

REPORT TO: Healthy Halton Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 10th June 2008
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director
Health & Community
SUBJECT: Choosing Health Work Topic Report

1.0 **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To present to Healthy Halton Policy and Performance Board the Report on the Work Topic “Choosing Health”

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION**

Members are requested to:

Note and comment on the contents of the report.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

Background

The Strategic Director, Health & Community secured agreement from the Healthy Halton Policy & Performance Board (HHPPB) on the 13th September 2005, that “Choosing Health” should be selected as a work topic.

A number of meetings have been held with members of the scrutiny topic team in order to scope the report, receive a presentation from the Director of Public Health and discuss the scrutiny review itself.

Production of this report has been delayed as the relevant data was only collected by the Halton & St Helens Primary Care Trust from April 2007. Given at least six months of data was needed to make this work topic viable, the work could only begin in earnest subsequently.

3.1 Health Improvement Policy Context

The attached report sought to assess the likely impact of Choosing Health on health inequalities in Halton. The importance of Choosing Health initiatives is clearly evident by the current emphasis placed on health improvement and prevention but there has also been a

clear government policy shift away from a whole population approach to reducing health inequalities. As a result of this policy shift, the review focussed on potential gains to date that Choosing Health might provide in addressing the health inequalities. This approach will best serve the needs of the Local Area Agreement as well as enhancing the golden thread of health improvement across all service plans.

As a consequence of the need to enhance the links between Choosing Health and LAAs and the need to embed health improvement within commissioning and service provision members of the Work Topic Group recognised the role of Halton Health Partnership in taking this work forward.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The LAA will need to be reviewed in the light of the proposed recommendations of the review.

Service development processes will need to be directed to enhancing the golden thread of health improvement.

5.0 **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 It is not possible to specify at this stage whether there will be resource implications.

6.0 **OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 None.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Achievement of the outcome based performance indicators will require service provision to be based around a bespoke approach to improving health and well being.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The approach recommended in this report seeks to enhance health and well-being commissioning and service provision for those most in need.