

MINUTES



To: All Members of the Public Health and Prevention Cabinet Panel, Chief Executive, Chief Officers, All officers named for 'actions'

From: Legal, Democratic & Statutory Services
Ask for: Stephanie Tarrant
Ext: 25481

PUBLIC HEALTH AND PERFORMANCE CABINET PANEL 21 JUNE 2019

ATTENDANCE

MEMBERS OF THE PANEL

A P Brewster (Vice Chairman), L A Chesterman, M A Eames-Petersen, T Howard (*substituting for C Clapper*), T R Hutchings (Chairman), M B J Mills-Bishop, N A Quinton, S Quilty (*substituting for S Gordon*); R G Tindall, W J Wyatt-Lowe

OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

A F Rowlands*

*Although Cllr Rowlands sat on the Panel it was subsequently confirmed that he had not been formally appointed to the Panel by the Chief Legal Officer. Cllr Rowlands comments are reflected in these minutes, but where Members were requested to vote on an issue, his vote has been discounted.

Upon consideration of the agenda for the Public Health and Prevention Cabinet Panel meeting 21 June 2019 as circulated, copy annexed, conclusions were reached and are recorded below:

Note: No conflicts of interest were declared by any member of the Cabinet Panel in relation to the matters on which conclusions were reached at this meeting.

PART I ('OPEN') BUSINESS

1. MINUTES

- 1.1 The Minutes of the Cabinet Panel meeting held on 9 May 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2. PUBLIC PETITIONS

- 2.1 There were no public petitions.

3. TOBACCO CONTROL POLICY

[Officer Contact: Jim McManus, Director of Public Health,

ACTION

Tel: 01438 845389 / Liz Fisher, Head of Provider Services,
Tel: 01442 453633]

- 3.1 The Panel received a report which enabled Members to consider a revised and updated policy statement on tobacco control in light of the County Council's statutory responsibilities for Public Health and the changes in tobacco legislation and tobacco trends since the last policy was adopted in 2013.
- 3.2 During discussion it was noted that since the policy was adopted there had been a declining trend in children and young people taking up smoking, and there was an increasing trend in the public looking to reduce or quit smoking through using alternative methods such as vaping.
- 3.3 In response to a Member challenge regarding the potential health risks associated with vaping, Members were assured that e-cigarettes were regarded as being much safer than smoking by current expert advice including official advice from Public Health England, and Vaping Shops were regulated under consumer protection laws. It was noted that any e-cigarette with a 20mg or higher level of nicotine was classified as a medicinal product, although it was clarified that e-cigarettes are not currently available on prescription. Members were reminded that this issue had been discussed in greater detail at the Public Health & Prevention Panel's discussion on the Tobacco Control Strategic Plan on 9 May 2019.
- 3.4 A Member comment regarding the high health risk from tobacco associated with smoking shisha pipes was noted.
- 3.5 The Panel were interested to learn that tobacco and not nicotine was the most harmful element within cigarettes, and that tobacco contained over 400 harmful chemicals.
- 3.6 In response to robust Member challenge regarding recommendation iii and the choice of tobacco industry related investments for the Council's Pension's Scheme, Members were advised that the choice of investments was not something that was decided by the Council, but by its Pensions Investors, with whom the Council were legally bound to comply. Assurance was received that the current Investment Strategy was due to be imminently reviewed by the Pensions Committee.
- 3.7 The Lead Liberal Democrat Group Opposition spokesman strongly disputed that the Council could have no influence in the decision making regarding investments and reiterated the need to challenge the Council's pension's investors to find alternative industries to those associated with tobacco, whose investments would provide equal return for its customers.

Pensions
Committee

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3.8 Members discussed the identified connection between smoking and mental health, and further to concerns raised, assurance was received that this was being addressed through the Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, the local mental health trust, and it was highlighted that this had been considered throughout the report.

3.9 In response to a Member concern, the Panel agreed to amend recommendation iv in the report as follows:

recommended to Cabinet that it agrees that the County Council's policy on allowing smoking by employees, visitors and contractors within its grounds be reviewed and further agrees that the Council works towards adopting a 'Smoke free' policy which prohibits smoking on any **employment** premises owned or leased by the County Council.

The word employment was added to ensure avoidance of doubt for residential council owned property where this would be unenforceable.

3.10 Members were pleased to learn that the Council were Members of Smoke free Hertfordshire, Hertfordshire's Tobacco Control Alliance, and it was agreed that further information on this and the work undertaken by District Councils, such as smoke free parks to promote smoke free initiatives would be circulated to Members.

Jim
McManus/Li
z Fisher

3.11 Further to discussion, it was confirmed that the County Council could encourage district councils to promote smoke free initiatives such as playgrounds, but could not enforce any policies.

Recommendations:

3.13 The Public Health and Prevention Cabinet Panel:-

- i. considered the revised policy on tobacco control in light of the County Council's statutory responsibilities for Public Health and the changes since the last policy statement on tobacco control¹ was approved by Cabinet on 25 November 2013;
- ii. recommended to Cabinet that it adopts the revised 'Reducing the harm from Tobacco in Hertfordshire' policy statement attached as Appendix A to the report;

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<https://democracy.hertfordshire.gov.uk/CeListDocuments.aspx?CommitteId=146&MeetingId=372&DF=25%2f11%2f2013&Ver=2>

- iii. recommended that Cabinet asks the Pensions' Committee to review its portfolio of investment with the principles and intentions in the 'Reducing the harm from Tobacco in Hertfordshire' policy statement if legally and financially appropriate; and
- iv. recommended to Cabinet that it agrees that the County Council's policy on allowing smoking by employees, visitors and contractors within its grounds be reviewed and further agrees that the Council works towards adopting a 'Smoke free' policy which prohibits smoking on any **employment*** premises owned or leased by the County Council.
 - The word employment was added to ensure avoidance of doubt for residential council owned property where this would be unenforceable

4. HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL SEXUAL HEALTH STRATEGY: 2019-2024

[Officer Contact: Rob Bacon, Sexual Health Lead, Tel: 01438 844135; Zac Mather, Project Manager]

4.1 The Panel received a report which detailed the proposed Hertfordshire County Council Sexual Health Strategy: 2019-2024.

4.3 Explanation was received that the strategy promoted the development on three centres of excellence for sexual health to reflect the changing landscape for sexual health service requirement across the county. Members were assured that the strategy would ensure clear signposting to the nearest clinic, and opening times would be staggered to ensure as much opportunity to access service as possible. Members were advised that sexual health treatment and advice was rarely an emergency, and a number of sexual health needs were now able to be met online, or through a pharmacy or GP.

4.4 In response to a query from the Chairman, officers advised that they were unclear as to why East & North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group had indicated to the Chairman that they had not been consulted on this proposal, as it had been discussed with all health partners within Hertfordshire, but agreed that this would be followed up to reinforce the certainty that all relevant health partners were aware of the proposals.

4.5 Further to Member discussion, it was agreed that the broader issue of sexual health provision should be discussed in more detail at a future meeting of the Health Scrutiny Committee to ensure that needs were being met across the county.

Jim
McManus

Seamus
Quilty

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- 4.6 In response to a Member question it was clarified that due to patient confidentiality, it was not possible to establish whether the patients accessing sexual health advice or treatment in the AL10 area were primarily from the University of Hertfordshire. It was noted that there was currently a clinic at the University site, with a future site being in the library located in Hatfield Town Centre.
- 4.7 A Member challenge that young people may not necessarily like to seek sexual health advice and treatment online due to the traceability of which websites they had been accessing by their peers or parents was noted.
- 4.8 A further Member challenge disputing the indication that the planned clinics had good transport links was noted. It was broadly acknowledged that although the clinics may be located in areas with good transport links, the service users may not have good transport links in the areas they lived and therefore may not be able to access to the clinics easily.
- 4.9 Members expressed further concern regarding the lack of transparency within the report on the full detail of the planned closure of current clinics, and whether the strategy would be successful in saving the Council money, especially given the uncertainty surrounding future grant funding.

Recommendations:

- 4.5 Further to a vote by a show of hands, Members voted in favour by a majority of six votes to four* that the Cabinet Panel recommend to Cabinet that it approve the draft Hertfordshire County Council Sexual Health Strategy 2019 -2024 attached as Appendix 1 to the report.

*Although Cllr Rowlands sat on the Panel it was subsequently confirmed that he had not been formally appointed to the Panel by the Chief Legal Officer. Cllr Rowlands comments are reflected in these minutes, but where Members were requested to vote on an issue, his vote has been discounted.

5. HEALTHY WEIGHT IN HERTFORDSHIRE

[Officer Contact: Sue Matthews, Consultant in Public Health – Children & Young People, Tel: 01992 556 125; Piers Simey, Consultant in Public Health – Adults health improvement, Tel: 01438 844175; Jen Beer, Health Improvement Lead – Children & Young People, Tel: 01438 843309; Maneka Kandola, Health Improvement Lead – Lifestyle, Tel: 01438 844662]

- 5.1 The Panel received a report which provided an update since June

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2018 and set out a proposed approach to supporting and promoting healthy weight in Hertfordshire.

- 5.2 Members were advised that the initiative had been developed based on a strategy that had worked successfully in Amsterdam.
- 5.3 During discussion, a Member comment that consideration should be made to future residential building planning, as flats did not provide adequate provision for children or adults to play or exercise was noted.
- 5.4 Caution was also expressed about the language used within the report to describe people for whom there were weight concerns. It was acknowledged that terms such as 'overweight' and 'obese' while clinically accurate could be very demoralising and often compound the issue of low self-esteem for those trying to achieve or maintain a healthy weight. It was agreed that this would be taken into consideration for any future reports, developments or communication on the strategy.
- 5.5 It was also noted that not everyone enjoys or participates in sport, so therefore it would be preferable to use the term physical activity.
- 5.6 A Member challenge that 60.4% of adults in Hertfordshire being classified as not having a healthy weight was not significantly lower than the average of 62% of adults in England as detailed at 2.3 of the report was noted.
- 5.7 In considering the report, Members noted the importance of early intervention to help achieve a healthy weight and suggested the need for schools to increase the level of opportunity for their pupils to undertake physical activity. Members learnt that the Vice-Chairman of the Panel was leading on promoting healthy eating and physical activity in schools and Members were encouraged to advise of her of any schools within their areas which would benefit from advice or help to promote this. Members acknowledged that the 'Daily Mile' initiative had been a success in a number of schools across the county.
- 5.8 A Member suggestion to increase investment in youth services to provide opportunities for young people to undertake activity was noted. It was broadly acknowledged that teenagers can often be the most vulnerable in terms of self-image.
- 5.9 The Panel also acknowledged a Member comment that the money saved by the NHS in treating weight related health conditions should be reinvested into the promotion of healthy weight initiatives.
- 5.10 The Panel considered and broadly supported the ten Pillars of Action outlined at Table One within the report. Further to a Member comment, assurance was received that consideration had been given to supporting those with mental health issues and physical or

Sue
Matthews/
Piers
Simey/Jen
Beer/
Maneka
Kandola

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learning disabilities achieve a healthy weight.

Recommendations:

- 5.11 Panel considered and commented on the report and the themes it addressed, as detailed above.

Panel noted and endorsed the Director of Public Health’s view that support provided to residents to maintain a healthy weight should remain a key priority for the County Council and requires maintained/increased commitment across the system.

Panel noted and endorsed the Director of Public Health’s intention to take forward the proposed ‘10 Pillars of Action’ for healthy weight in Hertfordshire, to support broader engagement leading to an action plan across the county.

6. FINANCIAL OUTLOOK

[Officer Contact: Steven Pilsworth, Assistant Director of Finance
Joanne Doggett, Head of Programme Delivery & Resources]

- 6.1 Members received a report which provided an update on the overall financial outlook for the County Council.
- 6.2 The Panel were reminded that the Public Health department were funded through a ring fenced grant from central government, which had been reduced annually by government, by between £1 and £2m a year since 2016, with the funding grant for 2019/20 being £46m. It was noted that the department had not been included in internal pressure bid funding to mitigate the financial challenges associated with issues such as demographic increases.
- 6.3 It was acknowledged that given current national political uncertainty, it was difficult to predict what the exact funding settlement would be for 2021, although it was believed that the mechanisms for providing the funding would remain the same.
- 6.4 Members expressed concern that the outcomes of the green paper on the future of social care, and the NHS 10 year plan, could also have an impact on the expectations of future Public Health workstreams.
- 6.5 In considering the report, Members noted that considerations were being made to efficiencies in the vacancy rate. In response to

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Member challenge, assurance was received that the risk that this may pose to service delivery had been acknowledged and initial discussions had been held with the clinical commissioning groups (CCG's) to explore opportunities in combining resources to ensure that service delivery was not affected.

6.6 During discussion, Members stated that the success of key services such as drug and alcohol services, smoking cessation service, sexual health services and healthy weight services were providing efficiencies in the NHS budget, through reduction in GP/hospital attendance and officers were asked to consider discussing the possibility of co commissioning between NHS and council to support shared objectives in national health policy

Jim
McManus

6.7 A request to consider the possibility of receiving funding from the Better Care Fund was also noted.

Jo Doggett

6.8 In response to a Member request it was agreed that officers would circulate a briefing note explaining the plans for the individual district public health hubs.

Jo Doggett

6.9 It was agreed that closer working with district councils would also contribute to the success of achieving public health strategies and it was confirmed that there was district council representation on the professional development meetings.

Recommendations:

6.10 Members noted and commented upon the financial position and options outlined within the report, as detailed above.

7. FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

7.1 The Panel noted the provisional agenda for 18 September 2019:

- Workplace Health
- Healthy Places Update
- Public Health Strategy Update

8. OTHER PART I BUSINESS

8.1 There was no other Part I business.

**QUENTIN BAKER
CHIEF LEGAL OFFICER**

CHAIRMAN _____

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