

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board
DATE: 22nd May 2013
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health and Adults
SUBJECT: Falls Strategy 2013 - 2018
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present and seek approval of the Falls Strategy 2013-2018.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1. support and approve the Falls Strategy 2013 - 2018**
- 2. agrees to receive quarterly reports on performance against the strategy action plan.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Falls have been identified as a particular risk in Halton due to higher levels of falls in older people as well as higher levels of hospital admissions due to falls. The Halton average of hip fractures in people over 65 is 499 per 100,000 and this compares with a national average of 452 per 100,000.

3.2 If you consider that the average cost of a hip replacement is in excess of £20,000 and we can bring Halton level to the national average this would offer an annual saving of £180,000 just on the operation. In addition you have to consider the significant cost savings due in reduced need for rehabilitation and reduced hospital attendances.

3.3 The falls strategy sets out to explain the importance of understanding the complexities of both the cause and effect of falls. In particular it touches upon the high risk of social isolation that falls can cause.

3.4 The Strategy also aims to identify the areas that need to improve in Halton and to do this it recommends a number of outcomes that form the basis for the action plan and the implementation of the strategy, those being:

1. Develop current workforce training
2. Develop a plan for awareness raising with both the public and professionals
3. Improve partnership working
4. Set and deliver specific targets to reduce falls
5. Develop an integrated falls pathway
6. Develop a prevention of falls pathway
7. Identify gaps in funding of the pathway
8. Improve Governance arrangements to support falls

3.5 This strategy links directly with the scrutiny review of falls prevention that is due for sign off at the Health PPB in June 2013.

It is anticipated that the strategy will be launched in June during falls awareness week; a joint public and professional week taking place in 17th – 21st June. (Detail attached in appendix 1).

The strategy implementation will be through the multi-disciplinary falls steering group and this group will report to the Urgent Care board and it is proposed that performance will be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board on a quarterly basis.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There is limited national guidance in relation to falls although there is a wealth of academic research into the importance of fall prevention and the impact of falls on an individual.

4.2 In terms of National papers, the National Service Framework for Older People 2001 was the last document that specifically mentions falls; however there has been a number of Government documents since then that recognize the importance of falls. For example Healthy lives, healthy people, the Darzi review and the recent Dilnot report.

4.3 In addition there is a specific NICE guidelines on falls that are due to be updated following consultation that ended on 26th April 2013.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 A separate financial plan is being developed to assess the gaps in funding to deliver the full pathway. It is important to note that this strategy calls upon a partnership approach as the current resource for falls specialist services in the borough is only £70,000 per annum

to deliver training, awareness raising, falls assessments and specialist support.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

None

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The strategy aims to improve the health and well-being of those at risk of falls by minimising their risk of falls, providing timely quality treatment should they sustain injury and to ensure people are rehabilitated following injury back to good health..

6.4 A Safer Halton

The strategy action plan will be targeting a number of key service areas, for example residential care; and there will be an expectation that partners tasked with implementing the strategy will work closely with the safeguarding unit to support vulnerable people at risk of falls.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The key risk is that the strategy fails to meet the targets identified in the strategy action plan and the Health and Well-being action plan. This risk is mitigated by robust performance monitoring through the multi-agency Falls Strategy Group and accountability to this Board.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The strategy aims to provide improved advice and care to all members of our community who are at risk of falling.

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

None.