

REPORT TO: Health Policy and Performance Board
DATE: 10 September 2013
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Falls Strategy 2013 - 2018
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To present the Board with Halton Borough Council's (HBCs) and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group's joint Falls Strategy 2013 – 2018 (**Appendix 1**) for review and comment.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That Board Members note the contents of the report and associated appendices.**

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, compared with a national average of 452 per 100,000.

3.2 If you consider that the average cost of a hip replacement operation is in excess of £20,000 and if we are able to bring the Halton level down to the national average level this would offer an annual saving of £180,000 on just the operation. In addition you have to consider the significant cost savings due to the 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; and
8. Improve Governance arrangements to support falls.

3.5 The Strategy links directly with the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review on Falls Prevention that was presented at the Health Policy and Performance Board in June 2013. The outcomes of the Scrutiny Review and the Falls Strategy are scheduled to be presented to HBC's Executive Board on 19th September 2013.

3.6 As Falls is one of the 5 priorities identified in Halton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, the draft Falls Strategy was presented to Halton's Health and Wellbeing Board in May for support and approval, following which it was launched in June during Falls Awareness week (17th – 21st); a joint public and professional week. An evaluation of the activities that took place during this week is attached at **Appendix 2**.

3.7 The implementation of the Strategy will be through the multi-disciplinary Falls Steering Group. This Group will report to the Urgent Care Partnership Board and 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 falls 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 mentioned falls; however there has been a number of Government documents since then that recognise the importance of falls, for example *Healthy Lives, Healthy People*, the Darzi review and the recent Dilnot report.

4.3 In addition there is specific National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines on falls that were updated and issued in June 2013 following a consultation exercise.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 This strategy does not require any additional resources. A separate business plan will be developed if any additional funding is required as we progress with implementation of the strategy.

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 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 Adults Integrated Safeguarding Unit to support vulnerable people at risk of falls.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

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 the Health and Wellbeing 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**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.