

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

21 OCTOBER 2014

HEALTH INEQUALITIES REVIEW HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE

Report from: Dr Alison Barnett, Director of Public Health

Author: Dr David Whiting, Senior Public Health Intelligence Manager

Summary

The Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Task Group review of Health Inequalities in Medway contained 11 recommendations. This report provides an update on progress on recommendations that are related to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1. One of Medway Council's priorities set out in the Council Plan is for adults to be able to maintain their independence and live healthy lives.
- 1.2. One of the five strategic themes of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy is to reduce health inequalities.
- 1.3. The recommendations in the review are therefore consistent with the Council's Policy Framework and a matter for Cabinet insofar as they can be met from within existing budgets.

2. Background

- 2.1. This Task Group was established to review health inequalities across Medway and how to direct investment where it is most needed. The members of the Task Group were Councillors Wildey (Chair), Adrian Gulvin, Purdy, Shaw and Smith.
- 2.2. The Task Group Review contained 11 recommendations to Cabinet, of which three were related to the Health and Wellbeing board. Based on these recommendations Cabinet made decisions 86/2014, 89/2014 and 91/2014:
 - [86/2014] That Cabinet asks NHS England (Kent and Medway Local Area Team) to work with NHS Medway Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to

investigate inequity in access and outcomes at GP practices and report back to the Health and Wellbeing Board with its plan to address the issue.

- [89/2014] That Cabinet: asks the Health and Wellbeing Board to engage with members of the public and seek views on barriers to uptake of health and social care services – whether they be Council, NHS or volunteer – in the development and implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Board engagement plan in the next 12 months; and that the findings of this engagement exercise should be used to programme and target further work to address health inequalities with Council service managers, NHS colleagues and the voluntary sector.
- [91/2014] That Cabinet asks the Health and Wellbeing Board to identify where health equity audits may help to determine action that would reduce health inequalities across council services and those commissioned by the CCG and NHS England (Kent and Medway Local Area Team); And that the Public Health department then provides support or leads on conducting those which are determined to be the highest priority by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

3. Risk management

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk
Cabinet decisions are not acted upon and health inequalities not addressed	The 11 Cabinet decisions involve action by a number of stakeholders, including the Health and Wellbeing Board, and failure to undertake these actions may slow the reduction in health inequalities in Medway.	Ensure that the Cabinet decisions that relate to the Health and Wellbeing Board are acted upon.

4. Financial and legal implications

- 4.1. The cost of implementing most of the recommendations contained in the review document can be met from within existing budgets. Any actions requiring additional resources will have to be considered against other priorities and budget pressures in 2014/15 and factored into the 2015/2016 budget process as appropriate.
- 4.2. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 provides the legal framework for the council's duties in respect of its public health functions. The council has a duty under section 12 of The Health and Social Care Act 2012 to take such steps, as it considers appropriate to improve the health of people in its area.
- 4.3. Section 31 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 inserts a new section 73B into the NHS Act 2006, which gives the Secretary of State the power to publish guidance to which the local authority must have regard when exercising its public health functions. The council must have regard to

documents published by the Secretary of State, which includes the Department of Health's Public Health Outcomes framework.

- 4.4. The Public Health Outcomes Framework 2013-2016 focuses on the respective roles of local government, the NHS and their delivery of improved well-being outcomes for the people and communities they serve. The prime purpose of the Public Health Outcomes Framework is to reduce health inequalities. In addition to the duties under The Health and Social Care Act 2012, the Council also has a duty under the Equality Act 2010 to take appropriate action to reduce health inequality for those with a protected characteristic.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. The HWB is asked to note the contents of this report and agree to the proposal that a health equity audit is undertaken on access to maternity care.

Lead officer

Dr David Whiting
Senior Public Health Intelligence Manager
Public Health Directorate
Medway Council

Background papers

Update on progress with respect to Cabinet decisions 86/2014, 89/2014 and 91/2014.