

HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL 25 NOVEMBER 2019

SMOKING CESSATION

Summary

1. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) is to receive an overview on the Council's work to aid smoking cessation, which is on the Committee's work programme.
2. The Director of Public Health and the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Public Health, have been invited to the meeting.

Background

3. As part of the HOSC's update and discussion on services funded by Public Health Ring-Fenced Grants (PHRFG), interest was expressed in understanding more about smoking cessation services
4. HOSC Members may be aware that as part of reductions to PHRFG funding nationally, following consultation with partners, the Council has discontinued commissioning of smoking cessation services, except for pregnant women – the impact of which is being monitored by Worcestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board.
5. Smoking remains the single largest cause of preventable deaths and one of the largest causes of health inequalities in England. There are still 7.3 million adult smokers and more than 200 people a day die from smoking related illness which could have been prevented.
6. There are several ways to quit smoking which include using nicotine replacement therapy, an e-cigarette or going 'cold turkey'. There are several sources of support to encourage smokers to quit such as online forums, telephone helplines and text alerts.

Smoking in Worcestershire

7. Smoking prevalence in England has fallen to 14.4%. This means rates are down by almost a quarter from 19.3% five years ago – bringing the estimated number of smokers in England to around 6 million.
8. In Worcestershire the estimated smoking prevalence in adults had been falling year- on-year. Despite a rise in prevalence in 2016 from 13.5% to 14.7% in 2017. In 2018 the rate of smoking prevalence in adults dropped to 11.7%

9. There are significant differences in smoking prevalence between Worcestershire districts. Redditch District has the highest estimated proportion of current smokers at 20.5%. Wychavon has the lowest estimated proportion of smokers at 6.8%.

10. In Worcestershire the gap between smoking rates for people in routine and manual occupations compared to the adult population overall appears to be widening. Latest data (2017) shows that in Worcestershire 23.5% of individuals in routine and manual occupations are estimated to be a current smoker compared to 11.7% of the overall adult population

11. Over 12.5% of women in Worcestershire still smoke at the time of delivery, which translates into more than 600 infants born to smoking mothers each year. This rate has been consistently worse than the England average.

12. Please see the presentation attached for further information

Purpose of the meeting

13. HOSC members are invited to consider and comment on the information provided and agree:

- whether any further information or scrutiny work is required at this time
- whether there are any comments to highlight to the relevant Cabinet Member

Supporting Information

- Appendix 1 - Smoking Cessation Presentation

Contact Points

Specific Contact Points for this report

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Head of Legal and Democratic Services) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

- Agenda and Minutes of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 19 July and 30 June 2016 – available on the website: <https://worcestershire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?Act=earlier&CId=141&D=201803141000&MD=ielistmeetings>
- Cabinet on 16 July 2015, available on the website [here](#)
- Cabinet Member Decision on 20 November 2015, available on the website [here](#)