

## **HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD 25 FEBRUARY 2020**

### **HEALTH IMPROVEMENT GROUP BI-ANNUAL REPORT**

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#### **Board Sponsor**

Dr. Kathryn Cobain, Director of Public Health

#### **Author**

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#### **Priorities**

Mental health & well-being  
Being Active  
Reducing harm from Alcohol  
Other (specify below)

(Please click below  
then on down arrow)

Yes  
Yes  
Yes

#### **Safeguarding**

Impact on Safeguarding Children  
If yes please give details

Yes

Impact on Safeguarding Adults  
If yes please give details

Yes

#### **Item for Decision, Consideration or Information**

Information and assurance

#### **Recommendation**

1. **The Health and Well-being Board is asked to:**
  - a) **Consider and comment on progress made by the Health Improvement Group (HIG) between June 2019 and December 2019, and**
  - b) **Ensure that each organisation represented by the Board plays an active part in the delivery of the Joint Health and Well-being Strategy and fully participate in providing the necessary updates and information for the reporting of progress.**

#### **Background**

2. The Health Improvement Group (HIG) reports bi-annually to the Health and Well-being Board (HWBB). Since its last report to the Board, the HIG has met twice, on 19 June 2019 and 4 December. The HIG leads and ensures progress of action to improve health and well-being, focusing on health inequalities and the wider

determinants of health and well-being in Worcestershire. The HIG receives annual progress updates on District Health and Well-being Plans and considers local issues.

3. Attendance at the HIG meetings has improved, although there has been no representation from West Mercia Police and the VCS. Membership and attendance has been considered and Worcestershire Voices are supporting the recruitment of a new VCS representative.

### **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy Annual Update**

4. The Health and Well-being Strategy 2016-2021, identified three overarching priorities to achieve the vision of the Board that: Worcestershire residents are healthier, live longer and have a better quality of life especially those communities and groups with the poorest health outcomes. These are:

- Being Active at Every Age
- Good Mental Health and Well-being Throughout Life
- Reducing Harm from Alcohol at all Ages.

5. An action plan has been produced around each priority area. The update report provides a summary of activity and performance indicators to measure progress against each priority at year three. Overall, progress has been made in each of the areas and against each of the objectives. Partners have delivered activities to progress the action plan, however, larger scale systematic approaches are required to really make an impact on reducing risk of disease and reducing inequalities. The HIG agreed to note the progress to date on the delivery of the Joint Health and Well-being Strategy and associated action plans and the need to scale up prevention activities to achieve larger scale improvements in health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. The full report is available in the supporting information section at the bottom of this report.

### **Summary of Progress: District Health and Well-being Plans**

#### Bromsgrove Health and Wellbeing Plan Update

6. The Community Wellbeing Theme Group has continued to meet regularly and covers: Health and Wellbeing; Children and Young People; and Ageing Well. The focus for this group is aligned with priorities within the Worcestershire Health and Well-being Strategy 2016-21.

7. Progress has been made across a number of areas impacting on health and wellbeing. Examples of initiatives taking place across the district include; Activity referral, ESCAPE-pain, NEURO exercise, Active Kitchen, Tell Me What You Want Arts project, Bromsgrove Urban and Rural Transport (BURT), and the Wellbeing in Partnership E-Newsletter. Work around Health and Housing, and the Ageing Well Sub Group was also expanded on.

#### Wychavon Health and Wellbeing Plan

8. The Wychavon Health and Wellbeing plan priorities are aligned to the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board priorities. Progress has been made across a number of areas impacting on health and wellbeing. Examples of work

taking place across the district includes; Wychavon Wellbeing Week; Evesham Men in Sheds; Neighbourhood Watch Together Event; Everyday Active grants; Countylines project, partnership work on social mobility as well as progress around affordable homes and reducing homelessness. A range of positive activities have been supported in Droitwich West to improve outcomes for the community. Areas for concern and an approach to address were also shared including social mobility, the gap in employment rate between those with a long-term health condition and the overall employment rate, suicide rates and excess winter deaths.

## **General items**

9. Since the previous bi-annual report in May 2019, the HIG has also discussed and considered the following:

### Child Poverty Brief

10. The percentage of children living in poverty nationally and locally is increasing. There are a significantly higher number of children in low income families (all dependent children under 20) in Wyre Forest than nationally. Child poverty is linked to health, wellbeing and educational attainment.

### Promoting Independence

11. Input was sought on the recommissioning of a revised Independent Living Service, including the adaptations and support to remain independent.

### Substance Misuse Needs Assessment

12. Findings from the Substance Misuse Needs Assessment were reported:

- In Worcestershire, just under a third of adults drink alcohol at a level that is hazardous to health (approx 147,372 people).
- There has been an increase in the number of people seeking and completing treatment for alcohol dependence.
- There has been an increase in drug misuse deaths in Worcestershire.
- There has been an increase in the number of people seeking and completing treatment for opiates and non-opiates.
- Stakeholder engagement took place over the summer to inform decisions for the new drug and alcohol service.

### Early Help Update

13. Early help is a description of services available to provide early support to parents and families. This includes WCC provision, Babcock International, Barnardo's, Action for Children, Redditch Borough Council, Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust, CAMHS, Acute Trust, DWP, West Mercia Police, Library Services. The key areas of focus are CYPP key performance indicators, Early Help Strategy, Healthy Start Programme, and Reducing Parental Conflict. A Reducing Parental Conflict Conference was held in April 2019 which was attended by approx. 120 delegates. During summer 2019, activity was undertaken to raise awareness of the Early Help offer.

## Making Every Contact Count (MECC)

14. MECC is an approach to train frontline staff and volunteers to routinely engage in conversations with patients, clients, service users and members of the public about healthier lifestyles to improve health and wellbeing. MECC E-learning is open to all, and frontline workers are recommended to complete E-learning and MECC face to face skills training. Organisations, including the NHS and Councils across the county have been rolling out MECC training to frontline staff and volunteers within their organisation. Train the trainer training is available to deliver MECC at scale across Worcestershire in response to the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sustainability Transformation Partnership commitment. In Q1-Q2, 479 people completed the MECC e-learning, 144 people completed face to face skills training, and 8 people completed train the trainer. Public Health will continue to work with key partners including the MECC partnership group to roll out at scale over the next 12 months.

## Warmer Worcestershire Update

15. The HIG noted progress on the Warmer Worcestershire Fuel Poverty Plan including proposed activity for this year. The Warmer Worcestershire network is a partnership between public and voluntary sector organisation all working towards tackling fuel poverty in the County. In the last year the network has sourced funding for a number of home energy efficiency improvements to support Worcestershire residents. These includes loft and cavity wall insulation and some heating measures and the warm homes fund for first time gas central heating. In the coming year the primary focus will be the delivery of 150 first time gas central heating systems for Worcestershire residents.

## Loneliness

16. A needs assessment was completed to inform recommissioning. The needs assessment explored risk factors for loneliness and evidenced based approaches for tackling loneliness. A new tackling loneliness partnership group has been convened with a new action plan following a 'World Café' event. A service to reduce loneliness is currently being commissioned locally, and the service will commence in April 2020.

17. The HIG will next meet in March 2020 and anticipate receiving the following items at meetings before reporting back to the board in autumn 2020; Worcester, Redditch, Wyre Forest and Malvern District Council Health and Wellbeing Plans.

## **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

18. None

## **Privacy Impact Assessment**

19. None

## **Equality and Diversity Implications**

20. An Equality Impact Assessment is not required

## **Contact Points**

### County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

### Specific Contact Points for this report

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## **Supporting Information**

- Joint Health and Well-being Strategy Annual Update (including appendix)  
(Available on-line)