

## **EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIO: PUBLIC HEALTH, LOCALISM AND LIBRARIES**

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

- 1.1 There will have been 4 Cabinet meetings (12 December 2016, 23 January 2017, 20 February 2017 and 13 March 2017 since the last Executive Report to County Council in November 2016. The items of business specifically attributed to this portfolio were:-

#### **Hertfordshire Drugs and Alcohol Strategy 2016-2019**

[Forward Plan Ref: A051/16]

Cabinet agreed:-

- (i) the combined Hertfordshire Drugs and Alcohol Strategy 2016-19 and its delivery plan, attached at Appendices 1a and 1b to the report, and its proposed governance structure, attached at Appendix 2 to the report;
- (ii) the Director of Public Health's proposal to produce a combined Drugs and Alcohol Commissioning Plan to inform Commissioning of required services; and
- (iii) the Director of Public Health's proposal to explore the possible risks, benefits and legal framework for procuring a single drugs and alcohol treatment provider for all ages from April 2019.

#### **Tobacco Harm Reduction: A Policy Statement on Electronic Cigarettes**

[Forward Plan ref: A050/16]

Cabinet approved the draft e-cigarette policy statement, attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

### **2. Consequences of Cabinet decisions before the last meeting of the County Council on 15 November 2016**

- 2.1 There were no consequences of Cabinet decisions from this portfolio.

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

- 3.1 There are no items from this portfolio scheduled for consideration by Cabinet.

### **4. Key Partnerships**

#### **4.1 Hertfordshire Lifestyle and Legacy Partnership (HLLP)**

The Partnership met on 8 February 2017 and discussed how to respond to Government's new sport strategy in order to maximise the benefits for Hertfordshire. A small sub group has been formed to coordinate potential bids for Sports England grant funding. Partners are in the process of putting together an outline for a potential bid to Sport England's Local Delivery Pilot (£130 million

pot) with a focus on self-management for people with long term health conditions.

#### 4.2 Hertfordshire Armed Forces Community Covenant Board

The Covenant Board met on 6 December 2016 and will meet again on 23 March 2017. It continues to support the Ministry of Defence's national priorities around health, education, housing and communicating the Covenant through community engagement initiatives and training public facing staff.

This year we were delighted to be working with the Royal Navy and those serving on HMS St Albans in the annual primary schools Christmas poster competition. It received the most number of entries and schools participating to date. In January I was pleased to attend a prize giving assembly at the winning school, Garden Fields School, St Albans along with representatives of HMS St Albans and the competition's sponsor, Ringway.

The Board continues to support centenary activities relating to World War One including commemorative stone-laying ceremonies in the home towns of Victoria Cross recipients on the one hundredth anniversary of their award. The next of these will be next month in Kings Langley where Christopher Cox VC will be honoured.

#### 4.3 Hertfordshire Compact

Since the public launch of this agreement between the Voluntary and Community Sector and Statutory organisations in July 2016, the number of signatories has risen from 22 to 27. The Compact Partnership Group continue to work well together to promote the agreement as a good foundation for partnership working. A final designed version of the document is now available as is a new training resource to ensure officers, volunteers and staff are all aware of the agreement and the obligations they should adhere to.

The work programme of the Group includes selecting new case studies of Compact ways of working to aid promotion and the annual survey in July to help measure the success of the relationship. No issues of conflict resolution have been brought to the Partnership for mediation to date.

### 5. **Other Comments**

#### 5.1 Public Health

Around 200 people attended the 4<sup>th</sup> Hertfordshire Public Health Conference at the Hertfordshire Development Centre on 22 February. The event included the launch of the consultation on the new Public Health Strategy and also marked the presentation of the second Excellence in Hertfordshire Public Health Awards. The recipients were the Floating Support Team (Aldwyck Housing Group), Stuart King (BeeZee Bodies), the Nutrition & Wellbeing Team (HILS), Juanita Prescott (Stevenage Leisure Ltd), Sarah Wren (HILS), and Christine Wyard (ASCEND). Conference delegates voted for the overall winner and the Dr Joan Crawley Award was presented to Stuart King of BeeZee Bodies.

## 5.2 Volunteering

The Year of Volunteering continues to have a strong presence in the County, with social media posts and our monthly newsletter focussing on community safety and protection throughout the beginning of 2017. The County Council has seen a significant increase in the number of electronic submissions to be a volunteer since the outset of the campaign; in April 2016, we had 6 submissions across services; in January 2017 we had 106 submissions.

## 5.3 Libraries and Heritage Services

On Saturday 5 November, I attended the Watford Library Festival, organised to promote the newly refurbished Watford Central Library and Hertfordshire's first CreatorSpace. Creatorspace offers library users and local groups the opportunity to experiment and develop their skills and confidence in using a range of creative technologies in a safe and supportive environment.

On 9 November, I attended an event to mark the first birthday of Chorleywood Community Library, one of the two 'early adopter' libraries which is now run as a partnership between the Library Service and a group of local volunteers.

On 28 November, I visited Croxley Green Library to see a pilot project, using Bibliotheca's Open+ technology to extend self-service access for library members outside core library hours.

Deputy Executive Member Fiona Hill attended an event on the 29 November 2016, to mark the re-opening of the newly refurbished Abbots Langley Library.

## 5.4 Customer Services

Performance at the Customer Service Centre has been positive over the last year. Average wait times were 20 seconds for October, 14 seconds for November, 16 seconds for December and 18 seconds for January.

Our Next Generation Website is now fully live and gives residents a simpler, quicker and faster customer experience. Key areas include admissions, highways and libraries.

## 6. **Cabinet Panels**

- 6.1 Since the last Executive Report to Council, the Public Health, Localism and Libraries Cabinet Panel has met on 24 November 2016 and 1 February 2017. The matters discussed can be found at the following locations:  
[24 November 2016](#)  
[1 February 2017](#)

**Teresa Heritage**  
**Executive Member for Public Health, Localism and Libraries**  
**March 2017**