

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

DATE: 20th January 2021

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Outline for a rapid update of the One Halton Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2022 in the context of the global Covid-19 pandemic.

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The global pandemic arrived as we entered the second half of our five-year One Halton strategy. We must now consider how we revise the strategy to take account of the pandemic, assess its impacts on our key priorities and refocus our efforts to mitigate its effects on achieving our aims.
- 1.2 Eileen O'Meara, Director of Public Health has asked a specialty registrar in public health (Dr Matthew Atkinson) to lead a rapid review of the One Halton strategy.

2.0 RECOMMENDED: That

- 1) the Board agrees that the Strategy be updated and presented to the March 2021 Health and Wellbeing Board for approval**
- 2) the Board's members contribute to this review by providing information on the impact Covid-19 has had on services and health outcomes and by suggesting revised actions and goals**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Covid-19 (coronavirus) has impacted every aspect of our lives. The global pandemic has directly affected our residents through infections, illness and in some cases, deaths. However, the effects of the pandemic will be felt much more widely. Restrictions will have changed our lifestyles and health behaviours. All services have experienced disruption, changes in work practices and altered levels of demand. Our economy will be impacted for many years and our physical and mental health will be affected. All of these changes will be disproportionately felt by our most deprived groups and may exacerbate the health inequalities in our area.

- 3.2 Not all impacts will be negative. Services have moved at pace to transform their provision. Communities and the voluntary sector have rallied around our most vulnerable groups.

Some potential impacts of the pandemic on our six priorities

- 3.3 Children and Young People: improved levels of early child development
- Reduced social contact
 - Increased anxiety and depression
 - Missed school and exams
 - Increased food insecurity
- 3.4 Generally Well: increased levels of physical activity and healthy eating and reduction in harm from alcohol
- Reduced organised sport and exercise
 - Increased walking and cycling
 - More home eating and/or takeaways
 - Shift from night-time economy to home drinking
- 3.5 Long-term Conditions: reduction in levels of heart disease and stroke
- Impact of changes in physical activity, healthy eating and alcohol use
 - Impact of Covid on primary care, secondary care, NHS Health Checks
 - Delayed presentations
 - Improvement in air quality
 - Changes in smoking?
 - Vulnerable population to Covid
- 3.6 Mental Health: improved prevention, early detection and treatment
- Direct impact of Covid, restrictions and lockdowns
 - Economic impact
 - Risk of exposure to domestic violence and abuse
 - Staff wellbeing in frontline services
 - Effects on service provision eg face-to-face counselling and related services.
- 3.7 Cancer: reduced level of premature death
- Delays to cancer screening and treatment
 - Delayed presentations
 - Increase in risk factors for cancers (see above)
- 3.8 Older People: improved quality of life
- Vulnerable population to Covid – illness and deaths, including in care homes
 - Social isolation, reduction in community services and groups, limits to visiting in care homes

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 This report sets out the intention to amend the One Halton strategy. The amended document, to be presented in a subsequent meeting, will have policy implications for the Health and Wellbeing Board partners.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial implications at this stage, but the amended report may have resource implications for partners.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Child development and health will be specifically referenced in the amended strategy.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The impact of employment loss on health and wellbeing will be referenced.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

This will be the main focus of the amended strategy and there will be implications.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None anticipated

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None anticipated

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

No risks have been identified at this stage. Risks will be considered as part of the amended strategy.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

No issues have been identified at this stage. Health inequalities will be considered as part of the amended strategy and any equality and diversity issues will be addressed.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.