

**TO: READING HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD**

<b>DATE OF MEETING:</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> July, 2021		
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy - update on development		
<b>LEAD COUNCILLORS:</b>	Cllr Hoskin	<b>PORTFOLIO:</b>	Health, Wellbeing & Sport
<b>SERVICES:</b>	Public Health & Wellbeing	<b>WARDS:</b>	Boroughwide
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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the development of a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Berkshire West, including the process by which five priorities have been identified for the new strategy, summarised in the Consultation Report which appears at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 To highlight the current formal consultation on the draft strategy - attached at Appendix 2 - following which a final Berkshire West strategy supported by action plans for Reading will be brought to full Council and the Health & Wellbeing Board for adoption.

**2. RECOMMENDED ACTION**

- 2.1 That the Health & Wellbeing Board notes the progress towards finalising a Berkshire West Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2021-30.

**3 POLICY CONTEXT**

- 3.1 Every Health and Wellbeing Board has a duty to prepare and publish a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This sets out a consensus approach to inform and influence local decisions about supporting people to be well, promoting a whole system integrated approach. Local health and care systems together with the Local Healthwatch Service provider have statutory representation on the Health and Wellbeing Board, so that the Health and Wellbeing Strategy combines these areas of commissioning and delivery as a minimum. In most localities, however, the Health and Wellbeing Board membership is expanded to facilitate action to address the broader determinants of health and address health inequalities. In Reading, additional members are Thames Valley Police, Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service and Reading Voluntary Action.

**4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 In April 2019, Health and Wellbeing Board chairs from West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham agreed to the development of a shared Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy across the three boroughs. This was supported by the CCG and ICS leadership. The rationale for this approach was twofold - a desire to recognise the cross-borough reality for many Berkshire West residents, who often live, work and use services across different parts of Berkshire West; and the aspiration to have an effective influence over planning which takes place on a Berkshire West footprint already.
- 4.2 The strategy was planned to be developed in close collaboration and consultation with residents and local partners, including but going beyond the Health and Wellbeing Board membership in each area, and particularly to engage with the diverse range of voluntary sector and community groups operating across Berkshire West. The aims have been to develop a Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing strategy which builds on the previous locality strategies and reflects the aspirations of local communities alongside delivering the benefits of a common framework across Berkshire West as outlined above.
- 4.3 In the first half of 2020, the project team started to review health and population data alongside the impact of previous health and wellbeing strategies. This generated a longlist of potential priorities for the new strategy. This longlist was reviewed by partners through several workshops over the summer and autumn of 2020 to arrive at a shortlist of potential priorities which:
- could meaningfully be addressed by Health and Wellbeing Board members working together;
  - had a clear relevance for Berkshire West;
  - were not already being addressed via another mechanism; and
  - would support recovery from COVID-19.
- 4.4 A shortlist of potential priorities was identified through these stakeholder workshops including targeted outreach to groups historically under-represented in formal consultations. This was followed by a period of public engagement on the priorities running between 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021, delivered in a format co-produced by a multi-agency engagement task and finish group, and including focus groups plus an online survey.
- 4.5 In no particular order, the top five priorities selected through this engagement process were:
- Reduce the difference in health between different groups of people;
  - Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes;
  - Help children and families during the early years of life;
  - Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people;
  - Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults.

There was consensus across the three boroughs on the top five priorities from the shortlist. A draft strategy has now been developed around this selection of strategic priorities. There is ongoing engagement to develop Delivery Groups and Action Plans for each of the three localities in support of the new Berkshire West Health & Wellbeing Strategy, which are due to be brought to the Health & Wellbeing Boards later in 2021 for adoption.

## **5 PROPOSAL**

- 5.1 The development of the Berkshire West Health & Wellbeing Strategy is being co-ordinated by West Berkshire Council, and the online survey on the proposed priorities for the new strategy was hosted on their website with links published on the Reading and Wokingham local authority websites. Covering text set out that feedback would be used

to create a strategy, which would be consulted on. With such a high level of engagement already - as detailed below - there is good reason to believe that the public's top priorities have been robustly identified. A draft strategy has been developed and supporting action plans are in ongoing development on this basis.

- 5.2 A formal public consultation on the draft strategy was launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 and is running for 6 weeks through to 3<sup>rd</sup> August. As before, an online survey is being hosted by West Berkshire Council. Reading Borough Council has published and promoted the link. Work on developing locality Delivery Groups and Action Plans is continuing in parallel. Given the breadth of previous engagement, it appears unlikely at this stage that the forthcoming consultation will indicate any need to make substantial changes to the priorities, but feedback will be used to refine language, clarify aims and so help with the Action Plan development.

## **6. CONTRIBUTION TO READING'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGIC AIMS**

- 6.1 This proposal contributes to Reading's strategic aims for health and wellbeing by developing a new joint strategy to inform the priorities of the Health & Wellbeing Board from 2021 through to 2030.

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The draft Health & Wellbeing Strategy Strategy acknowledges the importance of environmental and climate factors on health and wellbeing, and links to the Council's Climate Change Strategy and the Local Transport Plan will be articulated within the Reading action plans in support of the new strategy.

## **8. COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

- 8.1 A multi-agency Engagement Task and Finish Group was set up to support the development of the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Although initially focused on preparation for and delivery of a public consultation on the priorities for the strategy, the group is continuing to shape further discussion and embed a co-production ethos into the development of the final strategy document and supporting action plans. The group includes representatives from the three Berkshire West local authorities, the CCG, Local Heathwatch providers and a range of community groups.
- 8.2 The coronavirus pandemic and social distancing restrictions have posed a number of challenges to public engagement in the development of this strategy. Very few community groups or forums have been able to hold face to face meetings. National lockdowns prevented bespoke face to face events during the formal consultation on the priorities. Opportunities to visit standing forums were very limited, and confined to virtual meetings, which have tended to attract fewer members than usual. In addition, responding to the coronavirus has placed huge demands on people and limited their capacity to engage in this exercise. Nevertheless, the consultation on the proposed priorities for the new strategy was widely promoted and the formal consultation period was extended by a month to try give people more opportunity to have their say at what has been a very difficult time.
- 8.3 The public engagement on the strategic priorities included:
- An online survey
  - Focus groups delivered in collaboration with Local Heathwatch provers and targeting specific groups at risk of under-representation in online survey returns, i.e. expectant

or new mothers, members of the learning disabilities community, diverse ethnic communities, carers, young people and older people

- Virtual meetings open to the general public
- Calls to action to the chairs of voluntary organisations with an invitation to engage
- Direct contact with each Town and Parish Council across the three boroughs with a request to engage with the survey and support discussions with their members
- Social media promotion of public events and the survey
- Targeted outreach to groups working with young people, young carers, the peer mentoring network, and organisations which support families of children with additional needs

8.4 A total of 3,967 questionnaires were received via the online survey. In addition, 244 attendances at focus groups were recorded. 1,200 of the survey responses came from people who identified as living in Reading. 6 of the 15 focus groups targeted Reading residents.

8.5 Approximately half of all those who responded via the online survey chose not to complete the demographic questions, so the returns give only an indication of which sections of the community responded in what numbers. The breakdown for Reading where demographic information was supplied is as follows:

Male	50.1%
Female	49.9%
Transgender	0.0%
Non binary	0.2%

Under 24	34.3%
25-34	16.2%
35-44	14.9%
45-54	12.6%
55-64	9.7%
65-74	6.6%
75 and over	5.9%

Asian or Asian British	13.6%
Black or Black British	6.7%
White or White British	74.7%
Mixed or multiple ethnicity	4.0%
Gypsy, traveller or Irish Traveller	0.1%
Other ethnic group	1.0%

## 9. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be completed to support the presentation of the final strategy and action plans for adoption.

## 10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The production of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWBS) is a joint statutory duty for local authorities and CCGs, discharged through the Health and Wellbeing Board. Once it is published, the organisations have a duty to have regard to the strategy in their own planning and service delivery.

10.2 The West Berkshire Legal Team has advised that the information published previously about intended process creates a 'legitimate expectation' that there will be a formal

consultation on the draft strategy document which is why a further public consultation is being carried out at this stage.

## **11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

## **12. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Health and Social Care Act 2012