

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 6 March 2012
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health & Adults
SUBJECT: Falls Prevention Topic Brief
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the Board with details of the Falls Prevention Scrutiny topic as outlined in the attached topic brief.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Members of the Board:

- (1) Note contents of the report;**
- (2) Approve the Topic Brief outlined at Appendix A; and**
- (3) Nominate Members of the Board to form part of the Scrutiny Topic Working Group**

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Falls are a leading cause of mortality due to injury amongst older people aged 65 and over. They also contribute to the life expectancy gap between Halton and England. People who have been admitted to hospital following a fall are at increased risk of falling again in the next 12 months, experiencing loss of confidence and fear of falling, and of losing their independence through entering a residential care home.

3.2 Nationally the number of people aged over 65 is due to rise by a third by 2025, which is associated with increased incidence of falls of 2% per year. In Halton the number of people aged 85 plus is projected to increase, and this is the most vulnerable group.

3.3 It is good practice to periodically assess the effectiveness of services provided and this report seeks approval to carry out a scrutiny review of the Falls Prevention Service and the services provided.

3.4 Subject to agreement by Board to accept the topic brief; this report

seeks nominations from members of the Board to form a member led scrutiny working group.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The recommendations from the resulting scrutiny review may result in a need to review policies and procedures used by the Falls Prevention Service.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified at this stage.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None identified.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The overall aim of the Falls Prevention Service is to prevent and reduce the number of falls along with associated injuries amongst older people in Halton.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None identified.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.