

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10 September
2014

Report of the Director of Communities and Neighbourhoods

Single Equality Scheme update and Refresh

Introduction

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of this scrutiny committee on the refresh of York's Equality Scheme. The Scrutiny Committee are requested to note progress made in the refresh of York's Equality Scheme and:
 - i. comment on:
 - a) The draft priorities as detailed in Annex 1 and;
 - b) The draft outcomes relevant to this committee, as tabled in paragraph 9.
 - ii. Advise whether these priorities and outcomes should be the area of focus in the revised equality scheme or are there any others that should be considered.

Background

2. York's Single Equality Scheme 'A Fairer York' was approved in December 2012 and is in the process of being refreshed. The purpose of an Equality Scheme is to tackle inequalities, discrimination and disadvantage for those who have characteristics protected (York's Community of Identity) under the Equality Act 2010) :
 - Age
 - Disability – physical and mental impairment
 - Gender reassignment
 - Marriage and civil partnership
 - Pregnancy and maternity
 - Race
 - Religion or belief
 - Sex
 - Sexual orientation

- Carers
 - People living in York's most deprived areas
3. The current scheme whilst including partnership actions is very much a council document. It is the intention that the revised scheme will move from being a council document to a partnership document recognising that no one agency can tackle York's inequalities alone. The new equality scheme is expected to gain the support of partners by December 2014 and will be a key piece of evidence in the Local Government Association Equality Assessment programmed for January 2015 when the council hopes to move from Achieving to Excellent in the Equality Framework for Local Government.
 4. Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee (CSMC) have overall responsibility for scrutinising the council's approach to equalities. At their meeting in July 2014, CSMC received a year end report on progress of the council's existing Equality Scheme and considered a long list of issues for possible inclusion in the refreshed equality scheme.
 5. CSMC agreed that the issues should be grouped in line with the terms of reference of the individual overview and scrutiny committees and presented at their next round of meetings. Each committee to be asked for their views on which of those issues should be prioritised areas of focus and included in the refreshed equality scheme.
 6. To follow on from this to ensure equality issues become embedded into the work of individual scrutiny committees CSMC requested that each committee receive an update on the issues relevant to their terms of reference as part of their ongoing quarterly finance and performance monitoring reports.

Emerging Priorities

7. However, things have moved on from the report that went to CSMC. Year end analysis of key equality measures, Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities, Fairness and Equalities Board priorities, council Business Plan priorities, issues arising from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and discussions with Building Strong Communities, Jobs and Economy and Protect Vulnerable People (Council Plan Themed Boards), Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Corporate and Scrutiny Management Committee have led to the following 4 draft priorities being identified (full details of which are attached at Annex 1):

- a. Economic Wellbeing
- b. Learning and Educational Wellbeing
- c. Health and Wellbeing
- d. Community Wellbeing

8. The main area of focus for this committee centres around Health and Wellbeing focusing on: tackling health inequalities particularly those within deprived neighbourhoods, tackling alcohol, smoking and substance misuse issues amongst young people and pregnant women, reducing childhood obesity, working to reduce the increasing incidence of food poverty and fuel poverty, increasing the number of physical active adults, improving the support for those with a mental health condition and the increasing number of people with dementia and/or people suffering social isolation whilst enabling them to live independently within the community for as long as possible recognising the valuable contribution carers and communities make.
9. Some elements of the draft Economic Wellbeing priority also lie within the remit of this committee with respect to tackling employment and training inequalities, particularly disabled people and those with a mental health condition. Draft outcomes to be achieved are outlined in the table below.

Health and Wellbeing Outcomes	
<p>Increase</p> <p>Life expectancy for both men and women particularly for those living in deprived wards.</p> <p>% of adults with a learning disability having a GP Health Check</p> <p>% of active adults</p> <p>Social Isolation: % of adult social care users who have as much social contact as they would like</p> <p>Self-reported well-being - people with a low happiness score</p>	<p>Decrease</p> <p>Excess weight in adults</p> <p>Alcohol related admissions to hospital</p> <p>% of Over 18's drinking at increasing and at risk levels</p> <p>Young people aged under 18 admitted to hospital with alcohol specific conditions</p> <p>Under 75 mortality rate from liver disease considered preventable</p>

<p>Self-reported well-being - people with a high anxiety score</p> <p>% of children in primary schools eligible for free schools meals taking a meal</p> <p>% of children in secondary schools eligible for free schools meals taking a meal</p> <p>Number of people supported to live independently through social services</p> <p>Proportion of adults with learning disabilities who live in their own home or with family expressed as a percentage</p> <p>The proportion of adults in contact with secondary mental health services living independently with or without support</p> <p>Warden Call and Telerate Users</p> <p>% of people who use adult social care services who have control over their daily lives</p> <p>% of adult social care users who have as much social contact as they would like</p> <p>Number of adults and carers receiving self directed support and increasing the numbers who receive this via direct payments Overall satisfaction of carers with social services</p>	<p>% of women who smoke at the time of delivery</p> <p>Smoking prevalence routine and manual workers</p> <p>Hospital admissions due to substance misuse aged 15-24</p> <p>York population aged 65 and over predicted to have dementia (POPPI)</p> <p>Suicide rate</p> <p>Under 18 conceptions</p> <p>% school children in Reception classified as obese</p> <p>% school children in Year 6 classified as obese</p> <p>% of children living in poverty</p> <p>% of households in fuel poverty</p> <p>Excess winter deaths</p> <p>York's population 65 and over predicted to have dementia</p>
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<p>% of carers who report that they have been included or consulted in discussion about the person they care for</p>	
<p>Economic Wellbeing Outcomes</p>	
<p>Increase The proportion of adults with learning disabilities in paid employment Adults with Learning disabilities in employment includes Supported employment (less than Min. Wage)</p>	<p>Decrease Gap in employment rate between those with a long term health condition and the overall employment rate</p>

Consultation

10. Results of the Big York Survey, research in the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and feedback from the Fairness Equalities Board and Council Plan themed boards have informed the emerging priorities.

Council Plan

11. These proposals relate to the Council's corporate priorities of building strong communities and protecting vulnerable people, as set out in the Council's Plan 2011-15.

Implications

12. As a progress report there are no implications as this stage.

Recommendations

10. The Scrutiny Committee are requested to note progress made in the refresh of York's Equality Scheme and:
 - ii. comment on:
 - a) The draft priorities as detailed in Annex 1 and;
 - b) The draft outcomes relevant to this committee, as tabled in paragraph 9.

- iii. Advise whether these priorities and outcomes should be the area of focus in the revised equality scheme or are there any others that should be considered.

Reason: To help ensure that relevant equality issues are reflected in the revised Equality Scheme.

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Report Approved



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Wards Affected:

All



Specialist Implications Officer(s): None

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes

Annex 1: Draft Equality Scheme Priorities