



Report to: Health and Wellbeing Committee, 21st March 2022

Report of: Corporate Director - Operations, Homes and Communities

Subject: WORCESTERSHIRE HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY CONSULTATION 2022 - 2032

1. Recommendation

That the Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the contents of this report and in particular, the current Worcestershire Health & Wellbeing Strategy Consultation 2022 – 2032 at Appendix 1;**
- 1.2 Notes that an all-Member Briefing Session on the Strategy will be held to support officers in developing a Worcester City Council response to the consultation; and**
- 1.3 Delegates the Corporate Director (Operations, Homes & Communities) in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Health Wellbeing Committee to develop and agree a final consultation response for submission, the questions for which are attached at Appendix 2.**

2. Background

- 2.1 The Worcestershire Health & Well-being Strategy Consultation 2022 – 2032 launched on 7th February 2022 and is due to close on 2nd May 2022. The document can be found at **Appendix 1** ([HWBS 2022 2032 Full Consultation Document \(2\).pdf](#)).
- 2.2 A Health & Wellbeing Board (HWB) is statutorily obliged to undertake Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and develop a Health & Well-being Strategy for improving the health and wellbeing of people who live and work within the HWB area.
- 2.3 The Worcestershire HWB brings together the organisations responsible for improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities across the County. Its members include elected councillors and officers from County and district councils, representatives from Worcestershire Children First, local NHS organisations, the local voluntary and community sector, Healthwatch Worcestershire and West Mercia Police.
- 2.4 The HWB and its Health and Wellbeing Strategy will set the strategic direction for many other strategies, forums and committees across the Integrated Care System to ensure we can work together to achieve better health and wellbeing for Worcestershire.
- 2.5 The last Worcestershire Health & Wellbeing Strategy covered the period 2016 – 2021 and included as its three priorities:

- 1) Good mental health and wellbeing throughout life
 - 2) Being active at every age
 - 3) Reducing harm from alcohol at all ages
- 2.6 The new Strategy intends to set out a vision and key priorities for our partnership work to improve health and wellbeing and reduce inequalities in Worcestershire over the next 10 years covering the period 2022 - 2032.
- 2.7 The strategy's key priority is '*Good Mental Health & Wellbeing*' supported by action on the wider determinants of health including '*Healthy Living at all Ages*'; *Safe, Thriving and Healthy Homes, Communities and Places*; and *Quality Local Jobs and Opportunities*'.
- 2.8 This approach acknowledges that good mental health and well-being underpins most if not all other areas of our health, and also acknowledges the impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on mental health and wellbeing, harder for some groups than others. It also references the need for more to be done to understand what this impact means for our communities.
- 2.9 The draft strategy has utilised the World Health Organisation definition of mental wellbeing, which is 'a state where everyone is able to realise their potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully and is able to make a contribution to their community.'
- 2.10 The strategy provides some statistics from the JSNA that led to the development of the proposed priorities and supporting pillars, including the number of adults suffering from depression being higher for the County than the national average, number of adults overweight or obese being higher for the County than the national average so too for fuel poverty.
- 2.11 Some of the key points of the strategy have been identified as follows –
- It recognises that in general, the population of Worcestershire is healthy;
 - It acknowledges that there are a number of smaller areas where people's health is not as good;
 - It acknowledges that average measures can sometimes mask this difference;
 - It reinforces that prevention and early intervention remain key components of the strategy;
 - It acknowledges that the system does not yet fully understand the impact of COVID on health & wellbeing, but it is known, that for all age groups there are some clear example of how it has;
 - It highlights the positive impacts of COVID, particularly community response and resilience;
 - It acknowledges that better mental health and wellbeing is linked to improved physical health, performance in education and living longer.
- 2.12 Having considered the draft Strategy, below are a number of emerging considerations put forward by officers –
- Having a single priority (good mental health & wellbeing) could be considered unusual and therefore it will be important that sufficient focus is placed on delivery around the three underpinning elements;
 - There are several areas across the City with high levels of deprivation;

- Learning from the previous two years, progressing the aims of the strategy will stand a better chance if the wider local public health workforce (Community/Charity/Volunteer etc) are utilised with services and interventions delivered as locally as possible to areas of need;
 - The consultation enables an opportunity for the council to reinforce our approach to working alongside communities (Asset Based Community Development) which lends itself to the delivery of strategy ambitions and the longer time period over which it focusses;
 - The consultation enables an opportunity for the council to reinforce how the services it delivers (Housing, Leisure, Economic Development, Parks & Open Spaces, Environmental Health & Licensing), grant funding we provide and projects we commission link very clearly into the H&WB agenda and the priorities within the draft strategy
 - It is important that the strategy recognises that for many types of illness or ill health, geographical boundaries do not exist. Challenges associated with independent living into later life, social isolation and dementia will impact on many people across the City and the wider County.
- 2.13 As a District Council, the services we provide are very often accessed by residents and businesses who are at or approaching crisis point (housing, welfare support, bereavement, economic development, leisure).
- 2.14 One such example of this are families at risk of or who have been made homeless sometimes at no fault of their own. These are very often families who are renting in the private sector or via social housing provider and can therefore be on low incomes, have outstanding debt and be living in accommodation that is unsuitable for their family's needs. Such a situation can and often does impact on mental health and is something witnessed by officers regularly through their work trying to prevent homelessness.
- 2.15 Good mental health & wellbeing is both recognised and valued by the Council through front line delivery of key services to residents, through the Worcester City Plan 2022 – 2027 and through organisational development focussing on staff health, safety and welfare.
- 2.16 **Appendix 2** of this report lists the questions that form the basis of the consultation and an all-Member Briefing Session will be held to explore these further and provide Members with an opportunity to provide their views. This will enable officers to then develop a series of answers that reflects the councils position on the strategy.

3. Preferred Option

- 3.1 Given the consultation period ends on 2nd May 2022 and the next Health & Wellbeing Committee is scheduled for 13th June, this report seeks approval for delegation to be provided to the Corporate Director (Operations, Homes & Communities) in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of Health & Wellbeing Committee to develop and agree a final consultation response for submission on behalf of the council.
- 3.2 In order to support the preferred option, planning is underway to hold an all Member briefing session on the consultation, supported by colleagues at Worcestershire

County Council Public Health to enable further discussion on the subject and feedback to be received by officers, to assist with developing a draft response for discussion with the Chair and Vice Chair of Health & Wellbeing Committee.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 Not submitting a consultation response has been discounted for several reasons. The Worcestershire H&WB has District representation on it, and therefore it seems only proper as a key agency in the monitoring, oversight and delivery of the strategy, that we also play a part in its development.
- 4.2 Furthermore, the Pandemic has naturally brought together a number of agencies straddling health and local government to focus on shared priorities and our most at risk communities. In response to the Pandemic this took the form of a Worcester City COVID-19 Incident Management Team (chaired by the Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities) that played a central role in the Community outreach Vaccination Clinic Programme.
- 4.3 There is emerging agreement that this group could naturally be converted to become a Local Delivery Group or District Collaborative (to support the new Integrated Care Board) for the shared priorities referred to in para 4.2, and in addition what falls out of the H&WB Strategy.

5. Implications

5.1 Financial and Budgetary Implications

There are no financial or budgetary implications associated with this report

5.2 Legal and Governance Implications

There are no legal or governance implications related to this report.

5.3 Risk Implications

There are no risk implications associated with this report

5.4 Corporate/Policy Implications

The Worcester City Plan 2021-26 sets out how the Council wants to play its part in the City –

- Having stronger and connected communities
- Being a prosperous city
- Being a healthy and active city
- Being a heritage city, with 21 century culture
- Enhancing and sustaining the City's beauty for future generations

The draft Worcestershire H&WB Strategy and what it sets out to achieve touches on each of these elements. Examples include reducing number of substandard rental properties (Stronger & Connected Communities), a highly skilled workforce with the right types of experience and qualifications that city employers need (Prosperous City), Health inequalities, including levels of obesity, smoking, alcohol and drug use and mental health problems, are reducing (Healthy & Active City), a diverse and growing cultural, theatre, music and arts offer for residents and visitors (Heritage

City with 21st Century and Culture), and increased use and appreciation of our city's full range of green spaces and parks by residents and visitors (Enhancing and Sustaining the City's Beauty for Future Generations).

5.5 Equality Implications

There are no equality implications associated with this report, although it should be noted that in developing any consultation response for submission, equality implications will be taken into account.

5.6 Human Resources Implications

There are no human resource implications associated with this report.

5.7 Health and Safety Implications

There are no health and safety implications associated with this report.

5.8 Social, Environmental and Economic Implications

It is clear that the draft Worcestershire H&WB Strategy through its principle priority of 'Good Mental Health & Wellbeing' and supported by action on the wider determinants of health ('Healthy Living at all Ages'; Safe, Thriving and Healthy Homes, Communities and Places; and Quality Local Jobs and Opportunities') aims to have positive impacts socially, environmentally and economically.

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Background Papers: [Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 - 2032 Consultation | Worcestershire County Council](#)