

Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

14 January 2015

Report of the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Chair's Report – Health and Wellbeing Board

Summary

1. It was agreed as part of the working protocol between Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) that the Chair of the HWB would bring regular updates on the work of the HWB. Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Background

2. The joint working protocol between the Health and Wellbeing Board and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee was agreed at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 16 July 2014. As part of the protocol, it was agreed at Annex A that the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board would attend Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis to inform the committee of the work of Board.
3. At the regular bi-annual meeting between the Chairs held on 10 October 2014, it was agreed that the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board's report would focus on the areas currently most relevant to the HOSC work plan.

Consultation

4. Not applicable to this report.

Options

5. Not applicable to this report.

Analysis

6. The following topics that were discussed on 3 December 2014 may be particularly relevant to Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

Director of Public Health Report 2013-14

7. The Director of Public Health, Julie Hotchkiss, discussed the various profiles produced by Public Health England, which show that York on the whole is a healthy place to live, but this picture does not show areas of inequalities in health outcomes at ward level.
8. The main areas of concern for York include: binge drinking, but the numbers of people in alcohol treatment are slowly increasing; smoking cessation, and in particular smoking during pregnancy is to be targeted; data on self-harm show that there has been an increase to 2012-13, the latest year for which data is available, and further investigation into the reasons for this will be required.

Healthwatch Reports

9. During 2014 Healthwatch have produced three reports: “Loneliness – A Modern Epidemic and the Search for a Cure”, “Access to Health and Social Care Services for Deaf People”, and “Discrimination Against Disabled People in York”. These reports made a number of recommendations for action, many of which require partnership working across the city.
10. The Board agreed to take a collective approach towards the delivery of the Healthwatch recommendations and to report progress to a subsequent meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board.
11. In respect of the recommendation to make changes to the Accident & Emergency waiting areas, it was pointed out that this would be a longer term project, but there were plans to expand since the current waiting areas were already over capacity, in terms of numbers of people being handled.
12. An amendment was requested to the recommendation on the provision of British Sign Language interpreters, since this is a scarce resource, and it was important to make the best use of the time of available interpreters. It was therefore agreed that it would be useful to indicate where interpreters could be made available, but there would need to be a specific request in advance.

Other issues

13. The Board was advised that the latest JSNA “deep dive” research to be published would be on the topic of the frail elderly, and this information is now available at www.healthyork.org.

Council Plan

14. This Report relates to the “Protect Vulnerable People” element of the Council Plan 2011-15.

Implications

15. There are no known implications attached to this report. Implications arising out of any of the reports referred to can be found in the original papers of the Health and Wellbeing Board’s meeting on 3 December 2014 – see the link in “Background Papers” below.

Risk Management

16. There are no known risks attached to this report.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

Reason: To ensure compliance with scrutiny procedures and protocols.

Contact Details

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Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

The Health and Wellbeing Board meeting papers for the 3 December 2014 meeting are available here:

<http://modgov.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=763&MId=8441&Ver=4>