

**REPORT TO:** Health & Wellbeing Board  
**DATE:** 10 July 2019  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director of Adult Social Services  
**PORTFOLIO:** Children, Education and Social Care  
**SUBJECT:** Falls Strategy 2018-2023  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present to the Health and Wellbeing Board the Falls Strategy 2018-2023.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board**

**1) Note contents of the report; and**

**2) Approve the updated version of the Falls Strategy 2018-2023.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 In 2012 Halton Health and Wellbeing Board developed the first Health and Wellbeing Strategy to meet the needs of the local population. The Strategy set out the vision for Health and Wellbeing in Halton. It was the overarching document for the Health and Wellbeing Board and outlined the key priorities the Board wanted to focus on.

3.2 Informed by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and in consultation with local residents, strategic partners and other stakeholders, five key priorities were identified to help us to achieve our vision. One of the five priorities was the reduction in the number of falls in adults. The five year falls strategy was developed in 2013, this strategy is now due for review.

3.3 There is clear evidence on the importance of ensuring that falls prevention and falls care are a high priority within any Local Authority area. Halton is higher than the national average, in relation to people who fall; the human cost of this on the individuals is high and can result in falling distress, pain, injury, loss of confidence, loss of independence, loneliness and mortality. There is also an impact on family members and carers of people who fall.

3.4 This importance of falls prevention has been recognised by Halton

Borough Council and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group, who have prioritised reducing the number of falls and associated hospital admissions in older people within Halton.

The cost to the NHS is estimated to be more than £2.3 billion per year.

3.5 This Falls Prevention Strategy is a further development of the current strategy, and continues to have a focus on prevention and early intervention.

3.6 The vision developed in the strategy is to:

- Provide people with early, targeted advice and intervention to prevent or reduce the risk of falls and to maintain their independence.
- Ensure effective action is taken in a timely manner to support those people who have had a fall to recover and regain their independence.
- Encourage stakeholders to work together and continuously review the evidence base of the strategy in terms of impact and effectiveness against National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Guidance and Quality Standards.

3.7 The primary aims of this strategy are to:

- Reduce the numbers of serious injuries that result from a fall.
- Reduce the number of Emergency hospital admissions for injuries due to a fall (65+).
- Reduce the number of Emergency hospital admissions due to fracture of neck of femur (65+).
- Reduce the numbers of falls that affect older people and those at higher risk of falling.
- Commission an integrated, evidenced based, falls prevention pathway across Halton.
- Reduce the fear of falling among older people.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The strategy is in line with the NHS Five Year Forward View and the Care Act 2014.

#### 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The full financial costs of falls to the NHS and social care has not been calculated but we do know that hip fractures alone cost over £2.3 bn per year. Evidence shows that falls prevention services are cost effective and could make substantial savings

5.2 There is good evidence that implementing a range of interventions will reduce falls and injuries in older people. For example, for every £1 spent on physiotherapy, £1.50 is saved across the whole pathway.

5.3 No additional funding is being requested to implement this 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**

This strategy will focus on reducing the number of people who fall, improving their ability to live as independently as possible and maintaining health and wellbeing.

### 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**

9.1 None.