

HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE

10th June 2024

Present: Councillor Elena Round in the Chair

Councillors Ali, Cockeram, Denham, Hussain, Kimberley, Kinnersley, Laurenson, Murray, Sadiq and Willmore (Vice-Chair)

Officers: Madeline Ajetunmobi, Strategic Housing Officer
Shane Flynn, Corporate Director – Finance and Resources
Lloyd Griffiths, Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities
Tom Mountford, Head of Homes and Communities
Sian Stroud, Corporate Director – Planning and Governance
David Sutton, Deputy Director – Policy and Strategy

1 Appointment of Substitutes

Councillor Ali for Councillor Udall.

2 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Round declared an interest in Household Support Fund Tranche 5 Allocation - April 2024-September 2024 (Minute 8) as she is employed by a charity that supports people with disabilities.

3 Public Participation

None.

4 Minutes

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5 Citizens Advice Presentation - Cost of Living Crisis and Delivery of the Household Support Fund

The Committee received a presentation from Anne Limbert, Partnership Manager, Citizens Advice Worcester and Herefordshire on the delivery of services in response to the cost of living crisis. The presentation explained the type of issues which clients are bringing, the reasons for the rise in the number of cases, health consequences, what Citizen's Advice can do in response and what additional resources are available to assist.

Anne responded to questions from Committee members on a range of issues.

The Chair concluded by thanking Anne for her attendance and for the information provided. Her presentation will be circulated to Committee members.

6 Quarter 4 and Annual Performance Report For 2023/24

The Committee considered the annual and quarter 4 performance report. The Corporate Director – Finance and Resources presented the report and Officers responded to questions from Committee Members on detailed aspect to the report.

In the ensuing discussion, a question was asked about the fall in exercise by prescription referrals and whether this is linked to the prevalence of type 2 diabetes. The Corporate Director – Operations, Homes and Communities stated that the project was halted due to low take-up. The focus has changed and this will be reflected in the new scorecard. More information on how the diabetes unlocked project went and what the barriers were can be given to Members. Primary Care can be asked for information on the rates of type 2 diabetes locally and this information can be relayed to Members.

RESOLVED: That the Committee agree to note the Council’s quarter 4 and annual performance for 2023/24.

7 Proposed Committee Performance Scorecard for 2024/25

The Committee considered the proposed content of the Health and Wellbeing Performance Scorecard for 2024/25. The Corporate Director – Finance and Resources presented the report and Officers responded to questions and comments from Committee members.

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

- This Committee will be responsible for oversight of the Accessibility in Worcester project and its progress over the year, including a campaign and convening a conference with partner organisations. In reply to a question about what the scorecard measure will measure, Members were advised that there will be a further report to the Committee to agree priority projects, indicators and key milestones.
- With regard to the number of rough sleepers supported, a request was made for some narrative in performance reports as, for example, if the number is unchanged but there are more new cases, this suggests that some rough sleepers have moved on.
- Membership of the Active Travel Working Group was raised, as this needed to be reviewed following the recent elections. For this year the group will consist of Councillors Round, Willmore (Chair and Vice-Chair) and Murray. Updates on the Active Travel Action Plan will be reported to this Committee on a six-monthly basis and any suggestions for revisions to the Scorecard can be made throughout the year.

No amendments were proposed by Committee members.

RESOLVED: That the Committee note the proposed content of the Health and Wellbeing Performance Scorecard for 2024/25.

8 Household Support Fund Tranche 5 Allocation - April 2024 To September 2024

The Committee received a report for information on a decision taken by the Managing Director under Urgency Powers in consultation with Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Committee.

In summary, in March 2024 the Government announced that the Household Support Fund would be extended for a further six months, from 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024. The City Council has been allocated £168,543 from the Worcestershire allocation. The Fund must be spent or committed before 30 September 2024 and cannot be carried over.

Due to the short timescale, a decision on how to allocate the Fund had been taken using delegated powers.

With the Fund only being available until 30 September 2024 and currently no indication of whether that will be extended, it was proposed to use the Household Support Fund allocation first and to use the UKSPF funding to allow support for vulnerable households to continue for the second half (and colder months) of 2024/25 regardless of any further Household Support Fund award.

In response to a request for feedback to understand the number of people the organisations involved have helped, Members were advised that the Council does receive this information and will continue to do so. Information can be provided via a briefing note and the uptake of HSF funding can be reflected in the 24/25 scorecard.

That the Committee agree to note:

- 1. the contents of the report, and in particular the use of Managing Director 'Urgency Powers' in allocating Household Support Tranche 5 funding covering the period 1st April 2024 – 30th September 2024; and**
- 2. that this matter was presented to Policy and Resources Committee on 21st May 2024 in line with the Council's Constitution.**

9 Any Other Business

None.

Duration of the meeting: 7.00p.m. – 8.45p.m.

Chair at the meeting on
29th July 2024

This page is intentionally left blank