

MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	20 JUNE 2013
TITLE OF REPORT:	UNDERSTANDING HEREFORDSHIRE 2013
REPORT BY:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR PEOPLE, POLICY & PARTNERSHIP

1. Classification

Open

2. Key Decision

This is not a key decision.

3. Wards Affected

County-wide

4. Purpose

To review recommendations from the 2013 '*Understanding Herefordshire*' report.

5. Recommendation(s)

See cover report recommendations a to b

6. Key Points Summary

- ***Understanding Herefordshire*** is the overall integrated assessment of the health and well-being needs of Herefordshire's population.
- It provides strategic intelligence for commissioning and business planning, particularly to determine priorities for resource allocation. New evidence is highlighted and hyperlinks within the document give quick access to more detail about a topic or locality from the underpinning online evidence base ('facts and figures' website).
- Recommendations arising from the evidence base will be discussed by senior management and councillors at Herefordshire Council, the Health and Well-being board and the Herefordshire Partnership Executive Group. The emphasis is to focus on a small number of key priorities for the public sector and partners to focus on over the next few years, to meet the health and well-being needs of the people of Herefordshire.
- These agreed recommendations will be used to inform strategic planning and commissioning decisions. This includes priority areas for further in-depth analysis.

7. Alternative Options

- 7.1 There are no known alternative evidence bases to assess the interlinked wider determinants of health and well-being in Herefordshire.

8. Reasons for Recommendations

- 8.1 To ensure that future decisions on service priorities, planning and commissioning take full account of the evidence available.

9. Introduction and Background

- 9.1 *Understanding Herefordshire* provides a single integrated assessment of the health and well-being needs of the people of Herefordshire, bringing together the statutory requirement to produce a *Joint Strategic Needs Assessment* and the previous *State of Herefordshire* reports (developed over the last decade).
- 9.2 *Understanding Herefordshire* provides a high level summary with electronic links to the underlying evidence provided throughout the document, where more detail and supporting strategies can be found. The integrated evidence base is available at www.herefordshire.gov.uk/factsandfigures and maintained by the local authority research team with contributors from public health, quality and improvement team (children's and adults' services), housing, spatial planning and transport strategy and sustainable communities teams as well as Herefordshire's Clinical Commissioning Group, Herefordshire Voluntary Organisation Support Services and the Local Nature Partnership.
- 9.3 *Understanding Herefordshire* is a summary of the needs of the county as a whole but analysis has been carried out for smaller areas where possible and major geographical differences are mentioned as appropriate. Area profiles are available for localities, GP practices, wards, market towns and smaller areas within them.

10. Key Considerations

- 10.1 A review of Herefordshire Council's 2013-14 directorate delivery plans shows that about half of the recommendations of the 2012 *Understanding Herefordshire* are being addressed but for some areas there is insufficient detail to be able to make an informed assessment.
- 10.2 Given the pressure on budgets the future of 'Understanding Herefordshire' and the underpinning evidence base is not certain. Consideration needs to be given to whether the evidence base should continue to be developed and updated as frequently. If it is not currently being used sufficiently to inform commissioning and business plans, either we stop producing the evidence and strategic intelligence or we develop ways of improving use.

11. Community Impact

- 11.1 The evidence base informs the development of key strategic plans and commissioning decisions within the county.

12. Equality and Human Rights

- 12.1 *Understanding Herefordshire* considers inequalities in opportunities and outcomes wherever the evidence is available. This is particularly relevant for health inequalities.

13. Financial Implications

- 13.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

14. Legal Implications

- 14.1 None.

15. Risk Management

- 15.1 *Understanding Herefordshire* (and its associated web-based integrated evidence base) mitigate the risk that priorities and commissioning decisions are not based upon assessment of need. However this required the evidence to be used to inform decisions.

16. Consultees

- 16.1 The integrated needs assessment reference group contributed to and challenged the narrative summary of 'Understanding Herefordshire 2013'. The group is led by the corporate research team with representatives from the local authority (public health, transport, housing, forward planning, sustainable communities and the adult and children's improvement team), the clinical commissioning group, Herefordshire Voluntary Support Services and the local environment partnership.

17. Appendices

Appendix A1 – Understanding Herefordshire 2013

18. Background Papers

None identified.