

HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

17th July 2023

Present: Councillor Lynn Denham in the Chair

Councillors Ali, Cockeram, Desayrah, Laurensen, Murray, Pingree, Stephen and Udall

Officers: Lloyd Griffiths, Corporate Director - Operations, Homes and Communities

Apologies: Councillor Hodgson

11 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor Desayrah for Councillor Sadiq.

12 Declarations of Interest

None.

13 Public Participation

None.

14 Minutes

A request was made to amend the wording of minute 5 (Active Travel Action Plan) to clarify that "most" Members had expressed support for the Plan.

With reference to same minute, the Chair raised the issue of membership of the Steering Group. The Corporate Director stated that there was cross-party support for all political groups on the Council to be represented on the Group and the Chair asked for this to be recorded.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2023 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair, subject to the above amendment.

15 Presentation from Lisa McNally, Director of Public Health, Worcestershire County Council

The Committee received a presentation from Lisa McNally, Director of Public Health, Worcestershire County Council on how Public Health and District Councils can work together more effectively.

She explained that her approach to public health is to find out what the local community is trying to achieve, looking at what is strong in a community and what people are doing, or would like to do, to improve their local area. Public Health will seek to support and encourage any such initiatives. Elected Members have a key role to play as they know what is happening in their locality and will have established contacts with groups and individuals.

She would welcome suggestions from individual Members on how Public Health can work in partnership with community groups to improve public health, especially through preventative work. She gave a number of examples of the type of initiatives which can help to improve mental health and physical wellbeing, including reducing social isolation and developing community cohesion.

Lisa responded to a wide range of questions from Committee Members. She explained that she was not able to answer questions about NHS services, but was happy to attend if an NHS provider is invited to speak to the Committee.

In response to a question about water fluoridisation, Lisa explained that the east of County is fully covered, but there are some gaps in Worcester and West Worcestershire. She is a strong advocate for fluoridisation and she gave a commitment to look at how these gaps can be filled.

With regard to support for community initiatives, there is more information on the Worcestershire Community Foundation website <https://www.worcscf.org.uk/> or alternatively Members are welcome to email her direct.

The Chair thanked Lisa for her presentation and comments.

16 Herefordshire & Worcestershire NHS 5-Year Joint Forward Plan and Herefordshire & Worcestershire Integrated Care Strategy 2023 - 3033

The Committee considered a report on the Five Year Joint Forward Plan which has been produced by NHS Partners across Herefordshire and Worcestershire and the 'Good Health and Wellbeing for Everyone' - Integrated Care Strategy 2023 – 2033' document which has been developed and produced by the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Integrated Care Partnership.

The Chair stated that the City Council is represented on the Worcestershire Health and Wellbeing Board and the Herefordshire and Worcestershire Integrated Care Partnership Assembly, and has been party to the consultation and sign-off of both strategies.

The Forward Plan describes the shared priorities that partners will collectively work on over the next five years in response to the Integrated Care Strategy and Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategies. It will be formally refreshed annually.

Lisa McNally was invited to comment on the work which has been undertaken to develop both the Plan and the Strategy. Lisa and the Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities responded to questions and comments from Committee Members.

In the ensuing discussion, it was mentioned that there is no reference in the Plan to the health impacts of climate change. The Chair acknowledged this point and suggested that it should be taken on board in the next iteration.

RESOLVED: That the Committee note the contents of the report, and in particular that Worcester City Council is a signatory to the Herefordshire & Worcestershire NHS 5-Year Joint Forward Plan, and the Herefordshire & Worcestershire Integrated Care Strategy 2023 – 3033.

17 Quarter 1 Performance Report for 2023/24

The Committee considered the quarter 1 performance report for Health and Wellbeing Committee. The Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities presented the report and highlighted the main points. He responded to questions from Committee Members.

In the ensuing discussion, the following main points were made:

- Information on the work plan for the Council’s Active Travel Officer can be provided in writing.
- With reference to the Household Support Fund, information can be provided to Members on the number of requests which were not granted and reasons why.
- Members asked for some information on number of users of the tennis courts in parks including free tennis uptake.
- It was suggested that Freedom Leisure could be invited to attend a future meeting to explain their role in supporting health and wellbeing. The Corporate Director explained that Freedom Leisure’s operation falls under another Committee’s remit, and he will discuss this request with the Chair and Vice-Chair.
- The contacts information contained in the newly agreed Safeguarding Policy will be shared via the Members’ Weekly Information Bulletin.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to note the Council’s quarter 1 performance for 2023/24.

18 Any Other Business

None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 8.47p.m.

Chair at the meeting on
23rd October 2023

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