

18 March 2022		ITEM: 6
Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Board		
Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy refresh		
Wards and communities affected: All	Key Decision: None	
Report of: Jo Broadbent, Director of Public Health		
Accountable Director: Ian Wake, Director Adults, Housing & Health		
This report is Public		

Executive Summary

This paper provides an update on progress in refreshing the Health & Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS) for 2022-26.

The Board was previously updated on the Strategy refresh consultation exercise at its meeting in December 2021. It was agreed that a consultation report and copy of the emerging draft strategy would be provided for member's consideration at the meeting scheduled for February 2022.

Following the consultation exercise a consultation report has been created and further work has been undertaken to ensure that proposals for the refreshed strategy reflect feedback that has been received. This paper provides members with the draft consultation report at Annex A and a further iteration of the emerging draft strategy for members' consideration.

1. Recommendation(s)

1.1 That members

- Consider the draft consultation report at Annex A and approve its publication and sharing with people who participated in the consultation exercise
- Approve the proposal to create an Accessible web version and an Easy Read version of the strategy, improving accessibility
- To note that upon finalising the Strategy Board will be asked to consider how to resource its ongoing monitoring and reporting and to ensure that the Strategy remains a live document

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 The Health & Wellbeing Board has a statutory duty to produce a HWBS. The HWBS is a whole system plan for health & wellbeing and a means to engage all partners in the wellbeing agenda, co-ordinating strategic thinking of all elements of the council and all system partners to deliver quantifiable gains in health and wellbeing of residents.

2.2 Thurrock agreed its first HWBS in 2013. The second and current HWBS was launched in July 2016 and can be accessed here:
<https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/strategies/health-and-well-being-strategy>

2.3 The Proposals for the HWBS were developed by multi-agency stakeholders including Thurrock Council ADs and Subject Matter Experts. The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) considered the proposals for the HWBS at its meeting in July 2021, including the Vision, the 6 Domain structure, and plans to engage with the wider public. A twelve week consultation exercise took place October-December 2021 and the proposed strategy has been further developed to reflect engagement outcomes.

3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options

3.1. Preparatory work with system partners and HWBB Chair to date has identified key influences on Health & Wellbeing and suggested that the HWBS needs to:

- Be high level and strategic
- Be highly ambitious and set out genuinely new plans rather than just describe what has already been done
- Provide a clear narrative that drives the work of all aspects of the local authority, NHS and third sector
- Address resident priorities and be co-designed with residents
- Be place and locality based and take a strengths and assets approach, not focused only on deficits or services

3.2. Proposals have been developed based around six areas of people's lives, which we refer to as Domains, that cover the wider determinants of health and impact on people's health and wellbeing. Through engagement with residents and stakeholders, 3 or 4 priority Goals have been identified for each Domain – with public feedback being used refine of these Goals for the final draft.

3.3. Delivery of the ambitions within the Goals is underpinned by a number of key topic-specific strategies (such as the Housing Strategy), plus the Local Plan and the Backing Thurrock Economic Growth Strategy. Content proposals in the draft HWBS have been agreed with leads for these other strategic plans.

- 3.4. The duty to produce the HWBS statutorily falls to the HWBB. Democratic Services have advised that this means that final sign-off must be by the partnership HWBB, and all other Council committees and partner agency governance structures are consultees to the Strategy. The proposed governance timetable for formal sign-off of the HWBS is below –

Action	Date
Directors Board - for 15 June Cabinet Papers	12-May 22
Cabinet	15-Jun 22
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	16-Jun 22
Deadline for papers to Full Council – to request extension by one day to enable HOSC to consider	16 Jun 22
Papers published for HWBB	17 Jun 22
Health & Wellbeing Board	24-Jun 22
Full Council	29-Jun 22

4. Consultation outcomes

- 4.1 A summary of the consultation exercise is provided below. A full consultation report is provide at **Annex A**.
- 4.2 Over 750 comments were received through the short ‘user friendly’ questionnaire which sought the public’s views on the six Domains that have been proposed for the refreshed Strategy. In excess of 300 residents or professionals involved in the planning, commissioning or delivery of health and care services provided feedback on strategy consultation proposals through community and professional forums and meetings.
- 4.3 Officers attended Scrutiny Committees and a range of stakeholder meetings to seek feedback. Direct face to face engagement was impacted by COVID-19 but Thurrock CVS engaged directly with residents and also ran two workshops comprising representatives from several CVS organisations operating in Thurrock.
- 4.4 Key themes arising in feedback comprised:

Accessibility

IT, digital exclusion. Feedback provided by elected members was reinforced by respondents across responding to priorities across a number of domains. It was acknowledged that digital exclusion is increasingly a barrier for some people to access services. It was felt that alternatives routes to access were

still required and that services could not be completely digitally accessed as this would exclude some individuals.

Geographical locations and the importance of providing opportunities to access to residents across the borough through affordable and well connected public transport, active travel, provision of local based services and support

Capacity of services – access to primary care, mental health support and wider services and support was a key theme within feedback.

Informing residents

Effectively communicating with residents using a range of methods

Recognising that a range of approaches to community engagement and empowerment are needed - for example, online and social media approaches to engagement will not reach all community members, including many who are more vulnerable

Feedback recognised people wanting to improve their own health and wellbeing and the importance of providing information and guidance to facilitate that.

Communicating with residents and raise awareness of support and options that are available to them, single points of contact / lead support to help people navigate the system.

The Environment

Mitigating the impact of housing and commercial developments by ensuring that supporting infrastructure is in place and developments consider health and wellbeing.

Providing access to green and open spaces, public transport and active travel across the borough.

Opportunities for people to remain active and socialise in a safe environment. The importance of supporting improvements in Air Quality.

Mental Health

The impact of COVID on social isolation and loneliness and the adverse impact it has had on groups already marginalized

Respondents welcomed the refreshed Strategy providing specific focus on the provision of mental health support for residents, including access to mental health support, with appropriate capacity and timeliness of services.

The link between mental ill health and wider determinants of health such as long-term unemployment was acknowledged, a focus on employment and growth in relation to mental health was welcomed

5. Refining proposals for the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- 5.1. Proposals for the refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy have been refined further to reflect consultation outcomes. These changes in response to community feedback are detailed in Annex A. Three versions of the refreshed Strategy will be available, including the main public version of the refreshed Strategy.
- 5.2. It is proposed that the other two versions will be produced upon the final strategy domains and goals being approved and text being finalised (ie during the pre-election period) These will comprise:
 - An Accessible version to comply with website publication guidance
 - An Easy Read version, being produced in conjunction with Inclusive Communication Essex Team, Hertfordshire Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust
- 5.3. A partnership version of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy will additionally comprise the main strategy document plus a series of Appendices providing more detailed information on each of the domains and underpinning priorities for professional stakeholders, including governance arrangements for each of the priorities. This will support the effective monitoring and reporting of specific priorities to the Board via the appropriate governance structures. These Appendices are proposed to comprise:
 - The 6 HWB Domains in detail including for each: supporting narrative, challenges, impact of COVID-19, key outcomes, impact and delivery mechanisms
 - Community & Stakeholder Consultation & Engagement Report (ie Appx A)
 - Healthwatch / CVS / Ngage Engagement Report
 - Impact of Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2021 in more detail, including key achievements
- 5.4. The strategy document will set out the role of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. To provide context, data will be included which sets out inequalities that most impact on people's health and wellbeing.
- 5.5. The proposed Strategy has a Vision of *Levelling the Playing Field* and tackling inequalities is reflected throughout the Strategy. Each of the 6 Domains has 3-4 Goals which set out specific ambitions improve outcomes and specifically level the playing field and address inequalities, alongside actions that will be taken to achieve this.
- 5.6. On the Domains and Goals being agreed and finalised, further work will be undertaken to establish baselines or appropriate ways of monitoring and reporting progress to the Board.

6. Reasons for Recommendation

- 6.1. The Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB) has a collective statutory duty to produce a HWBS. It is one of two highest level statutory strategic documents for the Local Authority and system partners, the other being the Local Plan. The statutory status of the document means that the new Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) must have regard to it when planning their own strategy.

7. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

- 7.1. The proposals in this paper reflect substantial consultation with professionals and the public.

8. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact

- 8.1. The HWBS is one of three highest Place Shaping strategic documents for the Local Authority and system partners, the other being the Local Plan and Backing Thurrock Economic Development plan. It is a whole system plan for health & wellbeing and a means to engage all partners in the wellbeing agenda, co-ordinating strategic thinking of all elements of the council and all system partners to deliver quantifiable gains in health and wellbeing of residents.
- 8.2. In order to support delivery of the Council's Vision, the 6 Domains of the HWBS Strategy each relate to one of the Council's key priorities of People, Place and Prosperity, as outlined in the attached slide set.

9. Implications

9.1 Financial

*Implications previously verified have not changed.

The cost associated with the strategy refresh will be delivered within existing budgets or agreed through existing Council and partner agencies governance finance arrangements.

9.2 Legal

*Implications previously verified have not changed.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established a responsibility for Councils and CCGs to jointly prepare Health and Wellbeing Strategies for the local area as defined by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

9.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Lee**
Community Development and Equalities Team

Implications have not changed since previous approval provided in July 2021. The aim of the strategy is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Thurrock and reduce health and wellbeing inequalities. A community equality impact assessment (CEIA) will underpin the strategy and mitigate the risk of disproportionate negative impact for protected groups. This approach will ensure the strategy itself and implementation supports delivery of the council's equality objectives while maintaining compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty.

7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children)

The refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy will facilitate crime and disorder priorities that relate specifically to health and wellbeing, further strengthening the relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership. The focus of the strategy is to broadly focus on addressing inequalities in Thurrock.

8. Appendices to the report

Annex A – Public Consultation & Engagement Report

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