

Title of report: Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting date: 13 March 2023

Report by: Director of Public Health

Classification

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

Purpose:

- To provide the Board with an update on the progress of the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2033
- To receive feedback from the Board on the draft strategy

Recommendation(s)

- That the Board consider the report and note its progress.
- That the Board consider its response to the draft and suggest changes for consideration as appropriate.

Alternative options

There are no alternative options - it is a function of the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to produce a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS).

Key considerations

- Herefordshire Council and partners have produced the attached draft strategy in March 2023, following several months of preparation that involved collating national and local data, and consulting with partners and the community about the issues that affect the wellbeing of residents. It is a ten year strategy that proposes realistic change over the longer term.
- In winter 2022 public consultation was undertaken to collect residents' views on a number of potential priorities for the focus of the strategy. The majority of the

participants felt that all the proposed priorities were important but two in particular were consistently ranked as the most important; these were 'Best start in life' and 'Good mental health'

- The draft strategy therefore proposes that the central focus of the strategy at the beginning of this ten year period should be on 'Best start in life for children' and 'Good mental wellbeing throughout life'.
- The other proposed priorities will not be disregarded; they are important in their own right as well as being interlinked with the central two. It is our recommendation that the HWBB keep a 'watching brief' on the progress with addressing these issues.
- Appendix 1 contains the Herefordshire Council draft document in full for the HWB to consider

Community Impact

The purpose of the strategy is to help improve the wellbeing of Herefordshire residents and for it to have a real impact on our communities. One of the key principles upon which the strategy has been developed is that of community empowerment, which in practice means that we must continue to involve our communities in any action that is taken, so that the community own it and the impact on that community is maximised.

Environmental Impact

There are no general implications for the environment arising from this report; however the strategy does feature the reduction in our carbon footprint as one of its priorities, therefore further along in the delivery of the strategy it is expected that there could be some environmental impact. There will also be co-benefits to the environment through ambitions to reduce levels of obesity, eat more healthily and increase levels of physical activity through active travel.

Equality duty

- Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) Facilitate good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services.
- The principles of equality and the reversal of health inequalities are key strands of the strategy
- To be effective in delivering good population outcomes and helping those most in need, the strategy calls for intervention by working together at system, place, and community levels to tackle issues reflecting whole system priorities as well as specific concerns at the right scale.

Resource implications

- There are no resource implications associated with this report. However, the resource implications of any recommendations made by the HWB will need to be considered by the responsible party in response to those recommendations or subsequent decisions

Legal implications

- Health and wellbeing boards are responsible for encouraging integrated working between health and social care commissioners, including partnership arrangements such as pooled budgets, lead commissioning and integrated provision.
- Their purpose is to establish collaborative decision making, planning and commissioning across councils and the NHS, informed by the views of patients, people who use services and other partners.
- The functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board are set out in paragraph 3.5.24 of the constitution.
- The production of a Joint Local Health and Wellbeing strategy is a statutory requirement and therefore its endorsement and support is required.

Risk management

There are no risk implications identified emerging from the recommendations in this report

Consultees

Matt Pearce (Director of Public Health), Hilary Hall (Corporate Director Community Wellbeing), Corporate Leadership Team, One Herefordshire Partnership, Simon Cann (Democratic Services Manager)

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Herefordshire Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-33

Appendix 2 – Consultation Report

Background papers

None identified

Main report

1.0 Introduction

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires every local authority to produce a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS). The HWBS sets out how the Council and its local partners plan to address the health and wellbeing needs of its population and as such, is a key document that is jointly owned and one that promotes collective action to meet those needs.

In July 2022 The HWBB met to agree a set of design principles, taking into account the emerging landscape of health and social care and its needs in the future. These principles were:

1. The strategy should be short and concise
2. We should aim for a long term strategy (10 years)
3. The strategy itself should be high level
4. It should be supported by shared and local action plans that set out the detail of how the strategic goals will be delivered across all the partners
5. The strategy should be focussed on prevention and integration, and in doing so provide a strong basis for producing chapter 1 of the ICP Integrated Care Strategy
6. A lifetime approach should be maintained

Other principles agreed by the HWB were:

1. That the priorities in the strategy will be based on need
2. Planned actions will be based on evidence of effectiveness.
3. Prevention (in all its forms) will be at the heart of all we do
4. A 'proportionate universalist' approach – something for everyone and more for those who need it the most
5. The strategy will focus on areas where partnership action adds value and there is commitment across the system
6. Narrowing health inequalities is a core aim
7. The strategy is developed in close collaboration with residents and local partners from health, social care, local authorities and voluntary sector.

We set out a vision for the strategy which is:

'Everyone in Herefordshire leads a happy, healthy and fulfilling life'

3.0 Developing the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The development of the strategy is being project managed by a designated council officer under the direction of the Director of Public Health. A dedicated task and finish group was formed and has been meeting fortnightly to update its members on progress and to discuss the issues that have shaped development of the strategy. This group is made up of representatives from key partners i.e. Council, Health Watch, Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB, Integrated Partnership Board and Wye Valley Trust.

The strategy has been developed through the HWB engaging with wider stakeholders, including our communities. Initial work focused on looking at the factors across Herefordshire which are having the greatest impact on people's health and wellbeing, and which account for some of the biggest inequalities.

We spent time speaking and listening to members of the public and hearing from organisations involved in health, care and community and voluntary services about what they think matters most. Once all the available information had been collected we drew up a list of 12 potential priorities that would be the focus of the strategy.

3.1. Public Consultation

During winter 2022 a consultation exercise was undertaken to collect residents' opinions about the importance of the 12 priorities; they were as follows:

1. Good mental wellbeing across throughout lifetime
2. Support people addicted to substance misuse/support those who smoke
3. Support vulnerable people to lead healthy lives
4. Improve education outcomes for disadvantaged children and young people
5. Every child has the best start in life
6. Good work for everyone
7. Increase access to healthy and sustainable food and physical activity
8. Reduce our carbon footprint
9. Improve housing quality and reduce homelessness
10. Reduce loneliness and social isolation across all ages
11. Support people to age well
12. Improve access to local services, particularly in rural areas

Approximately 1000 residents and organisations responded to the survey and a further 14 focus groups were undertaken with seldom heard communities including Carers, Care experienced young people, Older people, people living with disabilities and LGBTQ+. Overall this represents a good level of participation for a survey of this kind.

The majority of respondents expressed the view that all the priorities were very important and there was recognition from many people that the priorities were interlinked and had a mutual inter-dependence. However, there were two main priorities that were consistently ranked above the others;

These were:

- Every Child has the best start in life
- Good mental health throughout lifetime

There were also comments made about other issues that people said were important to them:

Residents needed better access to:

- Information, county-wide and local
- GPs, dentists and other health services
- Transport

Residents needed help with:

- Cost of living issues
- Childcare

Residents would like to see more focus on:

- Prevention
- Community Safety
- Equality and diversity

A detailed report on the consultation is included with this report as Appendix 2

4.0 Deciding the Priorities

A HWB workshop was held in January 2023 to discuss the priorities and what these would mean for the strategy and its delivery. Following this and having taken into account the views and comments from residents and partners and what we know about the issues from our Herefordshire data, it was decided that the central focus of the strategy at the beginning of this ten year period should be on 'Best start in life for children' and 'Good mental wellbeing throughout life'.

This does not mean that the other priorities will be disregarded. We recognise that they are also critically important in how they affect wellbeing, but that they also support and contribute towards giving children the best start, as well as the development and retention of good mental health. We have therefore retained some of the initial 12 priorities (as supporting/secondary priorities) to emphasise the important role that they play in our overall health and wellbeing

As part of plans to review the progress of the strategy during the ten year term, there will be opportunity, if deemed appropriate, to switch our focus more to the other priorities for a period of time. In this regard we recognise that the strategy needs to be a 'living' document that is flexible in its response to changing times and changing circumstances, rather than having a fixed focus in one area.

5.0 Delivering the Strategy

If we are to achieve our ambition to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities in Herefordshire, we need to share our collective resource and act as one voice. The HWB will oversee and drive the implementation of the strategy through its member organisations and partnerships, which in turn will be accountable to the Board for progress. Health and Wellbeing Board members will act as champions for the areas for collective action across Herefordshire.

Delivering the changes needed identified in the strategy will not be easy and will require a 'whole system' approach that brings partners, communities and individuals together toward a common purpose. In order to ensure good governance and oversight of the key priorities, there will be an identified partnership and a named 'champion' from Health and Wellbeing Board responsible for the two priority areas. However, it is recognised that work to deliver on these priorities will span a number of groups and partnerships. Work continues around reviewing our local governance and best to deliver the strategy.

6.0 Governance

The Strategy is ambitious and touches on much of the work of each organisation represented on the Health and Wellbeing Board. The two priorities and associated objectives provide a framework against which the partnership and organisational strategies will deliver.

Experience from the previous health and wellbeing strategy suggests that a clear delivery/implementation plan and governance process needs to be developed in order for this strategy to be an effective working document that will produce measurable outcomes and help improve peoples' lives.

The development of the strategy is an iterative process. We have produced this draft that is now being circulated to partners and expert groups so that we can collect feedback about what is realistic and achievable; but this is part of the journey, together with our partners, towards making it a document that is real, relevant and that will make a difference.

Once the strategy is ratified by the Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2023, the partnership subgroups of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be tasked with translating the high level objectives across the two priority areas (Best Start in Life and Good mental health across the lifetime) into meaningful delivery plans and further understand the outcomes we want to achieve together. Ongoing discussions are being held with regards to the role of the One Herefordshire Partnership potentially having oversight of the delivery of the strategy on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board

7.0 Next Steps

Feedback will be taken from the HWB, other partners and experts by experience and additions/changes will be incorporated into the strategy as appropriate. Following this process the final version of the strategy will be prepared for approval by the HWB in late April.

There will be 2/3 feedback sessions to residents regarding the consultation results in early March, undertaken by Impact Consultancy and the results of the online survey will be posted on the council website.

8.0 Outcomes Framework

An initial outcomes framework has been developed and mapped across the two central priority areas and the other priorities that support them, but there is ongoing work with the Intelligence Team and other experts to review and refine them.