



HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 11 NOVEMBER

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH 2015 - THE ROLE OF COMMUNITIES IN IMPROVING THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF THE POPULATION

DRAFT MINUTE EXTRACT

The Committee considered the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for 2015. The focus of the report was on the role of communities in supporting health and wellbeing, which would become increasingly important over the next few years as public services across Leicestershire faced very difficult financial challenges.

Arising from consideration of the Report the following comments were made -

- i) Developing community capacity was vital to the Council's strategy to reduce demand. In this regard comments were made on the need for the Council and partners to support the development of local networks so as to build resilience.
- ii) Timebanking offered opportunities to promote volunteering and consideration should be given to greater promotion of this, and to responding more promptly to people wishing to register.
- iii) Local area coordinators would play a key role in supporting and galvanising community action.
- iv) Greater use of social media should be explored as a means of promoting the advantages of volunteering.
- v) The development of credit unions in the Hinckley and Bosworth area aimed to help tackle poverty. Credit unions had been referenced in the report of the Bishop of Leicester's Poverty Commission.

Members welcomed the report and its focus and asked the Council and statutory partners to work more closely together, noting good work already taking place with the CCGs and Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health be welcomed;
- (b) That the comments now made be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration at its meeting on 18 November 2015.