

11 June 2013		ITEM: 6
Health and Well-being Overview & Scrutiny Committee		
Building Positive Futures Progress Report		
Report of: Les Billingham, Head of Adult Services		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: Non-key	
Accountable Head of Service: Les Billingham, Head of Adult Services		
Accountable Director: Roger Harris, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning		
This report is public		
Purpose of Report: This is a progress report on the Building Positive Futures programme which also sets out a proposal for new leadership and governance arrangements.		

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This progress report sets out the achievements of the Building Positive Futures programme, Thurrock's transformation programme for Adult Social Care, since it was launched on 1 March 2012. These include work to:

- build resourceful and resilient communities using Asset Based Community Development and Local Area Co-ordination linked to the development of Community Hubs;
- promote the development of high quality housing for older people including exploring the potential of the Housing Development Programme to meet future needs, and engaging with private developers regarding design standards, the planning process, sites and community consultation;
- develop new services including the Rapid Response and Assessment Service, Joint Re-ablement Team, Dementia and Telecare initiatives that facilitate independence and well-being.

The report also sets out new arrangements to strengthen leadership and governance, particularly in relation to member involvement and the engagement of Health and other partners.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 The Committee are asked to note progress made by the Building Positive Futures programme since its launch and to support strengthened leadership and governance arrangements, particularly in relation to member involvement and the engagement of Health and other partners.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 The Building Positive Futures programme was launched in March 2012 as Thurrock's response to the Ageing Well agenda, and to take forward the initiatives approved by Cabinet in December 2011 aimed at improving cooperation between housing, health and adult social care, in order to meet the needs of an ageing population. The aims of the initiatives were to:
1. 'Prevent inappropriate admissions to hospital and residential care, and to enable residents who do require hospitalisation to subsequently return home in a safe and timely manner. This will be achieved by working with the Council's housing and health partners to develop a more integrated, community-based housing, health and adult social care service;
 2. Broaden the housing choices for older people across all tenures by a) ensuring planning guidance takes full account of the needs of older people, and b) creating opportunities to improve or remodel existing housing for older people so that it better meets their needs as they age'.
- 2.2 A Programme Board of officers was established to oversee the programme and this has met monthly since June 2012. The Programme Board is a multi-service team drawing together senior managers from across the Council, who are responsible for a number of work streams that have been established to deliver the programme. They are also responsible for communicating the programme's Ageing Well agenda across the Council, and to external stakeholders and the wider community.

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

- 3.1 In the same week as the announcement in the Queen's Speech of the introduction of a national eligibility threshold for social care packages, with a cap on personal contributions to the costs of care, the president of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS), Sandie Keen, warned that the current system is under enormous strain after making £2.7b savings to care budgets (equivalent to 20%) since 2010 with a further £800m savings planned for the coming 12 months.
- 3.2 Thurrock's Building Positive Futures programme means that the Council is in a strong position to respond to these challenges through a radical transformation programme that will:
- manage demand more effectively by focussing resources and service interventions on people before they reach a time of crisis;
 - confront the issues that impact on poor health and ageing such as unsuitable housing, the design of the urban environment, loneliness and isolation, and fragmented approaches to service delivery;
 - improve community resilience to enable neighbourhoods to become more self supporting; places where people can thrive.
- 3.3 A significant amount of work has been undertaken since the programme was launched including:

- holding a Developers' Summit to mobilise support for a housing development programme specifically targeted at older people;
- Housing and Adult Social Care working together to develop homes specifically for older people, initially with a bid to the HCA for funding for specialised housing to quickly establish the benchmark in design standards needed to meet the housing needs of an ageing population;
- implementing Local Area Coordination pilots in Grays Riverside, Purfleet, South Ockendon and Stanford le Hope to support people who are vulnerable through age, frailty, disability or mental health issues;
- strengthening communities with Asset Based Community Development – an approach to community building which will transform the way communities are seen, focusing on strengths and assets and connecting people and networks around common interests and concerns;
- developing the Rapid Response and Assessment Service in a partnership with NHS South West Essex Community Services to undertake urgent assessments at home and then provide service users with direct access to a range of services;
- the Joint Reablement Team, which provides short-term support designed to help keep vulnerable people safe and as independent as possible;
- growing the Telecare offer by increasing the range of equipment to support the changing needs of Thurrock's population with projects such as the digital befriending service and the use of a device to stimulate appetite with Dementia clients who live alone;
- a Business Case is being developed for Timely Intervention and Prevention services which will use community based teams to identify vulnerable individuals with a range of Housing, Health and Social Care issues.

3.4 Further details of these and other workstreams are set out in a report to the final meeting of the current Programme Board in Appendix 1.

3.5 Building Positive Futures has now established itself as the Council's transformation programme for Adult Social Care. With that recognition came a challenge from the Transformation Board to strengthen the governance arrangements so that there are closer linkages with Cabinet, Health and Well-being Board and health partners, and so that Building Positive Futures can influence all Council services that have an impact on people with disabilities and an ageing population.

3.6 In addition to setting out what has been achieved by Building Positive Futures this report proposes a new Member and Director-led Sponsorship Board in place of the current Building Positive Futures Board. The current Programme Board will also be re-constituted as a Work Stream Steering Group with responsibility for delivery of the programme and ensuring the work is properly aligned with key corporate strategies.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

- 4.1 Strengthened leadership and governance arrangements, particularly in relation to member involvement and engagement of Health and other partners is needed to ensure all relevant service areas within the Council, as well as our partners, are contributing in a co-ordinated way to promoting health and well being, and making Thurrock a good place in which to grow old.

5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 5.1 The Building Positive Futures has and will continue to involve a range of stakeholders in its various workstreams. In the new governance arrangements it is anticipated that consultation will more closely involve Ward Councillors and Community Fora.

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

- 6.1 The Building Positive Futures programme has been designed to address each of the Council's Five strategic priorities to achieve our vision:
- Create a great place for learning and opportunity
 - Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity
 - Build pride, responsibility and respect to create safer communities
 - Improve health and well-being
 - Protect and promote our clean and green environment
- 6.2 In relation to the first and second priorities, Adult Social Care in conjunction with Housing will pursue job creation and apprenticeships as part of our plans to improve the housing choices of older residents. Adult Social Care is also embarking on a programme to support micro-businesses that provide a range of local support services that people can commission as part of their care package.
- 6.3 In relation to the third priority, the focus is on helping our communities to prepare to meet the needs of an ageing population, including work to build community resilience and improving the built environment.
- 6.4 The transformation of the adult social care offer, with its objective of integration with health and joint commissioning of preventative and personalised services will both improve health and well being and reduce demand for services. Our strength based approaches including, Asset Based Community Development and Local Area Co-ordination, will contribute to the delivery of the fourth priority by ensuring we help residents maintain independence in their community, and enable people to regain skills and confidence, while offering protection to vulnerable people.
- 6.5 Our focus on the fifth priority is central to promoting active ageing amongst local residents.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
Telephone and email: **01375 652772**
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The Committee are asked to note the progress of the programme, and therefore there are not direct financial implications associated with the recommendation.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Shahnaz Patel, Senior Solicitor**
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The Building Positive Futures programme supports the Council in the radical transformation of adult social care to an ageing population. The programme means that Thurrock is in a strong position to respond to the recent House of Lords Select Committee report “ready for ageing”. The programme has gained corporate recognition as the Council’s transformation programme for Adult Social Care. With that recognition comes the challenge to strengthen the governance arrangements with the Cabinet, Health and Well-being Board and health partners, which will allow it to influence all Council services that have an impact on people with disabilities and an ageing population

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
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sdealyn@thurrock.gov.uk

Each of the Building Positive workstreams will need to be undertaken with due regard to equality and diversity considerations.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental

None

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Caring for our future: reforming care and support, HMG 2012
- The Care and Support Specialised Housing Fund Prospectus, October 2012.
- The Housing our Ageing Population Panel for Innovation (HAPPI) Report. Dept for Communities and Local Government, Dept of Health and the Homes and Communities Agency (2009)
- Queen's Speech 2013
- Social care funding: 'a bleak outlook is getting bleaker, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services, 6th May 2013

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- **Appendix 1 –Report to the Building Position Futures Programme Board, May 2013**

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Building Positive Futures In Thurrock

Activity Review and Progress Report

May 2013

THURROCK COUNCIL
www.thurrock.gov.uk

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Building Positive Futures is now just over a year old – launched by Cllrs Andy Smith and Tony Fish on 1 March 2012 the Programme Board had its first meeting in June 2012. A lot has been achieved since then and we have reached the point where our programme has gained corporate recognition as the Council's transformation programme for Adult Social Care. With that recognition comes the challenge from the Transformation Board to strengthen the governance arrangements so that there are closer linkages with Cabinet, Health and Well-being Board and health partners, and so that Building Positive Futures can influence all Council services that have an impact on people with disabilities and an ageing population.
- 1.2 We are therefore entering a period of transition as we move to a new Member and Director-led Sponsorship Board in place of the current Building Positive Futures Board.
- 1.3 In recognition of the considerable support and enthusiasm shown by current Building Positive Futures Board members, we felt it was appropriate to reflect what has been achieved in a very busy 11 months.

2. The Context for Building Positive Futures

- 2.1 The Queen's speech contained two major reforms that set the course for future generations of older people:
 - the introduction of a national eligibility threshold for social care packages with a cap on personal contributions to the costs of care (£72,000). The new legislation should bring greater clarity about means-tested social care and encourage people to plan accordingly;
 - the introduction of a flat rate state pension from April 2016.
- 2.2 But in the same week as the Queen's speech, the president of the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care (ADASS), Sandie Keen, warned that the current system is under enormous strain after making £2.7b savings to care budgets (equivalent to 20%) since 2010 with a further £800m savings planned for the coming 12 months. The impact will be felt through 'direct withdrawal of services.' ADASS reported that councils are facing year on year rises in demand due to demographic pressures of 3% caused by an ageing population and people with severe disabilities living longer. Whilst respondents report they are confident that the quality of services provided have not been affected so far, there is much less confidence that this will be the case in 2 years time. There are also significant concerns that fewer people will be able to access care services in two years time.
- 2.3 The stark findings of the ADASS survey provide a timely reminder of the challenges facing the Building Positive Futures programme and also give some useful pointers towards the strategies that councils across England will be pursuing.

- 2.4 The ADASS survey shows that areas likely to be 'highly important' as aids to saving in the coming year include:
- Shifting activity to cheaper settings (40 per cent);
 - Increased personalisation (47 per cent);
 - Better procurement practices (68 per cent).
- Only 14 per cent of directors anticipated increasing charges to users as highly important, while 65 per cent reckoned that increased prevention and early intervention would provide significant savings opportunities.

3. Review of Building Positive Futures June 2012- May 2013

- 3.1 Despite all the difficulties facing local authorities, Thurrock's Building Positive Futures programme means that we are in a strong position to respond to the recent House of Lords report '**Ready for Ageing**'. At the heart of our programme is our belief that the solution to ageing well lies in a three pronged approach which:
- builds resourceful and resilient communities;
 - is backed up by high quality retirement housing;
 - and services that facilitate independence and well-being.
- Summarised below is a description of our achievements so far, and work currently underway in relation to our three major workstreams.

- **Creating the homes and neighbourhoods that support independence:**

- 3.2 Building Positive Futures has focused on raising the profile of attractive, high quality housing for older people and the benefits this can bring to health and wellbeing.

Activities:

Date	Activity	Progress
18 January	Joint ASC/Housing bid on 18 January to Dept of Health/ HCA Fund to develop 28 specialised flats in Derry Avenue, South Ockendon	HCA decision expected in May 2013
1 March	Developers Summit held at Orsett Hall with 25 developers in attendance	Complete
October 2012 – April 2013	Use of 4 ex-warden properties for supported housing for people with learning disabilities – part of our strategy to reduce our reliance on residential care	Complete
Summer 2013	Elizabeth Gardens – 65 purpose built extra care flats with community facilities	Practical completion scheduled for 24 May 2013
April 2013	Analysis of older peoples' housing	In progress

	needs across the communities in Thurrock	
4 July 2013	Launch of Coalition of Developers of Housing for Older People	Currently being planned
April 2012	Enhanced offer from the Private Housing Service	On going
12 September 2013	Presentation to HWB on the contribution of Planning to health and well being, and a discussion about how Planning should be represented on the HWB	Report to be produced for Sept HWB

Commentary:

- 3.3 The profile of the housing needs of the ageing population in south Essex has been given prominence in the Thames Gateway South Essex **Strategic Housing Market Assessment** update. The updated SHMA describes the projected growth in the numbers of older people, as well as government guidance for planners and housing authorities on addressing this demographic change. While the SHMA acknowledges the difficulties of accurately predicting the levels of specialist housing that will be needed in South Essex, there is now much more focus on this age group than in the previous reports.
- 3.4 Accordingly, Thurrock has started to undertake a **review of the housing needs** of the older people across its communities. The project will bring together a range of data from public health, housing and social care and benefits. The analysis will take into account the various toolkits available for estimating the need for specialist housing for older people. These tools will be used with caution as 'needs' do not necessarily translate into 'demand' unless the offer is attractive, affordable and appropriately marketed. The output from this work will inform both the work of the Housing Development Board, the HWB and the future direction of Building Positive Futures.
- 3.5 In March, Thurrock held a **Developers Summit** to mobilise support from developers for a housing development programme specifically targeted at older people. David Bull, Director of Planning and Transportation and Barbara Brownlee, Director of Housing, spoke about the need to drive up quality and to address the recommendations of the HAPPI report. Nyear Yaseem gave a presentation on the regeneration agenda in Thurrock. At the Developers Summit, a commitment was made that if developers would work with the Council to improve the quality of housing for older people, the Council could offer a range of help to overcome the obstacles developers face.
- 3.6 Following the success of the Summit, David Bull, Barbara Brownlee and Les Billingham have been meeting to arrange further contact with developers; Thurrock is now inviting developers to join it in a **Developers' Coalition** to

develop specialist housing for older and disabled people. The Council will also produce a Developers Guide to housing for older people in Thurrock providing a range of information to assist developers such as the design requirements, site suitability and availability, access to advice and support, data about local communities that may be helpful to developers, and assistance with consultation.

- 3.7 The Housing Department has also embarked on its own **housing development programme** with a target of developing 1,000 new homes over the next 5 years. Consideration will be given to a part of the programme being targeted specifically for older people, and it is hoped a new specialised housing scheme for older residents planned for South Ockendon will quickly establish the benchmark in design standards which draw on the recommendations of the HAPPI Report.
- 3.8 At the time of writing this report, the results of the **bid for funding to the Specialised Housing fund** are not known. However, feedback from the HCA regarding the bid indicated that it was very well received.
- 3.9 When work started on ways in which to improve the choice of housing available for older people in the summer last year, one area identified for attention was the sheltered housing stock and its role in providing housing for health and well-being in the future. Relevant to this strand is work being taken forward by Housing to **review the use of the existing sheltered stock** and the services provided by sheltered housing officers. The focus for Building Positive Futures is the potential for new-build schemes to help meet the future demand for housing for older people without the need to re-model existing stock. Discussion on the future operation and funding of the extra care schemes that form part of the sheltered housing estate will also be progressed as is the potential for sheltered housing officers and floating support services to come under the umbrella of Timely Intervention and Prevention services.
- 3.10 The **Private Housing & Adaptation Service** is working closely with Adult Social Care, Health and Public Health to improve independence at home. The initiatives include:
- **'Settling at Home'** – a new service delivered by home improvement agency, Papworth Trust. The aim of the service is to support patients as they re-adjust at home, following a stay in hospital. This service was first piloted in 2012 at the local community hospital helping over 50 patients. Over the next 12 months the service is looking at expanding referrals from the larger hospitals. With the agreement of Health Reablement monies have been used to fund this work.
 - **Handyman/Gardening/Advisory services** – continuing enhanced services commissioned by the Private Housing & Adaptation Service. In 2012-13 over 1,000 clients received help. 80% reported their independence had increased as a result of intervention and 70% were more aware of what services are available to them.
 - **Falls prevention** – in 2012 the Private Housing & Adaptation Service commissioned a health impact assessment on the private housing stock. Falls were identified as being one of the major housing hazards. New Falls

Financial Offers are now available to landlords to improve the private rented sector, and to vulnerable home owners. Work is ongoing with Public Health to use the outcomes of this study and progress joint projects e.g. healthy home prescriptions.

3.11 Although the lead partner and some independent experts were very positive about the submitted project, the bid for European Development Regional Funding with partner municipalities in Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands was in the end rejected. However, the concepts developed as part of the proposal has influenced our thinking about how to engage our communities in creating **urban environments designed to increase the potential for independent living** for older residents.

3.11 As a result of the various initiatives embarked on during the period, there is now a strong collaborative approach across Housing, Adults, Health and Commissioning, Public Health, and Planning and Transportation. This will ensure that the delivery of housing and services for older people has the necessary strategic and cross cutting focus and leadership.

- **Creating the communities that support health and well-being**

3.12 As well as thinking carefully about the design, location, and local amenities for any new housing for older people, work is also underway to strengthen communities and to create more age-friendly neighbourhoods. Key elements of Building Positive Futures are two strength-based approaches: Local Area Coordination and Asset Based Community Development, which complement work in supporting people with dementia, and in overcoming loneliness and depression.

Activities

Date	Activity	Progress
September onwards	LAC Steering Group established comprising senior officers from key partners. Comprehensive workplan underway including LAC Recruitment process which is nearing successful completion. 15 Briefings undertaken to spread awareness (see Appendix A for full list) Suite of LAC Briefing/presentation materials produced Work underway to develop an evaluation framework	Progressing according to workplan
27 March & 18 April	2 Day ABCD Workshop	Completed

April	Dementia Action Plan 2013-14 produced	In progress
May	Invitation to participate in pilot phase of the Alzheimer Society's Recognition process for dementia friendly communities.	Registration in progress
Spring Summer 2013	A range of initiatives to address loneliness including Digital Inclusion, Active Lives and Befriending.	In progress
14 June 2013	Directors Board will be trained as Dementia Friends	In progress
May	WECB Strengthening Communities - £30K funding to support Thurrock's ABCD project as a learning site for Essex.	Funding confirmed

Commentary

- 3.13 **Local Area Coordination** is a unique and innovative approach to supporting people who are vulnerable through age, frailty, disability or mental health issues to identify and pursue their vision for a 'good life', to strengthen the capacity of communities to welcome and include people and to make services more personal, flexible and accountable. Working with CVS and the Thurrock Coalition, an innovative approach to recruiting the Local Area Coordinators was devised, involving community representatives in a series of challenging exercises for the LAC candidates. The approach proved to be highly successful and helped identify people who had the potential to work effectively within communities. 4 LACs have been identified to work in Grays, Riverside, Purfleet, South Ockendon and Stanford le Hope after a final 'vetting' by the respective communities. Appointments will be confirmed once the necessary references and statutory checks been completed. The appointments will be initially for one year and then, subject to an evaluation of their effectiveness, the approach may be adopted more widely.
- 3.14 Complementing LAC, is **Asset Based Community Development** – an approach to community building which will transform the way communities are seen, focusing on strengths and assets and connecting people and networks around common interests and concerns. ABCD is managed by a community builder who identifies volunteer community connectors who have a passion or skill that can be utilised, and an interest or concern about their local community that they can help solve. Having run the 2 Day ABCD event, plans are being developed to establish ABCD learning sites that are linked to the HWB.

- 3.15 The ABCD Workshop has been the catalyst to a range of initiatives –instigated by community representatives who attended the Workshop. These include colleagues linked with ‘Transformation Thurrock’ who are planning to hold a **Well-being Conference** in Thurrock. (The aspiration for this event came from the poor survey results last year which portrayed Grays / Thurrock as one of the most miserable places to live! Transformation Thurrock is a collective of churches in Thurrock. Many of the members deliver community services through their churches, and others witness and experience very positive news in the borough. Their aim therefore is to promote and celebrate this, ultimately working with the media **to change perceptions of the borough**). One community member is making ‘**Gift Boards**’ for use by community groups to promote reciprocal exchanges of help and support.
- 3.16 Thurrock are working with Essex County Council to Pilot ABCD as part of the **Whole Essex Community Budget Strengthening Communities** workstream. The learning from Thurrock will be shared across Essex. As a first step to shared learning, we will be organising a second 2 Day workshop for the Essex pilot areas.
- 3.17 The Alzheimers Society have invited Thurrock to register as early adopter in the pilot phase for the recognition process for **dementia friendly communities**. This is because the Society recognises the progress Thurrock has made to date in working to make our community dementia friendly. The recognition process is needed to enable communities to be part of an officially recognised group working towards becoming dementia friendly. It will also ensure that they are working towards common standards that are based on what the Society knows is important to people affected by dementia and will truly change their experience.
- 3.18 The Council is also bringing community organisations and local businesses together in a local **Dementia Action Alliance** to improve the lives of people with dementia in the Thurrock area. And Directors Board have collectively agreed to become **Dementia Friends** – this will equip them with an understanding of dementia and the small things they can do that can make a difference to people living with dementia - from helping someone find the right bus to spreading the word about dementia. The Directors Board meeting on 14 June will be used as a training event run by the Alzheimers Society.
- **Creating the social care and health infrastructure to manage demand**
- 3.19 Building Positive Futures has developed a range of strategies that are planned or already underway which aim to:
- manage the current demand
 - reduce the length of morbidity across the board, but particularly in areas of high deprivation
 - maintain standards of quality and safety.

Date	Activity	Progress
April 2012	Rapid Response and Assessment Service	Established
March/April 2013	Workforce development – half day training on the use of asset-based thinking.	Completed
April 2013	Joint Reablement Team (with Health)	Established
May 2013	Timely Intervention and Prevention initiative	Agreement to develop Business Case for Pathfinders
Spring/summer 2013	Various Telecare initiatives to reduce loneliness, and improve nutrition for people with dementia	On going
June 2013	Expression of Interest in Dept Health pioneer initiative to identify innovative, practical approaches needed to integrated health and social care	in development
Summer/autumn 2013	Engaging providers in the development of a Market Position Statement setting out the type of services required for active ageing in Thurrock.	On going

Commentary

- 3.20 The **Rapid Response and Assessment Service**, (a partnership with NHS South West Essex Community Services) is an integrated team of social care and health professionals which undertakes urgent assessments at home and then provides direct access to a range of services. These include reablement programmes, telecare and telehealth services as well as short stays in specially equipped Short Term Assessment and Reablement (STAR) Flats or residential homes to stabilise conditions and to build confidence.
- 3.21 Our **Joint Reablement Team** provides short-term support designed to help keep vulnerable people safe and as independent as possible. The Reablement Team will work with service-users to learn or re-learn important tasks needed for everyday life. A Homecare Reablement Co-ordinator will visit to discuss a service user's needs and to agree the goals to achieve, and then work with them to achieve those goals.

- 3.22 The **Market Position Statement** is written for providers of adult social care services. It summarises demand, supply and our commissioning intentions so that the Council can support current and potential providers to develop the right services to meet the needs of our residents. It will also need to set out how the Council intends to manage demand to reflect the reality of challenging financial settlements since 2010, and in the future, and to enable service users to exercise more choice and control over their lives. The statement was drafted in early 2013 and we now need to bring together the stakeholders who need to be involved in finalising the Market Position Statement, and to develop the market facilitation process.
- 3.23 **Telecare** is now embedded in all assessments carried out by Adult Social Care to support service users to remain independent. Over the past year Telecare has increased its numbers on an average of 18 installs per month, and is included in 39.9% of all council funded social care packages. Telecare has also branched into supporting children with a disability, although in its infancy, families within Thurrock are using equipment to support their daily living.
- 3.24 Over the next year Telecare will be increasing the range of equipment to support the changing needs of Thurrock's population. With projects such as the digital befriending service which is due to commence in June; Age UK will be using Skype and TVHD webcams to combat social isolation by connecting families and friends by video conferencing. In response to an evaluation at Mountnessing Court, which found that over 60% of admissions were as a result of malnutrition, a device (Ode) to stimulate appetite will be trialled with Dementia clients who live alone, releasing food related smells prompting service users to eat a meal. Recognition of this work is growing with Thurrock being invited to speak at the Campaign to End Loneliness conference in June.
- 3.25 A Business Case is being developed for **Timely Intervention and Prevention** services which will use community based teams to identify vulnerable individuals with a range of Housing, Health and Social Care issues. The service will put in place a simple solution, a signposting service or pass on a referral for the ongoing management of a Long Term Condition within the home setting. Case finding will make use of a variety of predictive tools, such as frequent flyer data, areas of high demand for emergency services, housing known to have an adverse impact on health or people having an event that could potentially trigger episodes of ill health or loss of independence such as a bereavement. The method of contact could be either through a managed "cold call" or through existing channels such as attendance at a clinic or a community facility. To test proof of the concept it may be necessary to pilot the service in a minimum of two areas, selection could be based on the willingness of a local primary health service to support implementation.
- 3.26 On 14 May 2013 the Department of Health published a Press release setting out their ambition to make joined-up and coordinated health and care the norm by 2018. As part of this initiative new "**pioneer**" areas around the country, selected by a panel of national and international experts, will be appointed by September 2013. The aim is to identify innovative, practical approaches

needed to integrated health and social care as quickly as possible. Clinical commissioning groups set aside two per cent of their annual funding for non-recurrent expenditure and the Department will encourage them to consider using this to support innovative approaches to integrated care and support. Building Positive Futures features a strong commitment to integration, some of which has already been realised through the Joint Reablement Team and the Rapid Response and Assessment Service. The Health and Well-Being Board have agreed to support an expression of interest in Thurrock becoming a “pioneer”.

- 3.27 Recognising the significance of the changes being embarked upon, we have taken all Adult Social Care staff through a half day **development programme focusing on asset based thinking**. The development programme offered staff a simulation exercise where they applied new thinking and skills to deal with fictitious cases. We used actors to bring the case studies alive and their feedback at the end of the process provided invaluable learning. Further staff briefings and training events are being developed for the coming months.

4. Going forward

- 4.1 Transformation Board felt that in view of its strategic importance, the leadership and governance arrangements of the Building Positive Futures programme needed to be strengthened, particularly in relation to member and partner engagement but also to ensure all relevant service areas within the Council, as well as our partners, are contributing to in a co-ordinated way to promoting health and well being.
- 4.2 The diagram below depicts a much more strategic governance structure, building in a political dimension and the partnership arrangements with health. This will go a long way to addressing Transformation Board’s concerns, and will, we believe help us to raise the profile of this agenda.
- 4.3 The following is therefore proposed :
- Sponsorship Board reporting to Cabinet; HOSC; HWB Board
 - Work stream Steering Group (with a sponsor from the Board for each Work stream)
 - Local consultation through community fora and via Ward Cllrs
- 4.3.1 BPF Sponsorship Board** - providing strategic leadership embracing the whole system:
Attended by Portfolio Holders for Housing, Adult Social Care and Health, and Transformation and Communities
Chaired by Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning
Meets quarterly
Reports to Health and Well-Being Board; Cabinet & HOSC
Membership comprises health, 3rd sector, Directors Board:
- Directors Board membership: Housing; Adults, Health and Commissioning; Environment; and Public Health
 - Health representatives drawn from: NHS Thurrock CCG; NELPT; SEPT

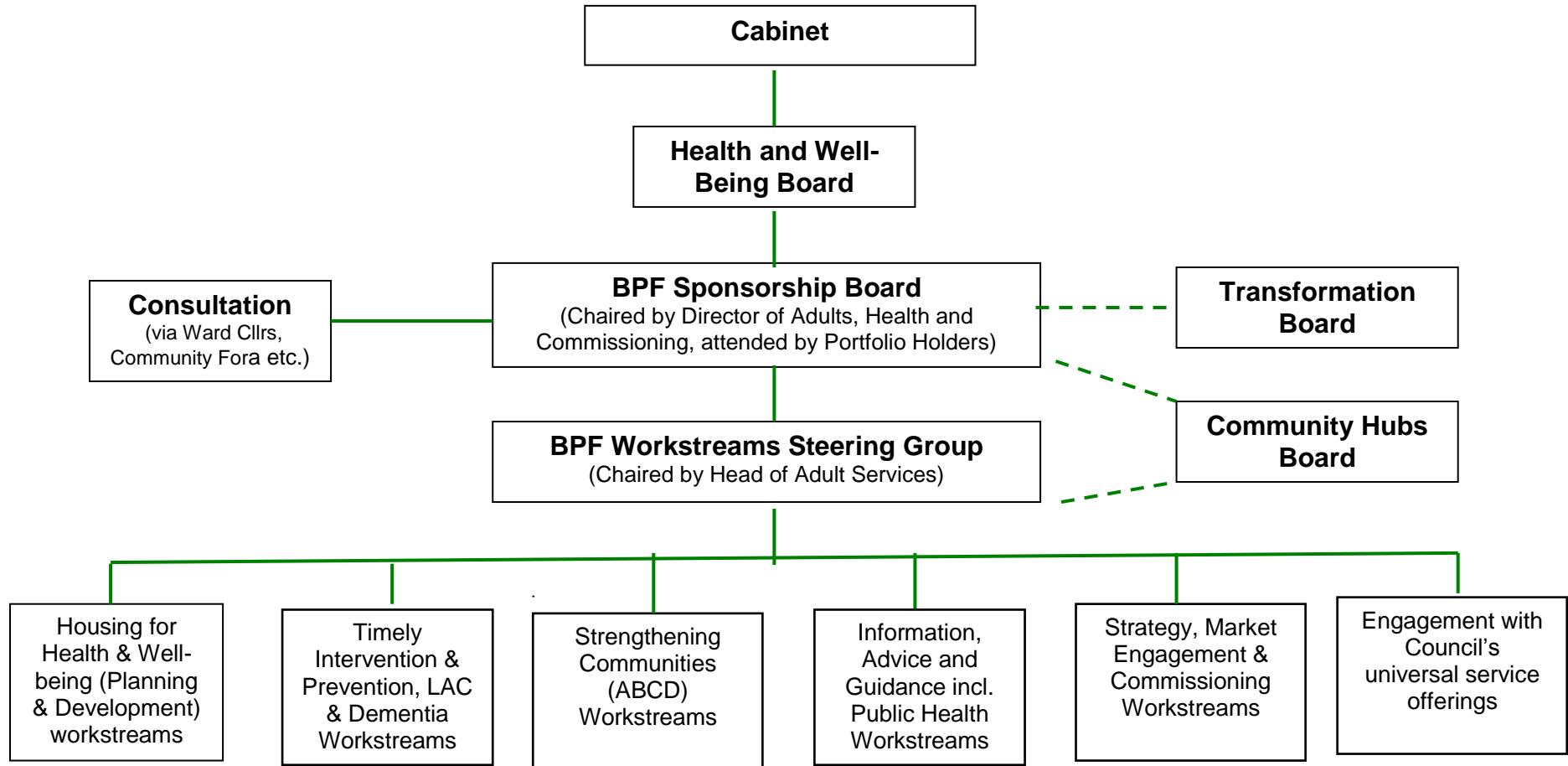
- Regional/national Director of a major Charity – Age UK; Alzheimers
- Plus major figure from the private sector
- Head of Adult Care – Chair of Work Stream Steering Group

4.3.2 Work Stream Steering Group - delivers the programme & aligns work with key corporate strategies:

- Chaired by Head of Adult Care
- Meets bi-monthly
- Membership comprises Heads of Service; 3rd sector; Health

The interface with the Council’s housing, adult social care, public health and universal services, as well as its partnership with health via the CCG will be managed through the governance structure to be established as follows:

**Thurrock Council – Building Positive Futures
Governance Arrangements**



5. To conclude

- 5.1 I would like to give my thanks to the support and enthusiasm of everyone involved with Building Positive Futures and I would very much like to encourage your continuing involvement – raising awareness of the ageing well agenda; sending us useful information and links to opportunities; active involvement in workstreams; and sharing your ideas with us so that we remain enthusiastic and alive to new thinking.

Les Billingham
Head of Adult Services
21 May 2013