



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 20 October 2009

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry: The role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health (Session 1)

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce the first session of the Scrutiny Board's inquiry that will consider the role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health.

2.0 Background

2.1 At its previous meeting (22 September 2009), the Scrutiny Board (Health) agreed terms of reference for the above inquiry. In this regard, the Board agreed to consider arrangements relating to four specific areas of public health, namely:

- Improving sexual health and reducing the level of teenage pregnancies;
- Reversing the rise in levels of obesity and promoting an increase in the levels of physical activity;
- Promoting responsible alcohol consumption; and,
- Reducing the level of smoking;

2.2 In considering the promotion of good public health, the overall purpose of the inquiry is to make an assessment of the role of all partners in developing, supporting and delivering targets associated with improving specific aspects of public health.

3.0 Health and Wellbeing

3.1 Health and wellbeing is one of eight key themes within the Leeds Strategic Plan (2008-2011), with reducing teenage conception and improving sexual health being a specific improvement priority.

- 3.2 The recently agreed Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan (2009 – 2012) is part of the broader Leeds Strategic Plan, and is based on the outcomes and priorities agreed by the Council and its partners and shaped by local people.
- 3.3 The Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan (2009 – 2012) concentrates on the main high level actions necessary to help deliver the agreed strategic outcomes and priorities. These high level actions are detailed in the attached action plan for the improvement priorities (Appendix 1).

Reducing teenage conception and improving sexual health

- 3.4 Actions associated with reducing teenage conception and improving sexual health are detailed in action plan number 5. Within the action plan, four other key and related strategies are identified – the main two being:
- Teenage pregnancy and parenthood strategy (2008 – 2011) – attached at Appendix 2; and,
 - Sexual health strategy (2009 – 2014) – identified as ‘under development’.
- 3.5 To help members of the Scrutiny Board consider this particular aspect of its inquiry, relevant officers from the Council and NHS Leeds have been invited to attend the meeting.

Previous Scrutiny Inquiry

- 3.6 Members will recall that during the previous municipal year (2008/09), the Scrutiny Board (Health) conducted an inquiry into improving sexual health among young people. The Scrutiny Board concluded its inquiry and agreed its inquiry report in April 2009, setting out its conclusions and recommendations.
- 3.7 At its previous meeting, on 22 September 2009, the Scrutiny Board (Health) was presented with the agreed response to the recommendations identified during the previous inquiry, alongside a ministerial report arising from a review by the Teenage Pregnancy National Support Team (TPNST), undertaken in March 2009.
- 3.8 Members are reminded that, as a matter of routine, recommendations arising from inquiries are incorporated into the quarterly recommendation tracking reports. These reports help the Scrutiny Board to monitor and review progress against previous recommendations. The next recommendation tracking report is scheduled for the meeting in December 2009.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are asked to consider the details presented in this report and discussed at the meeting and:
- (i) Identify any specific areas/ issues to be included in the Board’s scrutiny inquiry report; and,
 - (ii) Determine any specific matters where additional information may be required and/or where further scrutiny may be needed.

5.0 Background Documents

Leeds Strategic Plan (2008 – 2011)

Scrutiny Inquiry: The role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health – Terms of reference (agreed 22 September 2009)

Scrutiny Board (Health) – Inquiry Report: *Improving Sexual Health Among Young People* (April 2009)

Scrutiny Inquiry: Improving Sexual Health Among Young People – response to recommendations – report to the Scrutiny Board (Health) – 22 September 2009