

HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

20th March 2023

Present: Councillor Lynn Denham in the Chair

Councillors Ali, Cockeram, S. Ditta, S. Hodgson (Vice-Chair), Lamb, Lawrance, Norfolk, Piotrowski, Roberts and Stanley

Officers: Lloyd Griffiths, Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities
Tom Mountford, Head of Homes and Communities
Warwick Neale, Community Services Team Manager

37 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor Lamb for Councillor Udall, Councillor Roberts for Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson.

38 Declarations of Interest

None.

39 Public Participation

None.

40 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

41 Rough Sleeper Outreach

The Committee received a presentation from Mel Kirk, Chief Executive, Maggs. The presentation included an overview of rough sleeping in Worcester City, the challenges to accommodating rough sleepers, the outreach work undertaken by Maggs and the role of the Intervention and Transition Team.

David Hopkins, Senior SWEP Coordinator, CCP was also in attendance. Mel and David answered questions from Committee Members on a wide range of issues. In conclusion, they highlighted two issues which would merit further consideration:

David acknowledged that the Severe Weather Emergency Protocol is activated when the temperature is forecast to be zero degrees for one night, but asked whether this could be reviewed with a view to raising the threshold to 2 degrees Celsius.

Mel acknowledged the new Homelessness and Rough Sleepers Strategy and the pathways and protocols being developed. She highlighted the value of providing more accommodation options with support.

The Chair concluded by thanking Mel Kirk and David Hopkins for their attendance and for the services which their organisations provide.

42 Proposed Committee Performance Scorecard for 2023/24

The Committee considered the proposed content of the Policy and Resources Performance Scorecard for 2023/24. The Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities presented the report and highlighted new indicators to be included for 2023/24.

Officers responded to questions from Committee Members. In the ensuing discussion, the following main points were made:

- The funding for increased mental health support for children and young people will be used to support two posts which will deliver support in local schools through Onside Advocacy, who have worked with the County Council to identify which schools have the highest need.
- Exercise by prescription referrals are currently linked specifically to the diabetes project. Officers will check and update Members if there is any change to this. Officers are looking for opportunities to expand the scheme.
- In order to make the performance measures more meaningful, Members asked if the accompanying notes could provide information to demonstrate that funds have been utilised effectively and to give examples of the impact which these measures have had.
- Healthy eating and dietary advice are topics which will be picked up through the district collaborative.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree the proposed content of the Health and Wellbeing Committee Performance Scorecard for 2023/24.

43 Household Support Fund (April 2023 To March 2024) & Child Poverty Corporate Funding

The Committee considered a report on the allocation of Household Support Funding from Government for Worcestershire in 2023/24. The Community Services Team Manager presented the report and explained how allocations had been made and spent since the first tranche in October 2021.

It was anticipated that the government will award the fund in two six-month instalments for 2023/24 and the allocation for Worcester City Council will be £337,086. This will be used to continue to provide the Discretionary Welfare Assistance Scheme, Worcester Foodbank, Spend to Save and supermarket vouchers for pre-school children and those in college.

Meanwhile, Officers have developed options of potential spend address food poverty, in support of the recommendations from the Child Poverty Task and Finish Group. There is £46,800 corporate funding available which will be used to extend the DWAS scheme to include flexible provision for essential children's clothing items (£40,000) and to support a multi-agency crisis fund (£6,800) for health visitors to reclaim the costs of providing emergency support to residents

with children whilst awaiting referral decisions or appointments with support services.

The Community Services Team Manager responded to questions from Committee Members on the proposals.

RESOLVED: That Committee agree to:

- 1. note the contents of the report, and in particular the allocation of £7,898,278.38 of Household Support Funding from Government for Worcestershire in 2023/24;**
- 2. note the intended split of Household Support Funding between Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire District Councils, resulting in Worcester City Council being allocated £337,086 for 2023/24;**
- 3. approve the distribution of Worcester City Council's Household Supporting Fund 2023/24 allocation, as outlined in Section 3 of this report; and**
- 4. approve the allocation of £46,800 from the Council's Child Poverty Fund as set out within Section 3 of this report.**

44 Any Other Business

None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 9.06p.m.

Chair at the meeting on
12th June 2023

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