

## **Title of report: Project Brave Strategic Approach**

**Meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Meeting date: 13 March 2023**

**Report by: Community Wellbeing Directorate**

### **Classification**

Open

### **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

### **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

### **Purpose:**

- For the Board to receive and comment on the Herefordshire Project Brave Strategic Approach

### **Recommendation(s)**

- That the Board considers and comments on the Project Brave Strategy.

### **Alternative options**

- :
- 1: The Board could choose not to consider this report. This is not recommended as the HWBB will provide its opinion, as appropriate, to Herefordshire Council, the Integrated Care Board or NHS England, as to whether they are discharging their duty to have regard to any assessment of relevant needs prepared by the Council, the ICB or NHS England in the exercise of their functions.

### **Key considerations**

- Project Brave is a multi-agency partnership initiative enabling and finding solutions for very vulnerable people, at risk from; homelessness, substance use, mental health, criminal experience and exploitation.
- It is about new homes and changing lives for vulnerable people in communities. It is a creative and joined up approach by the council and its partners to fulfilling their public duties to those who are most vulnerable.
- Project Brave was instigated as an early response to the Covid19 pandemic, focusing on people who were very vulnerable but are not eligible for or fall between various statutory services. Initially, the Project delivered rapid and very effective response to the Government's "Everyone In" initiative. It then evolved into an ambitious but earnest intent to eradicate high risk homelessness in Herefordshire. It recognises that homeless people need homes and sets out to find those homes and support people to live in them.
- Project Brave is also about multiple complex vulnerability, connecting with and embracing the lived experience of people for whom services and systems have persistently failed. Agencies challenge themselves and each other to work in a joined up and personalised way to enable people to be safer and achieve better outcomes.
- The project began rapidly and naturally during a national emergency and has evolved pragmatically and within available resources. Following award of MEAM network membership, progress review and stakeholder engagement in late 2022, approval is now sought for this strategic approach, guiding the onward development of Project Brave.

## **Community Impact**

In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council achieves its intended outcomes by providing a mixture of legal, regulatory and practical interventions. Determining the right mix of these is an important strategic choice to make sure outcomes are achieved. The council needs robust decision-making mechanisms to ensure its outcomes can be achieved in a way that provides the best use of resources whilst still enabling efficient and effective operations and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review

## **Environmental Impact**

There are no general implications for the environment arising from this report.

## **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.

### **Resource implications**

- There are no resource implications associated with this report.
- The new services and activity involved has been largely funded by very significant revenue grant aid, attracted from DLUHC. These have been under a number of grant schemes, including RSI programmes 2 to 5 and RSAP. The Total grant awarded to the council so far for Project Brave for the period 2020 to 2025 is as follows;
- £4,183,912 in revenue funding
- £824,000 in capital funding

### **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.

### **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), Ewen Archibald (Head of Community Commissioning and Resources).

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Project Brave Strategic Approach

Appendix 2 - Project brave strategic approach slides

## **Background papers**

- Housing Act 1996 Part VII 1
- Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (now part of the Housing Act 1996, as amended)
- Care Act 2014, including s42
- Mental Health Act 1983, as amended
- Mental Capacity Act 2005, as amended
- Equality Act 2010
- Human Rights Act 1998 and European Convention on Human Rights
- From Harm to Hope; a Ten Year Drugs Plan to cut crime and save lives  
The Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI)