner organisations had been approached as well as some established or more recent contacts with a view to requesting submissions for the Year Two funding round. 10 applications had been received and an assessment day was planned for the middle of November 2015. At the time of writing these projects were scheduled to start in January 2016.

**8. Group sharing on Health and Wellbeing** All

- A range of updates and information sharing items were relayed by group members. Simon repeated the request for group members to pass on any information they wished to be circulated to the wider group via email.

**9. 2016 Dates** All

- To avoid clashes with other meetings a request had been made to move the LSP Health and Wellbeing Group meeting from the regular 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month to the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month.
- The Group supported this and Simon agreed to book venues at East Herts Offices as back up for 2016 although the format of going to different venues and partner organisations hosting was seen as a positive idea which had been adopted partially in 2015.
- Requests were made for venues for the following dates for 2016.
- **Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup> January 10 – 12.00pm VENUE NEEDED** Room 27 at East Herts not available
- **Wednesday April 27<sup>th</sup> 10 – 12.00pm Room 27 at East Herts booked** (alternative venue still welcomed)
- **Wednesday July 20<sup>th</sup> 10 – 12.00pm Room 27 at East Herts booked** (alternative venue still welcomed)
- **Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 10 – 12.00pm Room 27 at East Herts booked** (alternative venue still welcomed)
- **Please ADD these 2016 dates to your electronic calendars**

#### 10. AOB

- SB thanked all those who had attended and closed the meeting.

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## **Ageing Well Working Group**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 10:00 a.m. in Room 27, Wallfields, Pegs Lane, SG13  
8EQ**

### **Minutes**

#### **Introductions & apologies**

Present: Cllr Eric Buckmaster (EH), Mekhola Ray (MR), Carolyn Gale (CG), Angela Alder (AA), Jan Stock (JS), Marianne McWhinnie (MM), Kate Belinis (KB), Debra Field (DF), Geoff Moore (GM), Donna Louise Cobban, Mike Thompson, Stewart McIntosh, Jan Wing, Jan Stock, Sally Millett

Apologies: Cllr. Linda Haysey, John Lambie, Sally Marlow, John Milton, Cathy Baker, Sarah Wren, Jane Brown, Gayl Staines, Nigel Cox, Sheila Winterburn, Chris Beattie

#### **Minutes of the previous meeting**

Minutes of the meeting held in September 2015 were true record.

#### **Action from the previous meeting**

All covered in agenda items.

#### **Dementia Action Alliance**

GF from Dementia Action Alliance explained that there are 51 local authorities in his East of England area some are DAA deserts. East Herts is an early adopter. 2 types of DAA's those set up by unitary authority and those that have spontaneously sprung up. A potential members aide memoire in large grid form was shared with the group. This is being rolled out across East of England who else could we involve? This will help us achieve 1 in 15 dementia friends across the district, to map and achieve future potential and can be our index of effectiveness of engagement. We need to encourage our partners to identify at least 1 person who can become a Dementia Friends Champion.

**ACTION: ALL**

#### **Update on Dementia Café in B'Stortford**

A new group co-ordinator Adrian Parker has recently been appointed. 10 members at the last meeting. The brief is to increase numbers, next café is 4 November. DF was unaware of café. Could Adrian have a conversation with DF as residents of sheltered housing could attend? EB asked how we communicate this information to promote the café. When we get together as a group how can we keep the links going?

AA informed the group that the Apton Centre is running dementia group every Wednesday as half day the aim is to have a full day. There will be opportunities for people in Bishops Stortford to use this.

GM explained that HCC already have a community directory.

It would be good to get the HCC perspective on what they are doing at the next meeting.

JW asked how we get to the people who are harder to reach.

#### **Update on Dementia Friendly East Herts**

MM updated the group that sessions to Buntingford Freeman College 6<sup>th</sup> formers have been done which takes number of Dementia Friends over 300.

Sessions booked for Sawbridgeworth Town Council, volunteers and bus drivers and Braughing Parish council.

Group all agreed door sticker with new colour scheme MM will get printed.

**ACTION: MM**

#### **Update on Crossroads Initiatives**

SM updated the group that anybody living with dementia can have a free audit of their home to make it more dementia friendly.

Referrals come from anywhere with maximum 5 days until visit. ?? (Meals on Wheels) wants a conversation to discuss referrals. Drivers are all Dementia Friends they get concerned about welfare of clients. Crossroads can also refer to third parties.



6 audits have taken place so far need to get the numbers up need 15 per month this fits with people in a happier home and fills a gap that isn't currently provided. AA suggested SM speak to Stort Valley Locality Groups which include GP practices and patient participation groups. AA and SM to have a conversation.

**ACTION: AA/SM**

CG can update at the next meeting when dementia work is properly commissioned as tendering is taking place.

**ACTION: CG**

### **Update on Silver Sunday Initiatives**

OPALS event at Fletchers Lea partly funded by Community Safety Partnership, 10 organisations attended, round table discussions, 47 people attended in total a mix of East Herts and Broxbourne residents. CB would like to organise more sessions if there is an appetite.

Ware U3A would like their own session but on weekend and numbers could be over 200. MR will feed that back to CB.

**ACTION: MR/CB**

Community Grants funded quite a few events CP will update at the next meeting.

**ACTION: CP**

### **Forever Active**

Launch event at Wodson Park 5 November currently 111 people have called up to express an interest. JS took the group through the final timetable (attach??) activities range from very energetic to gentle. Recruited activator responsible for driving this across East Herts. Nigel Farren tasked with getting as many projects as possible going. We've got the money we just need to get it moving. Nigel will come to the next meeting. MR expressed thanks to JS a great example of partnership working. JS explained that Active East Herts is very proactive in trying to promote physical activity in East Herts. There will be signposts on where people can start activities in the New Year.

Herts Sports Partnership on Friday 6 November have organised seminar and discussion session offering support on how to meet Sport England criteria.

AA asked if money from the county is included for older people to exercise more. Her 2 centres have applied for funding from East Herts Health & Wellbeing fund. It would be good to have some of those projects reported through this group. EB advised looking to approve next set of projects at meeting with Simon B and Simon D.

### **Update on Arts and Music**

Nothing specific happening at the moment but keep on the agenda.

### **Timebanking**

SM updated the group slowly building up membership now at 17. A Timebank coffee morning took place in September for members in Sawbridgeworth. There has been a lot of interest for befriending. There will be an event next month North Herts will deliver a talk; they are a big successful TimeBank. SM asked the group to keep promoting, refer to us and we have a one-off referral system in place.

### **AOB**

EB along with other districts in the county have been asked to provide mental health champions. He asked if this can link with this group, conscious of not having too many groups going.

DF currently provide 24 hour out of hours cover which will end through lack of funding. Does anyone know of any initiatives that provide similar support? Similar to Swifts & Night Owls initiative in Norfolk? Could we pursue through county. CG will provide a contact.

**ACTION: CG**

### **Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 26 January 2016 at 10:00a.m Apton Centre Bishops Stortford.