

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2024**

### **REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF MELTON BOROUGH COUNCIL – CO CHAIRS OF THE STAYING HEALTHY PARTNERSHIP**

### **STAYING HEALTHY, SAFE AND WELL DEVELOPMENT SESSION OUTCOMES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) the outcomes and recommendations highlighted at the recent development session themed on the Staying Healthy, Safe and Well life course priority.
2. The report is presented on behalf of the Staying Healthy Partnership (SHP) to seek endorsement from the HWB regarding the recommendations which will be the priority areas of focus for the SHP over the coming 12 months.

#### **Recommendation**

3. The SHP is seeking to gain approval from the HWB, following the recent development session, to spotlight the following priority areas. These focus areas are alongside the SHPs existing remit to monitor ('watch') and champion activity across a range of delivery areas:
  - a. Health and the Strategic Planning System – build on and enhance the existing collaborative work to increase awareness, and consideration of health implications and requirements within planning policy and decision making.
  - b. Healthy Weight – to come together and champion a whole systems approach and joint agenda and the co-ordination of resources towards healthy weight, food and nutrition.
4. The HWB is required to provide a platform to unblock any challenges, advocating buy-in and accountability from across the partnership.

#### **Policy Framework and Previous Decision**

5. The JLHWS for Leicestershire was approved by the HWB in February 2022 and is based on a life course approach. The JLHWS sets out the vision, priorities and action agreed by the HWB to meet the needs identified within

the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to improve the health, care and wellbeing of local communities and reduce health inequalities.

6. In July 2023, the HWB held a development session to look at how the Board could be more effective in delivering the JLHWS thereby improving health outcomes of the residents of Leicestershire. To address this, a forward plan of development sessions themed on each of the life course stages was put in place which commenced in December 2023. The main aim being to provide an opportunity for partners to discuss some of the core challenges being faced and agree a way forward.

### **Background**

7. On 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024, the HWB held a development session themed on the staying healthy, safe and well strategic priority of the JLHWS. The aims of the session were to:
  - a. Gain collective agreement on the role of the SHP in delivering against the staying healthy, safe and well priority
  - b. Elevate the voice and agency of the SHP across the wider Leicestershire system

### **Outcomes of the development session**

8. Group discussions highlighted a number of challenges and opportunities. These included:
  - the remit of SHP being too broad,
  - inconsistent communication between some partners and opportunities to improve connectivity between neighbourhood and place, and particularly between place and system,
  - risk of duplication of work, and resources, with the potential to pool resources to be more effective,
  - the need to celebrate successes and achievements.
9. It was widely acknowledged that there is already a wealth of good work happening across Leicestershire that sits under the remit of SHP. For instance, the work focusing on the impact of wider determinants on health and how to best influence the planning system to incorporate health considerations as business as usual.
10. The discussions during the development session also highlighted concerns across the partnership on the issue of obesity. There was recognition that a wealth of work was already taking place among partners across Leicestershire but there was limited awareness of the breadth of work and therefore the risk of duplication of effort. There was also a desire to think more innovatively to tackle this issue as there was acknowledgement that the situation was worsening (people are becoming sicker rather than healthier) and so a different approach was needed.

11. The SHP wants to use its position to further support the above work, unblocking any barriers, encouraging an 'organisational blindness' approach that addresses issues from a place perspective. Identifying what 'good' looks like, using the mechanisms already in place and understanding what needs to be achieved/resolved through a different lens.
12. Through the discussions held at the development session, two priorities were highlighted as being potential spotlight areas where the SHP could provide support. It is important to note that work to deliver these approaches is already happening, but this would benefit from a greater focus and grip at a strategic level. The SHP intends to 'sponsor' these areas, providing a platform to unblock any challenges and advocate for a multi-agency approach.
- a. Strategic Targeted Intervention –
- Specifically focussed on planning and how best to influence the planning system to factor in health considerations as business as usual.
  - Exploring ways to add value, whether it be through a bespoke task and finish group with key partners, or by developing a 'health in planning conference' for district planning teams to raise awareness and identify training opportunities.
- b. Obesity –
- Specifically, around healthy eating and weight management.
  - Addressing licensing considerations around takeaways
  - Reviewing the procurement of healthy food at organisational and partnership events. Ensuring that partners are leading by example.

### **Next steps for the HWB development sessions**

13. The final development session themed on the Living and Supported Well strategic priority is scheduled for January 2025.
14. A number of recurring themes have already emerged that will need to be considered and addressed by the HWB in due course:
- Communication between partners and also with the public
  - Awareness of services offered and how to access
  - Service/system mapping
  - Risk of duplication of work
  - Working more effectively across organisations/pooling resources to ensure added value
  - Utilising the VCS more effectively

## **Background Papers**

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2032:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-04/Joint-Health-and-Wellbeing-Strategy-2022-2032.pdf>

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## **Relevant Impact Assessments**

### Equality Implications

15. There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### Human Rights Implications

16. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

### Partnership Working and associated issues

17. The SHP focuses on the commitment from partners in delivering the strategic objectives to improve the health and wellbeing of Leicestershire residents.