

East Herts Council Report

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date of meeting: 18th January 2022

Report by: Councillor Eric Buckmaster, Executive Member for Wellbeing

Report title: Healthy Hub East Herts (HHEH) Update Report

Ward(s) affected: All

Summary

RECOMMENDATIONS:

A) That the Committee notes the content of the report and provides any observations or recommendations to the Executive Member for Wellbeing and the Head of Housing and Health.

1.0 Proposal(s)

1.1 Committee members review progress of the HHEH to date and provide any observations or recommendations to the Executive Member for Wellbeing and Head of Housing and Health.

2.0 Background

2.1 Healthy Hub East Herts (HHEH) launched in March 2020, one week prior to the first Covid pandemic lockdown. At the time, HHEH had two physical locations (one in Wallfields and one at Charringtons) intended to be one stop shops for residents of East Herts to access health and wellbeing information.

- 2.2 HHEH has since moved on to a virtual platform and formed a network bringing together the council with a range of community organisations to offer health and wellbeing advice and support.
- 2.3 In 2021, the East Herts Social Prescribing service was merged with HHEH. HHEH continues to support clients and organisations accessing information and support through these channels
- 2.4 As face to face services resume, HHEH is now able to offer online information, sign up and referrals as well as face to face sessions through community providers. During 2021, eight HHEH online zoom sessions were run attracting 104 attendees covering topics from dementia friends awareness training sessions to healthy eating and emotional resilience.
- 2.5 In 2020-21 221 clients were supported through the Social Prescribing and HHEH approaches with the most common HHEH self-identified issues being mental health (31), Healthy Eating (19) and Physical Activity (15). Since 1st April 2021, 121 have been supported through HHEH services. The current focus for services includes main advice areas being given around mental health, isolation and loneliness, debt advice, caring needs, housing issues and healthy lifestyle advice.
- 2.6 The latest collated statistics (up to quarter 3, 2021/22) are as follows:

Engagement - number per channel	2021/22 year to date at Dec 2021
Website visits	1133
Referrals	111

Self-referrals	10
Total	1254

Issues (where specified) enquired about / being addressed / subject to signposting	2021/22 year to date at December 2021
Mental health	8
Stress and anxiety	6
Health checks	4
Physical activity	6
Healthy eating	4
Loneliness and isolation	3
Long term conditions	3
Addiction recovery	1
Adults and children with learning disabilities	1
Carers support	1
Domestic abuse	1
Sexual health	1
Stop smoking	1
Total	40

2.7 More recently:

- a new post of Community Wellbeing Support Officer has been appointed to on a fixed term basis for 12 months using Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Public Health funding. The officer came into post in January 2022.

- a new communications plan has been drafted to support HHEH messaging and raise the profile of the service. HHEH is also working with the council's Communications team and MCS Creative, an external marketing company, to develop a digital campaign to raise awareness of HHEH and encourage sign up.
- HHEH is now planning to have a physical presence in our communities. This will involve a number of targeted, face to face promotions, linking in with national and local health and wellbeing initiatives.

3.0 Reason(s)

3.1 This report has been produced at the request of Overview and Scrutiny Committee and is intended to update members on the progress of HHEH to date. It does not seek any decisions.

4.0 Options

4.1 Do not review progress – NOT RECOMMENDED as members have expressed a wish to be kept informed of the progress of HHEH and ongoing health and wellbeing initiatives in East Herts.

4.2 Review progress – RECOMMENDED so as to ensure HHEH continues to be supported and is able to effectively meet the needs of residents of East Herts.

5.0 Risks

5.1 HHEH has previously been funded by a combination of HCC Public Health funding and internal council budgets. With increasing pressures on internal budgets, the need to source external funding to continue this initiative becomes more pressing. To work towards this, future funding has been

identified through HCC Public Health and discussions are under way with community organisations with a view to bidding for external grant funding, for example from the National Lottery.

- 5.2 While partner organisations are able to apply for funding through HHEH, all partner organisations are covered by their own indemnities and insurances and have their own funding streams. Delivery of projects and future funding for community initiatives do not pose a risk to the council with regards to this.

6.0 Implications/Consultations

- 6.1 HHEH regularly undertakes consultation with Hertfordshire County Council's Public Health team, East Herts community organisations and East Herts residents.

Community Safety

Good health and wellbeing is closely connected to the perception and fear of crime and the maintaining of effective community safety therefore the work of HHEH is likely to have a positive impact on community safety to some degree.

Data Protection

The council's Information Governance and Data Protection Manager has been consulted on data collection and retention periods. A data sharing agreement is in place for the Healthy Hub network partners

Equalities

Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken as appropriate as future projects and initiatives are developed through HHEH.

Environmental Sustainability

HHEH asks partner organisations accessing funding to consider their carbon footprint and the impact of their project on the environment.

HHEH encourages all projects to be delivered in a way that takes account of environmentally sustainability.

Financial

HHEH is mostly funded by resources made available to the council for such projects by HCC Public Health. HHEH has also been part funded previously by the council's own budgets. Internal funding is likely to come under significant pressure moving forward. Future funding through HCC has already been identified and HHEH is already working with community organisations with a view to accessing external grant funding.

Health and Safety

No implications.

Human Resources

No implications.

Human Rights

No implications.

Legal

No implications.

Specific Wards

No.

7.0 Background papers, appendices and other relevant material

None.

Contact Member

Councillor Eric Buckmaster – Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing. eric.buckmaster@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer

Jonathan Geall – Head of Housing and Health, Tel: 01992 531594
jonathan.geall@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author

Nick Phipps – Service Manager, Community Wellbeing and Partnerships, Tel: 01992 531484. nick.phipps@eastherts.gov.uk