



Community and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

Briefing Paper

Report of: Jenny Moreton, Principal Health and Sustainability Officer

Date: 8th October 2009

Open

Wyre Forest District Council Health Action Plan 2009/10

1. Summary

1.1 This report seeks endorsement of the Wyre Forest District Council Health Action Plan 2009/10.

2. Background

2.1 The Health and Sustainability Team in Strategic Housing Services has responsibility for co-ordinating the Council's work to promote healthy living and reduce health inequalities. The Wyre Forest Health Improvement Co-ordinator, employed by the Primary Care Trust, is based within the team.

2.2 An aspiration to develop a Health Action Plan is included in the Planning and Regulatory Services Business Plan for 2009/10. The aim is to build upon existing work being carried out (e.g. through the county and district Health and Wellbeing theme groups) and to better co-ordinate this area of work within the council.

3. Key Issues

3.1 The Worcestershire Health Improvement Strategy recognises that much of the burden of ill health in the county is avoidable and is related to unhealthy lifestyles. Lifestyles are becoming less healthy and health outcomes are likely to get worse. Health outcomes are better in the less deprived parts of the county than in the more deprived parts. Some social groups, e.g. BME populations, are at higher risk of poor health.

3.2 The Wyre Forest Matters Sustainable Community Strategy recognises the need to:

- Increase the life expectancy of adults and reduce the incidence of coronary heart disease and cancer.
- Improve the quality of life of older people, especially those with a limiting long term illness
- Reduce health inequalities
- Improved life choices for people with mental health problems.

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- 3.3 The Worcestershire Local Area Agreement includes various targets relating to Health and Wellbeing, aiming to Increase adult participation in sports, reduce obesity in children and adults, reduce alcohol related hospital admissions and reduce the smoking rate.
- 3.4 Staff sickness levels have gradually increased over recent months. Many of the actions aim to improve employee health and therefore to help reduce sickness absence.

4. Options

- 4.1 The Committee may wish to:
- Endorse the Wyre Forest District Council Health Action Plan 2009/10 to the Cabinet
 - Put forward alternative or additional proposals to the Cabinet.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The consultation process involved:
- Key officers from within the Council, including Health & Sustainability, Housing, Environmental Health, Community Development and Media.
 - Cllr Tracey Onslow, the Cabinet Member whose remit includes health issues.
 - The Primary Care Trust's Health Improvement Co-ordinator for the Wyre Forest area.

6. Relevant Council Policies/ Strategies

- 6.1 The Action Plan has links to the Wyre Forest Sustainable Community Strategy, the Corporate Plan and the Worcestershire Health Improvement Strategy.

7. Implications

- 7.1 Resource issues are identified for each action within the plan.
- 7.2 The Action Plan requires cross-directorate and partnership working.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 Wyre Forest District Council Health Action Plan 2009/10.

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