

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board
DATE: 8th July 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Reduction in Public Health funding
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with information regarding the proposed cuts to Public Health funding and asks that the Board advocates against these cuts in year to the ring fenced budget.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1. This Health and Wellbeing Board recognises the importance of Public Health interventions to deliver on key priorities and improve the overall health and wellbeing of the Halton population.**
- 2. This Board advocates that the government honour its previous commitments to public health funding as set out in the local government finance settlement in March 2015.**
- 3. The Board asks that if the Public Health grant cuts do proceed they are assessed based on local need and levels of deprivation.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Halton Borough Council has successfully set a balanced budget for 2015/16, including full allocation of the public health grant, based on the information provided by the Government in the local government finance settlements, and reiterated by the Chancellor in March's Budget.

5th June 2015, the Government announced new cuts for this financial year which included the reduction of the ring fenced public health grants to local authorities by £200 million – equivalent to approximately £630,000 for Halton.

- 3.2 The cuts will particularly impact on the health of people in deprived areas, such as Halton, that disproportionately suffer from lower life expectancy, long term conditions, cancer and heart disease. It is therefore a potential disaster

for the NHS, whose future depends on the preventative approach as outlined by the Chief Executive of NHS England in the Five Year Forward Plan.

The public health grant commissions a wide range of services from the NHS, including sexual health services such as STD clinics, HIV services and family planning, infection control and children's public health nursing including health visitors and school nurses.

The grant also commissions services from a wide range of providers including alcohol and drug services, weight management, mental health services, older people's health promotion and falls prevention, healthy schools, early years services and infant feeding.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 A reduction in the ring fenced Public Health budget will impact on the ability of the NHS and the Council to deliver a wide range of treatment and prevention services to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Halton.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board will be unable to commission services that meet its priority areas due to the proposed reduction in budget.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy identifies improving child development as a key local priority. Reduction to funding in this area will be detrimental to improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

Employment, Learning and Skills is a key determinant of health and wellbeing and is therefore a key consideration when developing strategies to improve health. Reduction in funding for areas such as alcohol harm reduction and improving mental health will have a negative effect on improving outcomes in this area.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

All issues outlined in this report focus directly on this priority.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Excessive alcohol consumption is associated with higher levels of crime and

disorder, anti-social behaviour and domestic violence. Therefore, a reduction in funding to reduce the harm from alcohol will also have a negative impact on this priority area.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The environment in which we live and the physical infrastructure of our communities has a direct impact on our health and wellbeing. Therefore, removing funding for public health will have an impact on issues such as alcohol associated anti-social behaviour and mental health.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Reduction in year of the Public Health ring fenced grant places improved health and wellbeing and the meeting of Halton's Health and Wellbeing Board priorities at serious risk.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 The cuts will particularly impact on the health of people in deprived areas, such as Halton, that disproportionately suffer from lower life expectancy, long term conditions, cancer and heart disease.

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

None