

Report of the Head of Civic, Legal & Democratic Services

Cover Report – Childhood Obesity Scrutiny Review

Summary

1. This report presents the Executive with the final report arising from the Childhood Obesity Scrutiny Review (Appendix 1 refers). Councillor Wiseman, Chair of the Task Group that undertook the work, will be in attendance to present the report along with Councillor Boyce, the Chair of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Background

2. In coming to a decision to review this topic the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee recognised certain key objectives and the following remit was agreed:

Aim

3. To address whether current service provision is effectively reducing childhood obesity in the city.

Key Objectives

- i. To look at statistical evidence collected by the School Health Team in relation to NPI55 and NPI56 to discover the extent of childhood obesity in the city
- ii. To explore the impact of current initiatives such as healthy eating, 5 a day and 30 minutes of exercise 5 times a week etc on tackling obesity
- iii. To explore external factors that may contribute to childhood obesity
- iv. To learn more about the Altogether Better Programme and the Healthy Weight, active Lives Strategic Implementation Group and the methods they are using to reduce childhood obesity
- v. To look at the continuity of services into adulthood
- vi. To explore how monies are spent on tackling obesity

Summary of Recommendations Arising from the Review

4. Between December 2009 and July 2010 a small cross-party task group gathered information in relation to the review and this resulted in them making the following recommendation:

- i. That there should be a dedicated lead officer based within the City of York Council who is responsible for promoting and leading on the childhood obesity agenda. This officer should establish pathways of intervention throughout childhood, young adulthood and continuing into adulthood. Any lead officer, should also:
 - Promote clear pathways and long term planning of provisions/initiatives and identify resources for longer term provision of initiatives
 - Undertake a revision of what NHS North Yorkshire & York commission from school nurses to include more work on supporting families and childhood obesity programmes
 - Encourage schools to examine PE provision and make sure they maximise the time used for physical activity
 - Encourage all forms of physical exercise (both inside and outside of school hours)
 - Explore and learn from areas of good practice within other authorities
 - From data currently available undertake an impact assessment of work being undertaken at the present time and the likely impact of any additional measures put in place

Reason: To address the concerns set out in the original topic registration form.

5. The Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee subsequently approved this recommendation at their meeting on 22nd September 2010.

Consultation

6. Consultees are set out in paragraph 5 of the final report (Appendix 1 refers). In addition to this the relevant Council officers and representatives of NHS North Yorkshire & York were consulted on the risks and implications associated with the recommendation and these are set out in paragraphs 95 to 100 of the final report at Appendix 1.

Options

7. Having considered the findings contained within the final report the Executive may choose to support or reject the implementation of the recommendation arising from the review.

Analysis

8. A full analysis of the evidence received as part of this review is set out within the final report at Appendix 1 to this report.

9. At a meeting held on 22nd September 2010 Members of the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee were advised to carefully consider the implications set out in paragraphs 95 to 99 of the final report. The implications are clear in stating that there is currently little, if no budget to fund such a post (from either CYC or NHS North Yorkshire & York). It is also worth noting that the long-term future of the PCT is uncertain given the proposals set out within the Government White Paper 'Liberating the NHS'. However, it is indicated within paragraphs 95 to 99 of the final report that there could be scope to incorporate some of the points identified within the recommendation into the relevant CYC Service Level Agreement.
10. However, after due consideration, the Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee still believed that the recommended dedicated lead officer post was required and would be invaluable to future generations of young people within the city. They felt that childhood obesity was an important issue and believed that money needed to be invested in this now to save in the long term. They therefore agreed to put forward, to the Executive, the original recommendation made by the Task Group, without amendment.

Corporate Priorities

11. This report and the review undertaken are directly linked to the 'Healthy City' theme of the Corporate Strategy 2009/2012.

Implications

12. The implications associated with the recommendation arising from the childhood obesity scrutiny review are set out within paragraphs 95 to 99 of the final report at Appendix 1 to this report.

Risk Management

13. Risks associated with the recommendation arising from the review are at paragraph 100 of Appendix 1.

Recommendations

14. Executive are asked to consider the full final report and associated recommendation (Appendix 1 refers) and decided whether to support the recommendation arising from the review.

Reason: To address the concerns raised when this topic was originally submitted.

Contact Details

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Specialist Implications Officer(s) Detailed within Appendix 1 to this report

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

None

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Final report arising from the Childhood Obesity Scrutiny Review

Annexes

The Annexes associated with Appendix 1 are available for viewing online