

Appendix: Summary of recommendations to the executive and executive responses Recommendations of the Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee: Obesity in Herefordshire

On 23 September 2022, the adults and wellbeing scrutiny committee considered the report Obesity in Herefordshire. The committee resolved ‘That the following be recommended to the executive:’				
Recommendation a.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Herefordshire Council and NHS partners develop a whole systems, Healthy Weight Strategy to coordinate and deliver actions for improved health outcomes. 			
Executive Response	Partially accepted - Herefordshire Council continues to work with partners and organisations on the healthy weight agenda across the county and wider Integrated Care System. The Council is currently working with partners through the Health and Wellbeing Board to develop a new Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy that will set-out its priorities for the next 10-years. As part of the process, consideration will be given to whether a healthy weight strategy is desirable and whether this is best co-ordinated at the system or place footprint.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
A healthy weight strategy to be considered as part of the development of the new joint health and wellbeing strategy	Director of Public Health	June 2023	Decision made	
Recommendation b.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That a Healthy Schools Strategy, to include emotional, mental and physical wellbeing, be considered as a specific programme to engage and involve schools. 			
Executive Response	Partially accepted - We acknowledge that there are gaps in our local healthy schools provision and our public health department are currently considering the best ways to address this. There are currently no plans to develop a healthy schools strategy at this time, but this could be considered as part of a broader countywide healthy weight strategy. The Council do commission a number of bespoke services within schools, including the public health nursing contract as well as support for physical activity and wellbeing. The Public Health team will work with colleagues in education to review possible options for a healthy schools programme.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Consider options for the development of a Healthy schools package offer in conjunction with education colleagues	Director of Public Health	March 2024	Options considered for healthy schools programme	
Recommendation c.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Herefordshire Council and NHS partners ensure that the Healthy Weight Strategy include key measures to effectively measure and evaluate the impact of the strategy over time. 			
Executive Response	Accepted - If a healthy weight strategy is developed, this will include key measures outcomes and metrics to ensure we are able to evaluate its impact. The council already include key indicators and outcomes as part of existing provision to support people in managing their weight. An outcomes framework is also being developed to monitor the delivery of the new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and metrics around obesity will be considered as part of this.			

Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Ensure inclusion of outcomes framework should a new healthy weight strategy been developed	Director of Public Health	March 2024	Outcomes framework within strategy	
Recommendation d.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the 'Get Active' fund programme evaluation be used to help inform the Healthy Weight Strategy. 			
Executive Response	Accepted - The Get Active evaluation has recently been completed. The evaluation has shown that the programme has been very positive and demonstrated improvements in physical activity levels for the whole family, spending more time together and weight loss. The Council will use this information to support the implementation of Herefordshire's Physical Activity Strategy that was endorsed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in 2022			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Active Families is being funded for a further 12 months	Director of Public Health	November 2022	Approved	Complete
Recommendation e.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That free access to gyms services be made available to care leavers up to the age of 25; 			
Executive Response	Rejected - Further consideration of this recommendation is needed following a review of the evidence base and financial implications. Our current Leisure Provider Halo currently offer concessionary rates for all young people aged 24 years and under. Reduced rates are also available for individuals receiving Council Tax Reduction / Housing Benefit / Universal Credit Housing Element.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Consideration of evidence and financial implications for adopting such a policy	Public Health / Communities	Sept 2023	Decision based on evidence	
Recommendation f.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Herefordshire Council take measures to improve access to Public Rights of Way countryside footpaths. 			
Executive Response	Partially accepted - The council recognises the importance of our public rights of way and the benefits this brings to our physical and mental wellbeing. In particular, evidence shows that access to physical activity in the natural environment also has a greater impact on improved mental health than physical activity alone. Public Health continue to support the planning team with the development of policies for the local area plan ensuring that these maximise benefits to population health.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress

Continue to work with Herefordshire council colleagues to develop policies to maximise health benefits.	Director of Public Health	ongoing	Relevant policies support population health	
Recommendation g.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That Herefordshire Council embed healthy weight as a strategic priority across local organisations and agencies by working with all key partners to develop a greater understanding of the causes of obesity and how best to deliver collective action through a whole system approach. 			
Executive Response	Partially accepted - This is linked to recommendation A. This will be considered as part of the development of the new joint health and wellbeing strategy.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Consideration given to how a strategic approach to tackling obesity could be implemented as part of a new healthy weight strategy	Director of Public Health	Jan 2024	Dependent on outcome	
Recommendation h.	<p>That Herefordshire Council assess the impact of the current gaps in the county's weight management services in order to allocate sufficient resources as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tier 2 child and adult weight management services Tier 3 child and adult weight management services – NHS/ICB commissioning responsibility Tier 4 adult weight management service – NHS/ICB commissioning responsibility. 			
Executive Response	<p>Partially accepted - The Council and partners across the ICS have commenced a mapping exercise to identify current gaps in local weight management services. We are working with the Integrated Care Board to address the gaps in provision for Tier 3 & 4 services that are required to support people who are very overweight. The commissioning responsibility for these services currently sits with Integrated Care Board.</p> <p>Public Health, utilising national grant funding have delivered a tier 2 adult weight management service over the past 12 months targeting new mums. The programme (Healthy Mums) has provided a 12 week face to face, group, county-wide offer focusing on nutrition and physical activity. Consideration will also be given to the current service redesign and recommissioning of the 0-19 service due to take place and how this can support healthy behaviours amongst families.</p>			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Continue to support the ICS obesity working group Key agenda item for the Healthy weight group	ICB/ Director of Public Health Public Health	Ongoing May 2023	PH contribution to relevant groups Sustainable delivery approach to HM's	

<p>Public Health will explore the long term deliverability of Healthy Mums (HM's), by looking to integrate this with the talk community offer</p> <p>Consideration of healthy weight interventions as part of the Public Health Nursing Contract</p>	Public Health	July 2023	Local healthy weight offer for children & families	
Recommendation i.	That Herefordshire Council encourage health professionals and residents to identify ways in which they can do more to help themselves through promotion of digital and self-help resources.			
Executive Response	Accepted - Regular campaign communications are sent out via the Council corporate communications and through Talk Community. Communications regarding new services and programmes are shared as widely as possible. We agree that consistent messaging across organisations and partners is important. Current support offered includes local signposting as well as national resources such as the 'NHS Better Health' website, NHS Choices and the NHS Digital Weight Management Programme.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Explore the opportunities and development of a communications plan for the next 12 months	Herefordshire Council	December 2023	12 month plan in place	
Recommendation j.	That Herefordshire Council work with the planning department to develop and implement a Health Impact Assessment Tool to ensure health is considered in all planning decisions.			
Executive Response	Accepted - Public Health are supporting planning with the development of their local policies, this includes the community facilities policy. The development of a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) Tool is in the pipeline and we anticipate that this will go live in 2023.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Gain corporate approval for the implementation of HIA's for new developments	Director of Public Health & corporate director of E&E	December 2023	HIA's policy endorsed	
Recommendation k.	That Herefordshire Council improve the quality of data on weight management services and obesity across the life course with a particular focus on long-term outcomes.			
Executive Response	Partially accepted - The Council already have good data collection processes in place via the councils Data Collection and Record System. This system is currently used for the Healthy Lifestyle Trainer service and Healthy Mums. Measures and outcomes are taken at week 0, week 12 and week 26. However, we recognise that collecting longer term outcomes is more challenging and we are considering how best to improve this.			

Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Continue to ensure contracts and services include comprehensive data and collection monitoring processes	Public Health	Ongoing	All relevant services include comprehensive data monitoring	
Recommendation l.	That Herefordshire Council develop a training package around 'raising the issue of weight' for health practitioners and other front line workers to give them confidence to identify and elicit positive behaviour change in individuals.			
Executive Response	Partially accepted - Herefordshire Council delivered a number of face to face training sessions on 'Raising the issue of weight' pre-covid, this included family support workers, health visitors and children's centre staff. National resources will continue to be promoted and supported locally. We will also explore whether there are opportunities to developing something across the Integrated Care system to maximise economies of scale			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Herefordshire Council review and identify online training	Director of Public Health	March 2024	Training offer in place	
Herefordshire Council promote existing training as part of any PH communications plan development.	Director of Public Health	March 2024	Regular training offer communications	
Recommendation m.	That Herefordshire Council build on the Sustainable Food Partnership to deliver collective action through a systems approach.			
Executive Response	Accepted - This is a priority for the county. Herefordshire Council continues to support the Sustainable Food Places approach and the local Food Alliance. Activity is developing county-wide and it is anticipated that a Bronze award application will go ahead early 2023. The local food alliance is continually expanding its membership and the steering group are keeping a focus on the six key food areas enabling a system-wide approach to food.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Herefordshire Council continue to be key members of the Food Alliance steering group	Director of Public Health	Ongoing	HC support to Food Alliance	
Herefordshire Council continue to part-fund the Sustainable Food Places coordinator role	Director of Public Health	July 2023	SFP coordinator in post 23/24	
Recommendation n.	That Herefordshire Council undertake further mapping of weight management services (and compliance with NICE Guidance) and raising awareness of the Weight Management to health practitioners across the county, including the service offer, eligibility criteria etc.			

Executive Response	Accepted - Links to recommendations (h&l) and responses as above			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Link to recommendations (h&l) above	Director of Public Health	March 2024	As above reco's (h&l)	
Recommendation o.	That Herefordshire Council consider a consistent approach to the type of language and media used to communicate about obesity, tailoring language to the situation and co-producing communications with intended audiences.			
Executive Response	Accepted - Herefordshire Council uses the latest guidance to communicate with audiences about obesity. There are many national resources and campaign materials to use. This will be considered as part of the communication plan Link to actions in recommendation (i) above.			
Action	Owner	By When	Target/Success Criteria	Progress
Link to recommendation (i) above	Director of Public Health	December 2023	12 month plan in place	