



Report to: Health and Wellbeing Committee, 21st June 2021

Report of: Corporate Director - Homes and Communities

Subject: HEALTHY WORCESTER PLAN 2019-2021 UPDATE REPORT

1. Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the contents of this report and in particular the progress made against the current Healthy Worcester Plan 2019 – 2021; and**
- 1.2 Notes that a further report will be provided to this Committee during 2022 proposing a new Healthy Worcester Plan, that will be based around the priorities identified within the revised Worcestershire Health & Wellbeing Strategy.**

2. Background

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Health and Wellbeing Committee on renewal of the Worcestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, progress made against the Healthy Worcester Plan 2019 - 21, and the proposed next steps for progressing this area of work.
- 2.2 Worcestershire County Council has the statutory responsibility in accordance with the Health and Social Care Act 2012 for public health. In conjunction with local health services they are required to undertake Joint Strategic Needs Assessments (JSNA) of health and well-being. This work is a continuous process of assessment designed to inform the development of the Joint Health and Well Being Strategy (JHWS), and the decisions made locally about what services are commissioned. The core aim is to improve the public's health and reduce inequalities.
- 2.3 In Worcestershire a framework of groups is in place to meet the requirements of the Act at a county and local level:
 - **Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board** who develop the Worcestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and monitor delivery;
 - **Worcestershire Health Improvement Group** wider partners that share good practice and monitor delivery of the local district/city health plans;
 - **Healthy Worcester Partnership** – Worcester City's partners who develop and deliver the local health plan.
- 2.4 The purpose of the groups is to encourage integrated working between health and social care commissioners, wider health related partners and provide appropriate support to achieve a joined-up strategy and a collaborative approach to improving whole population health at a local level.

- 2.5 District councils are not formally responsible for public health as detailed in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 but can and do play an influential role and a formal duty to co-operate. Worcester City Council is a community leader and a provider of key services which have a direct impact on the social determinants of health, such as employment and the economy, housing, planning, transport, leisure, communities, recreation and environmental health which directly impact on the health of the population. It has also been recognised over the pandemic the crucial role local government organisations play in meeting the community health and wellbeing needs.
- 2.6 Healthy Worcester (HW) is a group that has been established for several years and was formally agreed and set up to fulfil the Council's role and duty to co-operate. It brings together statutory and voluntary sector partners from across the city that influence health and its wider determinants. The partnership meets quarterly, and the nominated Chairperson is the Deputy Chairperson of Communities Committee. This group has been and will continue to be instrumental in the development of local health improvement plans which support the delivery of the priorities in the previous, current, and future Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

3. Renewal of the Worcestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- 3.1 The current Strategy 2016- 21 had the key aims of increasing physical activity, improving mental well-being, and reducing the use of alcohol and had been for 5 years. A new Strategy is being developed for 2021 to meet the needs identified in the evolving JSNA possibly with a small number of priorities but over a longer timeframe.
- 3.2 The priority within the Strategy is to address health inequalities and this agenda is being driven nationally based on the findings of the [Health Equity in England The Marmot Review 10 Years On executive summary web.pdf](#). This review found

"The last decade has been marked by deteriorating health and widening health inequalities. People living in more deprived areas outside London have seen their life expectancy stalling, even declining for some, while it has increased in more advantaged areas."

"The amount of time people spend in poor health has increased across England since 2010. As we reported in 2010, inequalities in poor health harm individuals, families, communities and are expensive to the public purse. They are also unnecessary and can be reduced with the right policies."

(Health Equity in England: the Marmot Review 10 years on p3 and 4 respectively)

Other authorities JHWS have also been researched and show there is a general move away from topics towards themes and inequalities and a focus on the wider determinants of health e.g. quality of employment, good mental health, living well in later life and safe and healthy homes. Most new strategies are looking at ways of working such as asset-based approaches or tackling ACES and working together to make long term impacts. The public consultation on the new Strategy will be opening in the next few weeks for a 12-week period.

4. The Healthy Worcester Plan 2019/21 - What has been achieved?

- 4.1 The Healthy Worcester Plan 2019-2021 was established to support the delivery of the 3 priorities in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy along with 5 other local priorities:
- Statutory homelessness
 - Poor Air Quality
 - Outcomes and access to services for the Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) population
 - Loneliness and isolation for all ages
 - To improve how we work with our partners to make the best use of our community assets
- 4.2 At Communities Committee in July 2019 authority was delegated to Head of Strategic Housing and the Chair and Vice Chair of Communities Committee to sign off the Healthy Worcester Plan following a consultation process and based on any changes resulting from it.
- 4.3 The Plan was fully adopted in November 2019 and it will be recognised that the implementation of the actions in the plan have been impacted by the pandemic. Highlights of what has been achieved are shown in the table below:

Activities Planned 2019/21	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set up a Councillor/Officer task and finish group to better understand the level and impact of child poverty within the city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A final report has been completed containing recommendations to help address child poverty in the city.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conduct a bidding process for the Healthy Worcester Grant Funding to address the priorities within the Healthy Worcester Plan 2019/21 	<p>The £100,000 funding made available to address health inequalities in the city have been used as agreed and spent in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £60,825 - Additional units of Housing First accommodation for between 5 - 7 rough sleepers supporting mental health and substance misuse needs within the rough sleeper population. • £13,000 - for a case management system creating a preventative referral system for vulnerable young people and families working with Community Services. • £7,750 - providing fuel poverty measures in vulnerable households' homes • 18,425 - To address the priorities defined in the Healthy Worcester Plan 2020/21. Grants have been awarded fully utilising the funding for initiatives addressing health and hardship following a successful bidding and evaluation

	exercise.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To work with Healthy Worcester and enable partnership working and making the best out of our assets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Healthy Worcester continued to meet by zoom during Covid and shared initiatives, experience and learning resulting from the pandemic.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement recommendations of air quality task and finish group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations are being delivered via an officer working group led by the Corporate Director (Homes & Communities) and reported to the Licensing & Environmental Health Committee. All recommendations are in progress with some completed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise and implement Community Engagement Strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original intention of developing a community engagement strategy has been superseded following the Local Government Association Peer Review recommending that the Council should develop a Homes & Communities Strategy. Limited progress has been made due to key staff being central to COVID Response & Recovery work but will be progressed during 21/22.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore potential for setting up a Dementia Meeting Centre in Worcester 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two part time Dementia Meeting Centres have been established by Age UK and the WCT. One is in the Dines Green Community Centre and the other in the Age UK premises.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Riverside Park - Joint Museums impact on H&WB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A detailed review has been carried out to consider the landscape design proposals for Riverside Park along with opportunities that may be realised through Towns Fund to establish the 'Riverside as a destination'. A schedule of proposed enhancements has been prepared for consultation to address the original aspirations of the Riverside Improvements Project and in addition to integrate with and maximise the benefits realised by the potential projects identified as part Towns Fund. Enhancements for consideration include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health and safety – Royal Life Saving Society has recently prepared a Water Safety Plan including recommendations for improvements. Biodiversity – Worcestershire Wildlife Trust has prepared a Biodiversity Enhancement Assessment. Consultations progressing with Natural Networks to

	<p>seek funding to support biodiversity enhancements in the park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming place – improved connectivity; strengthened park identity and attractive accessible routes for walking and cycling. • New features – Worcester Riverside Fitness Corridor with 'healthy hubs' along the route; natural play area in Le Vesinet Gardens. <p>Whilst the detail of the recent Towns Fund decision is under review, progress can be made on developing the ideas for the Riverside Improvements Project into reality.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the City Council community grants funding 	<p>For financial year 2020-21 a total of £27,583.39 has been awarded across 9 applications. Funding is made available to community groups and voluntary sector organisations who aim to connect more people to opportunities and empower individuals, groups and organisations with capacity and skills to enable them to better identify their needs and play a fuller part in contributing to their own wellbeing and development.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of the "Better Care Fund" outcomes by the newly commissioned "Promoting Independent Living Service" 	<p><u>20/21</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitated timely discharge from hospital for 52 people • Prevented an unplanned admission to hospital for 21 people • Reduce pressure on informal carers for 44 people • Reduced or delayed an increase in a care package for 54 people • Reduced or prevented a fall for 476 people • Promote/maintained independence for 425 people • Enabled 54 people to remain in their own home
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational delivery of the Tennis Project by Spring 2020 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All 7 courts across Cripplegate and Gheluvelt were re-surfaced and launched for booking on the 4th Sept 2020. There were delays due to flooding and Covid. • Freedom Leisure re-opened the courts in line with government regulations on 29th March 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a Housing First model to meet the housing need of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing First has been in operation since the February 2020. This provides settled

entrenched rough sleepers in Worcester City	accommodation and support to 12 individual from Worcester who were previously entrenched rough sleepers. Funding has been successfully secured to extend 20 (5 Worcester) out of 34 of the units until March 2023.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 116 community engagement events during 2019/20 will be enabled and attended by Worcester City Council staff 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2019/20 476 community engagement events took place. During 2020/21 142 due to the covid restrictions.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Active Communities active participation target for 31,500 engagements during 2019/20, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2019/20 – Target 31,500 Actual – 30,247 2020/21 – Decimated by three lockdown periods with the service only operational during the Q2 period – Target 893 Actual 787
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young People’s Education of Drug, Alcohol, Emotional Well Being, Child Sexual Exploitation, County lines , Gangs, Internet Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May 19 – May 2021 – 4.369 Full lessons have just started again, April 2021 in schools/colleges and pupil referral units. During covid there was none, apart from online support/mentoring/group work and the Walk and Talk project/YMCA drop in work.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Safety, education programme being delivered Staying Safe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During 2020/21 managed in different ways to engage with 438 young people frequenting Teme bridge and 102 at Diglis, Severn Weir... over the Summer months , either just as a team, or in partnership with the local policing team to raise awareness on water safety using educational resources such as Home and dry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention of Homelessness school education programme being delivered 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This programme is set up and was being delivered prior to lockdown and will resume when possible.

5. **Next Steps**

- 5.1 Worcester City Council is responsible for many services that affect the environment in which residents live, which in turn play some part in the quality of people's lives. The pandemic has reinforced the fact that wellbeing and community is central to local government activity. Over the past twelve months, it has been clear that this Council and its City focus has enabled us to tailor good quality services to residents. Positive achievements have been experienced with greater collaboration between existing and new partners and the improved use of widespread technology.
- 5.2 The council is in a prime position to be a part of the Worcestershire NHS and Care Trusts Integrated Care Strategy (ICS) and act as agents who can coordinate place-based approaches to improve health and wellbeing and reduce the impact on acute

NHS services. It is often at this more local level that planning, and services can be joined up most effectively, and it will therefore be essential to continue to foster and support place-based partnerships as ICS develop. This new Health and Wellbeing Committee will be instrumental in the direction of this work to drive meaningful improvements in health and wellbeing, join up health and care and the wider determinants of health at all levels and enhance transparency and accountability through supporting engagement with local communities.

- 5.3 It is also an opportune time with the renewal of the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Strategy to consider a new Healthy Worcester action plan for the city based on the new priority themes. This will be vital to addressing the health inequalities resulting from the pandemic and support delivery of the Worcester Community Recovery Strategy.

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Background Papers: N/A