

COMMITTEE: Health Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 9 October 2007

REPORT OF: On behalf of the Public Health Partnership Board

REPORT TITLE: Health Inequalities Strategy

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report brings the new draft Health Inequalities Strategy to the Health Scrutiny Committee for formal consultation and comment before the Strategy is finalised and implemented.
- 1.2 As the Strategy is the joint work of the Council and Stockport PCT under the Public Health Partnership Board, it has been considered by the decision-making bodies of both organisations during the course of September. The Council's Executive considered the Strategy at its meeting on 17 September and endorsed the Strategy without amendment, subject to consultation with the Health Scrutiny Committee on 9 October.
- 1.3 Final approval of the Strategy has been delegated to the Corporate Director, Adults and Communities in consultation with the Executive Member for Adults and Health and therefore any comments made by the Health Scrutiny Committee will be considered in this way.
- 1.4 Appended to this covering report is the report that went to the Council's Executive. This is provided as gives a straight-forward summary of the nature of health inequality and distils the main points of interest from the full Health Inequalities Strategy, which include the rationale for each of the 5 strategic priorities and details of the proposed implementation of the Strategy. Also appended is the full Strategy document itself.

2. Information

- 2.1 In addition to the consideration of the report at appendix 1, it is important to note that the origins of some of the detailed work to investigate the nature of health inequalities in Stockport and the recognition, in the round, that a strategic approach was needed to tackling health inequalities, were arrived at through the Brinnington Health Inequalities Scrutiny Review which reported in April 2006 under the previous Chair of the Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee. One of the specific recommendations from the review was that a Health Inequalities Strategy for Stockport should be developed by the Stockport Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP).
- 2.2 The methodology used in the Review has also been adopted in the new Strategy. The Appreciative Inquiry technique of positive and affirming community engagement will be the initial cornerstone of the local implementation of the Strategy. It will be used to engage area or neighbourhood-based communities in considering what health issues

should be prioritised in their local health inequalities action plan, whilst remaining within the scope of the strategic priorities set by the Strategy in order to maintain a focus on the most pressing health and lifestyle problems. The Neighbourhood Renewal Teams in the Priority 1 areas will of course be involved in the development of the Appreciative Inquiry process and briefing of colleagues working in Brinnington and Adswold & Bridgehall has already taken place.

- 2.3 Finally, due to the relatively recent Appreciative Inquiry that was held in Brinnington, it has been agreed that rather than hosting a further engagement process with the Brinnington community, the original findings from the Brinnington Review will be used as a basis for developing the local health inequalities action plan for the neighbourhood. Work will shortly begin to transfer the health-related actions in the existing Neighbourhood Renewal Local Area Action Plan (NRLAAP) (which were themselves informed by the Brinnington Review) into a new action plan.

3. Recommendation

The Health Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

1. Consider and comment upon the content and priorities of the final draft Health Inequalities Strategy; and
2. Offer any further insights or views on the proposed methods for implementing the Strategy at a local level, in light of the Committee's previous review work.

Further information

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