

**HEREFORDSHIRE PRIMARY CARE TRUST
- A STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS - A STATEMENT OF INTENT
2005-06 TO 2007-08 AND BEYOND
"CHOOSING HEALTH" - DoH WHITE PAPER**

**PROGRAMME AREA RESPONSIBILITY:
CORPORATE STRATEGY AND FINANCE**

CABINET

24TH MARCH, 2005

Wards Affected

County-wide

Purpose

To consider the recent NHS national and local documents and approve a Herefordshire Council response. The Department of Health "Choosing Health" executive summary and the Herefordshire PCT "A Strategy for Success: A Statement of Intent" are being circulated separately to Cabinet Members. Copies are available in the Members' Room, on the Council's Website or on request.

Key Decision

This is not a Key Decision.

Recommendation

- THAT (a) Cabinet agrees or amends the attached response to the "Strategy for Success" and "Choosing Health" (Appendix 1);**
- (b) Cabinet agrees to invest in the appointment of the Director of Public Health, a contribution at the level of 50% to indicate the Council's commitment and intent in relation to the joint agenda and service delivery programme linked to additional NHS funds for 2006-07 and 2007-08 for White Paper implementation;**
- (c) Cabinet considers and agrees any further messages to the PCT in relation to the "Choosing Health" agenda; and**
- (d) Cabinet considers how the Council will ensure the leadership and arrangements necessary for the delivery of the six priorities set out in the White Paper.**

Reasons

To ensure Herefordshire Council has advised the local Primary Care Trust of its position in relation to the PCT Statement of Intent and the further development of a joint approach to public health and the public health targets as they apply to Herefordshire.

Further information on the subject of this report is available from
N.M. Pringle, Chief Executive on 01432 260044

Considerations

1. The "Strategy for Success" has been developed within the PCT. The Director of Social Care and Strategic Housing, as a member of the Professional Executive Committee of the PCT, has had opportunity to comment on the document. It has now incorporated the Change for Children/Every Child Matters theme and the Housing agenda.
2. The document also forms the Executive Summary of the NHS Local Delivery Plan. This is the equivalent of the Council's Corporate Plan and Annual Operating Plan.
3. "Choosing Health" and "Strategy for Success" both highlight the strong inter-relationship, interfaces and partnership between the Council's contribution to public health and the requirements to build healthy communities on the local NHS.
4. The effectiveness of the partnership between the Council and the PCT must be reflected in improved outcomes for local people.
5. The joint strategic and management arrangements are in place and require further effort to secure improvements in the next period.
6. These include:
 - The Section 31 Health Act arrangements require further work to ensure clarity on risk management.
 - The Children and Young People's Partnership Board is starting its work towards a Children's Trust arrangement.
 - "Choosing Health" invites a new joint endeavour in joint local leadership.
 - Herefordshire Council would need to focus more particularly on the "Health" aspect of the Health and Care Partnership (as an ambition group of the Herefordshire Partnership) if this is seen as the most relevant arrangement for the joint agenda.
 - It is clear from the White Paper and political comment that there is an expectation Local Authorities will take the lead with the NHS in tackling the six priorities set out in the White Paper.
 - Integration with existing initiatives being run by Herefordshire Partnership ambition groups and Council services. It is clear that the requirements set out in the White Paper have implications for and are, or could be, delivered through the various ambition groups. The challenge here is to put in place co-ordination, agree priorities and targets, reporting arrangements and accountability without creating unnecessary bureaucracy which diverts attention and resources away from the delivery of services. Two alternatives are to use the existing Health and Care Partnership or to create an overarching ambition group as part of a broader review of the ambition group structure.
 - The specific initiatives planned by Government (attached at Appendix 2) do demonstrate the breadth of work across the Council and the NHS and invite a joint leadership role in the Director of Public Health to be accountable for delivery of the programme locally.

Conclusion

The connections between the Council and PCT are clearly demonstrated in these documents and require a renewed approach to delivery which is agreed ahead of any NHS system reforms over the next period.

Finance

In order to demonstrate commitment to the Public Health improvements it is proposed to contribute 50% to the salary costs of the Director of Public Health.

Alternative Options

There are no alternative options

Risk Management

The connections between the Council and the PCT need to be further strengthened to ensure that the partnership commitments (already of considerable benefit locally) can deliver the joint agendas in the next period. This imperative has been given greater impetus by the "Choosing Health" White Paper. It is necessary to continue to demonstrate the Council's commitment to local delivery through partnership with the NHS locally via the considerations and recommendations outlined in this report.

Consultees

As described in NHS documents.

Background Papers

None identified.