

**REPORT TO:** SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE:** 16 NOVEMBER 2022

**TITLE:** HARLOW HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

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**RECOMMENDED that:**

- A** The Scrutiny Committee recommends to Cabinet that the draft Harlow Health and Wellbeing Strategy, covering 2023 to 2028, is adopted. This is subject to a consultation process in order to support and encourage further partnership activity to help deliver better health outcomes for the residents of Harlow.

**BACKGROUND**

1. As part of its community leadership role, the Council leads the Harlow Health and Wellbeing Board and associated partnership. The Council has worked with all partners to develop the new Harlow Health and Wellbeing Strategy, ensuring that it is: evidence based; responds to local public health needs; and is closely aligned to the recently updated health and wellbeing strategies of key partners, such as Essex County Council and those of our neighbouring Councils in West Essex.
2. The Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been refreshed to ensure it is fit for purpose with clear objectives to guide all partners working together towards a shared mission to achieve positive outcomes for Harlow's residents. One of the most important considerations was to reflect the current context, but also factor future health and wellbeing issues that will need to be addressed during the full life of the strategy. The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequences for public health are factored into the body of the strategy – this has had a bearing on the judgments made about the response the Council should take. It is also the case that the emergence of a new strategy at a county level, based on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and other data, including initial Census outcomes, has informed the evidenced-led approach the Council has pursued throughout the development of its own strategy.
3. The Strategy has been developed through stakeholder consultation with the Harlow Health and Wellbeing Board and its wider partnership forum. As a collective, they will have responsibility for its delivery with the Council. There has

been a good level of input from local primary care officials. The Council is grateful for the level of engagement across the board to develop the strategy.

## **ISSUES/PROPOSALS**

4. The draft Strategy looks to adopt an approach that reflects a greater emphasis on the wider determinants that influence health outcomes. The strategy refers to both the 'Robert Wood Johnson Model' and the 'Core20PLUS5 framework'. The 'Robert Wood Johnson Model' links health inequalities and wider influencing factors, including socio-economic factors; specific health behaviours; clinical care; and the built environment. The 'Core20PLUS5 framework' links specific health conditions to geographies of deprivation. These approaches are being adopted in the wider health system both locally and nationally.
5. Three main approaches will be used to deliver the Strategy:
  - a) Tackling town-specific health and wellbeing inequalities through a partnership approach;
  - b) Reducing the impact of socio-economic determinants contributing to poorer health outcomes; and
  - c) Promoting independence and healthy lifestyles at every stage of life.
6. The Strategy outlines five priority areas that the work of the Harlow Health and Wellbeing Board will focus activity on. These are:
  - a) Reducing health inequalities in Harlow by focusing on the wider determinants of health;
  - b) Increasing physical activity and improving healthy weight;
  - c) Improving mental health and wellbeing, including reducing suicide rates;
  - d) Addiction issues, including reducing alcohol and substance misuse; and
  - e) Supporting long-term independence for all sections of Harlow's community.
7. Linked to each of the priorities are a series of local objectives, referred to alongside target lists titled 'Outcomes by 2028' under each. In its wider community leadership role, the Council is acting to convene many partners to act on improving the socio-economic circumstances of the town's population.
8. An Action Plan is being developed that captures activity taking place to implement the Strategy and each of the objectives linked to the strategy's

priorities. The Strategy will be delivered collectively through individual contributions, issue-specific partnership activity and action undertaken by partners of the Harlow Health and Wellbeing Partnership. The Action Plan will be a tool used by the Harlow Health and Wellbeing Board to actively monitor and support the delivery of the strategy. Progress will be reported annually to Harlow Council and other key partners.

9. A full Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to improve the health and wellbeing of the whole population of Harlow and to reduce health inequalities. The Equality Impact Assessment underpins the strategy. Incorporated into the Action Plan will be actions to support activity to reduce any risk of disproportionate negative impact for protected groups. This approach will ensure that the strategy and the associated activity to implement it, will support the Council's equality objectives while maintaining compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty.
10. The draft Harlow Health and Wellbeing Strategy is set out as an Appendix to this report.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

### **Strategic Growth and Regeneration**

None specific.

**Author: Andrew Bramidge, Director of Strategic Growth and Regeneration**

### **Finance**

As contained in the report.

**Author: Simon Freeman, Deputy to the Chief Executive and Director of Finance**

### **Housing**

As outlined in the report.

**Author: Andrew Murray, Director of Housing**

### **Communities and Environment**

The Council will continue to prioritise partnership working to ensure that good outcomes for the health and wellbeing of Harlow residents are achieved. It will deliver this role within existing resources.

**Author: Jane Greer, Director of Communities and Environment**

### **Governance and Corporate Services**

As contained in the report.

**Author: Simon Hill, Director of Governance and Corporate Services**

## **Appendices**

Appendix A – Harlow Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023 to 2028

## **Background Papers**

Harlow Evidence base for Health and Wellbeing strategy

## **Glossary of terms/abbreviations used**

None.