

MINUTES of the meeting of Health and Well-Being Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 March 2014 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Yash Gupta (Chair), James Halden, Charlie Key, Sue Gray and Steve Liddiard

Mr Ian Evans

Apologies: Councillor Mike Stone and Ms. Joyce Sweeney

In attendance: Cllr B Rice – Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health
B. Capps – Senior Public Health Manager
D. Maynard – Head of Public Health
R. Harris – Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning
M. Boulter – Democratic Services Officer

49. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Health and Well-being Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11 February 2014 were approved as a correct record.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

a) Interests

Councillor Gupta declared a non-pecuniary interest by virtue that he was a carer for his daughter.

Councillor Liddiard declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Item 7 by virtue that he had been part of the strategy team in relation to this initiative.

b) Whipping

No interests were declared.

51. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE REPORT – SMOKING AND OBESITY

Officers outlined that obesity had a number of detrimental health effects including hypertension, coronary heart disease and mental health issues. Thurrock's adult obesity figures were above national average whereas for children, Thurrock was roughly aligned with the national average.

Public Health were soon to deliver a Healthy Weight Strategy, as well as already being in the process of re-commissioning weight management services. The community were being consulted with to help inform the redesign of the service. Public Health were also developing a directory of physical activity which would be available on numerous websites, including Active Essex.

In June Thurrock would see a new initiative called 'Beat the Street', which would encourage people to walk and would set up competitions between schools to promote and increase physical activity.

With regards to smoking, officers outlined the use of tobacco control and developing a policy on e-cigarettes.

The Committee discussed the importance of tackling obesity at schools as the key determinant in reducing obesity in adults. Members recognised that the Council had tried to reduce the number of new fast food outlets opening up near schools but had been prevented by national legislation. Officers noted that some schools used e-cards for tuck shop purchases so that parents could see what food their children were buying.

Officers further noted the use of text messages to support and remind people trying to give up smoking or eating a poor diet. Members highlighted that some councils had been doing this.

One Member suggested that Public Health should liaise with voluntary bodies more as these groups were sometimes able to reach the hard to reach families. Obesity and smoking were major issues that many voluntary organisations would be keen to become involved in.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The Committee acknowledge this report**
- ii) The Committee champion the need to work with partners around all aspects of tobacco control in Thurrock including prevention of children starting smoking, smoking cessation and wider enforcement and legislation issues.**
- iii) The Committee champion the need to work with partners around all aspects of increasing the proportion of people in Thurrock who achieve a healthy weight and reduce those that are obese and overweight through acknowledging all influences and the wider determinants of Obesity and overweight.**

52. PORTFOLIO HOLDER REPORT – ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH

The Portfolio holder highlighted that £10 million worth of savings needed to be made in adult social care in the next two years. This was a major challenge and would require the service to be fundamentally changed. The Portfolio holder confirmed, following a question, that residents with substantive and critical need were currently being supported. She agreed that it was important to prevent deterioration in peoples' ability to look after themselves and was a strong advocate of assistive technology and rehabilitation of older people once leaving hospital.

The portfolio holder clarified that the cost of care would not simply increase year on year and outstrip the cost savings. Many contracts had been renegotiated to reduce costs and the NHS, through the Better Care Fund, was looking to create a whole system response to the rising demand placed on the national health service by people living longer.

The portfolio holder stated that Public Health had been a real success and in primary care, the real challenge was to attract the next generation of GPs into the area. She also confirmed that £1 million had been received from CCGs to fund staff in Basildon Hospital's Stroke unit. This was only a temporary measure at present.

It was agreed that the Council could do much to encourage GP growth through planning permission and access to funding. The Council was keen to use these incentives.

The Committee noted that learning disability health checks were improving.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

53. THURROCK COALITION – “SPORT FOR YOU” INITIATIVE

The 'Sport for You' initiative was led by Thurrock Coalition and had started after the London Olympics when the Council invited the Coalition to lead on a project to sustain interest in sport following the Games. The Coalition joined a team of people representing a range of groups in Thurrock to identify the top five sports that disabled people wished to participate in. The team also clarified the areas of challenge and concern that faced disabled people in accessing sport programmes, including transport, communication and sustainability.

Thurrock Coalition liaised with a number of sporting groups in Thurrock to secure free sessions and use of equipment including the athletics track from Thurrock Harriers and free sessions from Tai Chi for Health. The Council also funded the purchase of table tennis tables.

The outcomes of the work included:

- An online searchable database for all sports accessible for disabled people.
- A daily inclusive sport being available through Thurrock Lifestyle Solutions at Stanford Cricket Club.
- A MENCAP and a Thurrock Lifestyle Solution football team.
- Four of the five most popular sports being available in Thurrock. (The nearest Basketball session being in Chelmsford).

Mr Evans explained that people with disabilities who moved into the borough, or who had recently become disabled usually became aware of the disabled offer through accessing the Centre for Independent Living, where Thurrock Coalition was based.

The Committee welcomed the initiative and congratulated the team on their work.

RESOLVED that:

- i) The Committee are aware of the Thurrock Coalition "Sport For You" initiative.**
- ii) That the Committee note the progress made by the initiative to date.**

54. BUILDING POSITIVE FUTURES PROGRESS REPORT

Officers explained that this project was a transformation project that would be delivered through legislation in the next few years, including the Better Care Fund and the Care Bill. It would affect adult social care significantly.

RESOLVED that The Committee note progress made by the Building Positive Futures programme and in particular the broadened scope to include the government's integration agenda for Adult Social Care and Health – the Better Care Fund.

The meeting finished at 8.35pm.

Approved as a true and correct record

CHAIRMAN

DATE

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
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or alternatively e-mail mboulter@thurrock.gov.uk**