

## PUBLIC HEALTH, LOCALISM AND LIBRARIES PORTFOLIO

### 1. Cabinet decisions since the last Executive Report to the County Council

The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

#### 1.1 Cabinet held on 18 May 2015

'Inspiring Libraries' – Delivering Outreach Services – Cabinet approved the implementation of the Inspiring Libraries Strategy, including the withdrawal of the current model of the mobile library service from 31 October 2015 and its replacement with an alternative range of services meeting individual needs whilst utilising services already provided by the Council.

#### 1.2 Cabinet held on 15 June 2015

Commitment to Increase HIV Testing – Cabinet approved Hertfordshire's support for the national 'Halve It' campaign; to seek to halve the proportion of people diagnosed late with HIV in Hertfordshire by 2020.

### 2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council

2.1 None

### 3. Anticipated/future decisions to be made by Cabinet

3.1 There are no anticipated / future decisions to be made Cabinet for this portfolio.

### 4. Key Partnerships

#### Armed Forces Community Covenant

4.1 The Covenant Board have supported a number of key events recently, which I was pleased to attend, including: the VE Day 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Beacon Lighting ceremony at Hertford Castle, the opening of Hartsbourne School's "Decorated Duck" building, providing a new space to support children of military families, a Covenant display in the Armed Forces area of the County Show, and the raising of the Armed Forces Day Flag on 22 June 2015 at County Hall.

4.2 The Board continues to develop the County's mental health services for veterans by securing agreement from Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Groups to launch a time limited campaign at GP surgeries to encourage veterans to register their status, thus ensuring that GPs have a better understanding of potential factors affecting their health and wellbeing and therefore able to offer appropriate treatment and referrals.

## Hertfordshire Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership (HLLP)

- 4.3 At its meeting on 13 May 2015, the Partnership endorsed a letter to all potential partners bidding for European funding – in particular urging them to embed HLLP principles and aims within their respective applications.

### **5. Other comments**

- 5.1 The Public Health team is leading the following reviews for the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- the review of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The outcomes of this review and resulting recommendations were reported at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 8 June 2015 and implementation work is now underway.
- the review of Drug and Alcohol Services for Children and Young People. The review is underway.

- 5.2 As the Chairman kindly noted, Hertfordshire was awarded overall winner in the national CLeAR awards for tobacco control on 7 July 2015; recognition of work led by us with partners.

- 5.3 At the time of writing this report, the Chancellor announced potential in year cuts to the public health budgets for local authorities of £200m, amounting to 7.4% across the public health budget for each local authority. I have written to the Jeremy Hunt MP, Secretary of State for Health, Greg Clark MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, and Jane Ellison MP, Minister for Public Health, about the potential impacts of such cuts in Hertfordshire and offering Hertfordshire's assistance on working on a plan to make savings which will not impact on front line services. We are determined to continue delivering our public health strategy.

- 5.4 A new Smoking in Pregnancy campaign called 'Love Your Bump' was launched on 22 May 2015. Aimed at encouraging not only pregnant women but also their partners and families to quit smoking, the campaign received significant attention on social media, local radio, online and in the Comet newspaper. This resulted in over 500 views to the dedicated website in the first week of the campaign.

- 5.5 At the beginning of June, residents in Broxbourne, Hemel Hempstead, Stevenage and Watford were invited to 'Beat the Street'. The scheme runs for six weeks until 15 July and participants are encouraged to track how far they walk, cycle or run by picking up a free card and recording their journeys by tapping their cards on 'Beat Boxes' located in each area. The more boxes they tap, the more points they accumulate and the more chances they have to win a spot prize. If the total target of 500,000 miles is reached, £1,000 will be donated to each of 4 nominated charities in the participating districts. All ages and levels of fitness are encouraged to take part and, at the time of writing this report (2 July 2015) 38,150 individuals, schools and workplaces had participated, travelling a staggering 293,298 miles.

- 5.6 Public Health continues to support the sustainable transport team in line with the County's physical activity strategy; Hertfordshire cycling activities, including sponsorship of the Aviva Women's Tour 2015, two stages of which took place in Hertfordshire on 20 and 21 June 2015; and Hertfordshire Year of Walking, which was launched at the County Show.
- 5.7 The final draft of the Hertfordshire Voluntary Sector Commissioning Strategy has now been signed off by the Health & Wellbeing Board and a formal engagement process with the voluntary and community sector, linked in with the ongoing work on the Hertfordshire COMPACT, will take place over the next six months.
- 5.8 As part of a wider Review of the voluntary sector, the Community Wellbeing team is reviewing the County Council's approach to supporting volunteering and wider voluntary sector infrastructure support across Hertfordshire. The aim is for a new approach to be operational from January 2016.
- 5.9 On 3 June, I was delighted to attend my first Hertfordshire Adult and Family Learning Service (HAFLS) Adult Learner Awards. The event aim to recognise and celebrate the great achievements many of our learners make through their HAFLS courses.
- 5.10 Average wait times at the Customer Service Centre continue to be positive, with these being consistently under 20 seconds for over a year (since May 2014). The time taken to answer calls was on average 16 seconds in March, 15 seconds in April, 19 seconds in May, and 17 seconds for June (month to date as at 23 June 2015).
- 5.11 Development of our Next Generation Website, to replace hertsdirect.org, is underway. A local design agency, The Creative Consultancy, which is based in Hertford, has been appointed to help with designing the look and feel of the website. The procurement for the software that underpins the site (the Content Management System) has been completed and staff are in place to develop the content and structure.
- 5.12 Successful community meetings with the two early adopter Community Partnered tier three libraries in Redbourn and Chorleywood went ahead in early June 2015. These early adopters are progressing well with steering groups in place and plenty of volunteers signing up.

## **6. Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Public Health and Localism Cabinet Panel has met on 14 May 2015. The matters discussed can be found at the following location:

14 May 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/65/Committee/24/Default.aspx>

- 6.2 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Customer Services, Performance and Libraries Cabinet Panel has met on 15 May 2015. The matters discussed, that are now included in my portfolio, can be found at the following location:

15 May 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/76/Committee/7/Default.aspx>

- 6.3 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Public Health, Localism and Libraries Cabinet Panel has met on 15 July 2015. The matters discussed, that are now included in my portfolio, can be found at the following location:

15 July 2015

<https://cmis.hertsdirect.org/hertfordshire/Calendarofcouncilmeetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/427/Committee/50/Default.aspx>

**Cllr Teresa Heritage**  
**Executive Member for Public Health, Localism and Libraries**  
**July 2015**