TOPICS FOR TASK GROUP IN-DEPTH REVIEWS

Name of O and S Committee

Suggested topic: Physical Activity

HASC/RCE/ CYP

Reason for Review:

- If physical activity were a pill, it would be one of the most cost-effective drugs ever invented. It can reduce the risk
 of major illnesses, such as heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and cancer by up to 50% and lower the risk of
 early death by up to 30%
- Inactivity levels of Medway residents is 29.4% vs a South East region average of 25.4% (source Public Health Outcomes Framework)
- Medway also has a poorer performance on Public Health Framework Indicators related to physical activity such as 1.16 Utilisation of outdoor space for exercise/health reasons
- The governments "Sporting Future A New Strategy for an Active Nation" published in 2016, emphasised the opportunities for improved health and wellbeing of the population through increasing physical activity
- Medway has a good starting point with the following strategies, but lacks a unifying strategic approach which
 addresses all of the calls to action within the governments strategies; Medway Joint Health and Wellbeing
 Strategy 2012-2017, Medway Sporting Legacy 2017-2020 and Medway Cycling's Action Plan 2016/18
- There are great opportunities to maximise the physical assets Medway already has in place (i.e. greenspaces), networks (such as the Medway Healthy Weight Network) and partner agencies already in place and keen to support a cross cutting agenda such as physical activity

Potential for impact on one or more sections of the population?

Increasing the level of physical activity for the most sedentary populations in Medway, would represent a significant improvement to their levels of physical and mental wellbeing. In addition to positive short and long term impacts on the health and social care system

Is this an issue of corporate concern and/or an issue for partners?

This is an issue for a wide range of public, private, public and academic sector partners and only their full involvement will lead to the population level change that is needed.

Will it add value/lead to effective outcomes?

A full scrutiny review that leads to SMART recommendations and areas of focus will lead to effective, measurable and demonstrable outcomes

Will the review duplicate other work?

No

Is it timely / do we have the resources?

Officers across a range of council services, are actively working on this area and have physical activity topics as an area of work, so resources exist to support the review process

Will the review provide scope for service improvement?

Yes, lessons can be learnt from other areas who are making progress on this agenda, closer partnership and joined up working, innovation and adhering to the evidence based recommendation that have been produced by experts in this field.

PROPOSED TOPICS FOR TASK GROUP IN-DEPTH REVIEWS

Health and
Adult Social
Care
/Children and
Young
People
Overview and
Scrutiny
Committees

Suggested topic: Support and resources for Carers

Reason for Review: This is a Member suggestion which has been put forward due to concerns regarding meeting Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) for Carer Assessments.

The Care Act 2014 created a single, modern law which makes it clear what kind of care people should expect and what they will receive. The Act introduced new responsibilities for Local Authorities in managing the social care needs of their local population. This included new rights for carers, including the right to an assessment of their needs.

The Task Group review undertaken earlier this year "How Far Has Medway Gone in Becoming a Dementia Friendly Community?" heard concerns raised by carers of people living with dementia with regard to difficulties accessing carer support and a lack of flexible respite provision.

Potential for impact on one or more sections of the population? Yes – People of all ages are carers'.

Is this an issue of corporate concern and/or an issue for partners? Yes – This is an issue for the Council and partners. The Council has agreed to implement a number of initiatives over a period of time and within budgetary constraints to ensure an overall improvement in provision.

Will it add value/lead to effective outcomes? The topic would support Medway's priority of "supporting Medway's people to realise their potential" which would support the outcome under this priority of "older and disabled people living independently in their homes." It also supports the way of working, "Working in partnership where this benefits our residents." In order to maximise the effectiveness of outcomes, care would need to be taken not to duplicate existing workstreams.

Will the review duplicate other work? This depends upon the focus of review. The Medway Adult Social Care Strategy 2016-20 sets out a commitment to support carers to maintain their caring role and stay well. The Delivery Plan of the Strategy includes reviewing support for carers, especially those providing significant unpaid care or those caring for people with dementia and commissioning services that are appropriate for their needs.

Current work related to carers currently in progress includes:

- Carers' assessment, support plan and review forms are in the process of being revised to ensure they reflect a
 personalised, holistic approach to assessing the needs of carers. Further supporting a personalised approach to
 carers' support, the current provision of the Carers' Breaks services is being adapted to allow greater capacity to
 offer a direct payment in place of a commissioned service to allow flexible plans to be developed to support the
 complex individual needs of informal carers.
- The Community Interest Companies of 'WALT' and 'WHoo Cares' are currently running a pilot focussed on improving outcomes for carers through understanding the individual needs, giving carers further input into how they are supported by Adult Social Care and increasing the choice around personalised support that can be delivered in the local community.

The topic of carer support was previously investigated via themed meetings in 2010/11. In addition, some of the recommendations of the Mental Health Task Group in 2014 related to carers.

Is it timely / do we have the resources? The topic could be considered timely, but as stated above, careful consideration is needed to ensure that duplication of existing work strands is avoided and that all initiatives will be delivered within existing budgetary constraints. The review could draw upon existing resources but given constraints close cooperation would be needed with the voluntary sector.

Will the review provide scope for service improvement? Yes, review of existing work-streams and previous scrutiny work could identify any gaps.

PROPOSED TOPICS FOR TASK GROUP IN-DEPTH REVIEWS

RCE and BS O&S Committee

Suggested topic: Town Centres for the 21st Century

Reason for Review:

A review of Town Centres was suggested by a Member of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27 October 2017. It was suggested that this could be a Joint RCE and Business Support Task Group as business rate income could feature in the scope for the Task Group

It was suggested that the key lines of enquiry for the review could include:

- Where we are with the 5 town centres in Medway and also the secondary centres widen focus from Strood, Rochester Riverside and Chatham to look across Medway
- Relationship between places like Hempstead Valley and town centres
- The long term sustainability of town centres.
- Impact of online stores on town centres

Potential for impact on one or more sections of the population?

Yes – the potential impacts from this review could be cross cutting.

Is this an issue of corporate concern and/or an issue for partners?

Yes - maximising regeneration and economic growth is one of the three priorities for the Council. It is likely to be of interest to a wide range of residents and communities of interest.

Will it add value/lead to effective outcomes?

Potentially

Will the review duplicate other work?

Yes in 2018 – work to develop planning policy on Town Centres and retail in Medway for the purposes of the Local Plan is underway now .

Is it timely / do we have the resources?

Public consultation on the Town Centre and retail aspects of the Local Plan will be happening in the Spring of 2018. Member input on this is via the cross-party Development Plans Cabinet Advisory Group. There is no capacity to support a concurrently running Task Group. If a Task Group on Town Centres were to be established in 2019 it would have scope to influence the ongoing work on the regeneration of Town Centres more generally. Any Task Group recommendations at that stage would need to be consistent with the planning policies enshrined in the Local Plan.

Will the review provide scope for service improvement?

Yes – the review could feed in to regeneration plans for Medway's Town Centres