

Appendix 4 Health Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

The Health, Care and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, its remit as detailed in paragraph 4 of the covering report, met on 22 July 2022, 23 September 2022, 25 November 2022, and 23 January 2023. The following is an overview of the items reviewed by the committee.

ITEM: Task and Finish Group Report: The Impact of the Intensive Poultry Industry on Human Health and Wellbeing

At the meeting on 22 July 2022, the committee considered the outcomes and recommendations of the task and finish group.

- The committee welcomed the work that had been undertaken but reservations were expressed about aspects of the draft report.
- The committee discussed broader issues about task and finish groups, including the need for methodology, research, and logical processing to inform conclusions and recommendations.
- The committee deferred consideration of the item and invited the members of the Task and Finish Group to review the draft report and recommendations, in consultation with members of the committee and the Interim Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

At the meeting on 25 November 2022, the committee considered a further iteration of the Task and Finish Group report.

The committee agreed the following recommendations:

- A Health Impact Supplementary Planning Document: That the Strategic Planning department and the Director of Public Health at Herefordshire Council work together to consider the development of a 'Health Impact in Planning' Supplementary Planning Document, which should provide guidance to local authority planning officers, applicants, relevant organisations and the wider community on delivering healthier developments. Any such document should include a toolkit for conducting a health impact assessment.
- Regulation of Intensive Poultry Units: That the Council lobby Defra to transfer responsibility of issuing and regulating Intensive Poultry Units (IPU) permits from the Environmental Agency to local authorities to facilitate better local control and resource, with the income generated from this being used to fund improved regulation by local authorities.
- A Manure Management Strategy: That Herefordshire Council work with the poultry farming industry, the National Farmers' Union and the Environment Agency to formulate and encourage the adoption of a countywide waste manure management strategy, which is compliant with the Farming Rules for Water 2018.
- National Monitoring of Manure Management: That Herefordshire Council work with and encourage local MPs to request accurate monitoring and recording of national quantities of manure and manure management.

- Pollution Monitoring and Abatement Equipment and Techniques: That Herefordshire Council lobby Defra about the need for the Environment Agency to review and implement the advice and guidance on the best available techniques now available for existing and new Intensive Poultry Units pollution monitoring and abatement and equipment for both ammonia and particulates both within the county and nationally.
- Health and Wellbeing of IPU Workers: That Herefordshire Council work with the Health and Safety Executive to ensure the health and wellbeing of workers within the industry is being protected.
- Intensive Poultry Farming Public Health Information: That a review of the prominence, availability and accessibility of Council information to improve clarity and awareness of Intensive Poultry Farming-related public health issues and concerns be undertaken, including how to make a formal complaint, if necessary.
- Intensive Poultry Farming Myth Busting: That a fact checking, myth-busting summary document tackling common misconceptions about common public health concerns, be prepared.
- Talk Community on Intensive Poultry Farming: That Talk Community be used as one vehicle to disseminate information relating to Intensive Poultry Farming via the Talk Community channels.
- Intensive Poultry Farming Community Wellbeing Survey: That intensive poultry farming-related questions be included in the next Herefordshire Community Wellbeing Survey to provide an improved understanding of Herefordshire residents' perceptions about Intensive Poultry Farming and public health concerns.
- Intensive Poultry Farming Impact Research: Herefordshire Council work with local university faculties, the Environment Agency, National Resources Wales, other local authorities and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) to provide meaningful research, using patient records, etc. to conduct empirical research investigating the possible link between Intensive Poultry Units (IPUs) and poor health and wellbeing in humans.
- Work with the Industry on the Assessment of Dust and Odour: That the council work with the industry on the assessment of dust and odour emitted near intensive poultry units to assess and verify the modelling of emissions is confirmed from experience.

Status: At the meeting on 12 January 2023, the Cabinet received the scrutiny recommendations and determined that responses would be prepared. Ongoing.

ITEM: Obesity in Herefordshire

At the meeting on 23 September 2022, the committee considered a report on the ways in which the council and partners currently tackle obesity in the local population and was invited to make any recommendations around future provision.

- The committee commended the Director of Public Health and the other officers involved for the high standard of the papers.
- In addition to helpful input from officers of the council and representatives of NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System, the meeting benefitted from the valuable insights of Professor Paul Gately of Leeds Metropolitan University.

The following recommendations were submitted to the Executive:

- That the proposals outlined in paragraph 11 of the Director of Public Health's report be endorsed and be referred to Herefordshire Council's Cabinet and to NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Board for consideration, along with a summary of the evidence considered and the observations of the committee; these proposals being:
- 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
- Assess the impact of the current gaps in the county's weight management services in order to allocate sufficient resources as appropriate:
 - Tier 2 child and adult weight management services
 - Tier 3 child and adult weight management services – NHS/ICB priority
 - Tier 4 adult weight management service – NHS/ICB priority
- Encourage health professionals and residents to identify ways in which patients can do more to help themselves through promotion of digital and self-help resources
- Work with the planning department to develop and implement a Health Impact Assessment Tool to ensure health is considered in all planning decisions
- Improve the quality of data on weight management services and obesity across the life course with a particular focus on long-term outcomes
- 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
- Build on the Sustainable Food Partnership to deliver collective action through a systems approach
- 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
- 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
- That Herefordshire Council and NHS partners develop a whole systems, Healthy Weight Strategy to coordinate and deliver actions for improved health outcomes;
- That a Health Schools Strategy, to include emotional, mental and physical wellbeing, be considered as a specific programme to engage and involve schools;
- 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;
- That the 'Get Active' fund programme evaluation be used to help inform the Healthy Weight Strategy;
- That free access to gyms services be made available to care leavers up to the age of 25;
- That Herefordshire Council take measures to improve access to Public Rights of Way / countryside footpaths; and
- That a Health Impact Assessment Tool be developed for use in planning policy to consider potential impacts on health and wellbeing of planning applications.

Status: At the meeting on 24 November 2022, the Cabinet received the scrutiny recommendations and determined that responses would be prepared. On 24 January 2023, the Cabinet Member Health and Adult Wellbeing approved the executive response to the scrutiny recommendations.

ITEM: Stroke Services

At the meeting on 23 September 2022, the committee considered an update from NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care System (ICS) on stroke services across Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

The committee noted the wider public engagement being undertaken on improving stroke services across Herefordshire and Worcestershire would be focused on delivering the required improvement to further inform possible solutions.

The committee made the following observations and suggestions to the ICS:

- The consultation on the model should consider how services can get early diagnosis and treatment to people in remote populations; specifically for patients to be able to get treatment within a four hour period.
- There was a need to understand the budget implications and how the proposals would affect costs in reality, and how the Integrated Care Board would make decisions on the consideration of the cost / benefit analysis.
- There was a need to be confident of the capacity of ambulance services and other local services to support the preferred model, as part of the future-proofing of the proposals.
- That people that have suffered a stroke be offered bracelets to identify their increased risk of stroke.
- That consideration be given to those patients on the Monmouthshire border and whether there were any prejudices to outcomes arising from travel times.
- That 24/7 assessment imaging at Hereford County Hospital should be retained in the model.
- The model should show confidence that it can accommodate fluctuation in demand over the average.
- That the perceived tension between patients being seen at Worcester and the public health need to be seen quickly should be considered.
- That it is recognised that increased travel times for relatives may arise and, where practical, provision should be made for visitors.

ITEM: The Health and Wellbeing Strategy

At the meeting on 25 November 2022, the committee considered the development of the Herefordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy, with an assessment of the overall impact and learning points from the existing strategy, and details of the progress of and timelines for the new draft strategy.

The committee identified the following conclusions to inform the development of the strategy:

- That the governance arrangements for the adoption and the delivery of the joint strategy be clearly defined;
- That a delivery plan for the strategy be produced which identifies the responsibility for the objectives, with clear targets and timelines;
- That the delivery plan be co-produced with key stakeholders and the community;
- That the strategy and delivery plan include meaningful and measurable key performance indicators, ensuring that these are framed around the availability of measurable data and outcomes;
- That the draft strategy be presented to the scrutiny committee once available for review, before it is considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board; and
- That the committee commends the emphasis on prevention and supports the intention to work with businesses, schools and other partners as key community stakeholders in the production and delivery of the strategy.

At the meeting on 23 January 2023, the committee considered a review of the consultation process and responses received, the conclusions and high level proposals on priorities for consideration, and an updated timeline for the development of the strategy.

The following recommendations were made to the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- The strategy presents clearly how the priorities covered by other directorates / health partners and boards will be monitored and promoted.
- Clarity is provided about the proportion of the strategy that is focused on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention.
- Considerations are given to providing mobile outreach services (dental care, screening etc) to ensure all children can be provided with the best possible start in life.

Status: At the meeting on 13 March 2023, the Health and Wellbeing Board considered the draft version of the ‘Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-2033’, ahead of the final version sign-off later in the year.

ITEM: Overview of signposting and accessibility to services

At the meeting on 23 January 2023, the committee considered an overview of the signposting offer to the variety of wellbeing services that are available through the council to improve accessibility within Adult Social Care and Talk Community.

- The committee noted the signposting and accessibility to services for customers and those who are being enabled to support themselves.
- The impact, outcomes and deliverables from Talk Community were noted with discussion on increased reach of signposting across the county.

The following recommendations were identified:

- A review of the community broker, social prescribing, wellbeing trainers and other functions to be commenced to ensure community opportunities are being maximised for all.
- The community offer is maximised to enrich the lives of people living with learning disabilities and all impairments.
- Further develop the Talk Community and promotion of community assets within the Primary Care and other networks including social care delivery.
- Provide/target advice to self-funders so that they are enabled to take timely interventions in connection to their own health and wellbeing needs.
- That information be sought about those people with community referrals who do not need full care assessments to find out if:
 - They followed up referrals;
 - They received a service, and
 - They found that helpful.

In addition to the recommendations above, the committee made the suggestion that Herefordshire Council explores the use of its assets (e.g. Maylord Orchards) as a focal point for service hubs and service delivery.

Status: The Executive will receive the scrutiny recommendations formally in the 2023/24 municipal year. Ongoing.