



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 15 December 2009

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry: The role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health (Session 2)

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 second session of the Scrutiny Board's inquiry aimed at considering the role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health.

2.0 Background

2.1 At its meeting on 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 the Council and its partners in developing, supporting and delivering targets associated with improving specific aspects of public health.

Previous Scrutiny Inquiry

2.3 A previous scrutiny inquiry which focused on the prevention and management of childhood obesity was carried out in 2005/06. This culminated in the publication of a final report April 2006, which identified 8 specific recommendations. A formal

response to the recommendations followed in July 2006, with subsequent tracking of the recommendations taking place in February 2007 and December 2007.

- 2.4 Furthermore, in April 2008, the Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care) produced a statement on Obesity in Leeds. While this statement did not include any specific recommendations, it suggested that the matter be included in the Health Scrutiny Board's work programme for 2008/9.

3.0 Health and Wellbeing

- 3.1 Health and wellbeing is one of eight key themes within the Leeds Strategic Plan (2008-2011), with reversing the rise in levels of obesity and promoting an increase in the levels of physical activity 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).

- 3.4 Actions associated with reversing the rise in levels of obesity and promoting an increase in the levels of physical activity are detailed in action plan number 4 in Appendix 1. Within the action plan, a number of other key and related strategies are identified, including:

- Active Leeds : a Healthy City 2008 to 2012
- Taking the Lead: strategy for sport and active recreation in Leeds 2006 to 2012
- Food Matters: a food strategy for Leeds 2006 to 2010
- Leeds Childhood Obesity Strategy 2001 to 2016
- Adult Obesity Strategy (in preparation)
- Leeds School Meals Strategy Jan 2007
- The Leeds Children and Young People's Plan 2009 to 2014

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)

- 3.5 NICE is the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health, including guidance on the promotion of good health and the prevention of ill health for those working in the NHS, local authorities and the wider public and voluntary sector.

- 3.6 One of the guidance documents produced by NICE covers the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children. This guidance covers:

- how staff in GP surgeries and hospitals should assess whether people are overweight or obese;
- what staff in GP surgeries and hospitals should do to help people lose weight
- care for people whose weight puts their health at risk;
- how people can make sure they and their children stay at a healthy weight;

- how health professionals, local authorities and communities, childcare providers, schools and employers should make it easier for people to improve their diet and become more active.

3.7 Within the scope of this inquiry, a copy of the NICE guidance CG43 (Quick reference guide 1: For local authorities, schools and early years providers, workplaces and the public) is attached at Appendix 2. This guidance might usefully assist members of the Board assess aspects of the approach being taken by the Council and its partners in seeking to address this area of public health.

Request for Scrutiny

3.8 In early October 2009, a request for scrutiny on behalf of local residents of Hyde Park and surrounding areas was received – seeking the involvement of the Scrutiny Board (Health) to examine the health aspects of playing field provision in the inner-city areas of Leeds. A copy of the details received are attached at Appendix 3.

3.9 As the Board agreed the terms of reference for this inquiry on 22 September 2009, it was felt appropriate to invite representatives to address the Board in this regard.

Reversing the rise in levels of obesity and promoting an increase in the levels of physical activity

3.10 In line with the agreed terms of reference, the aim of this element of the inquiry is to consider issues associated with reversing the rise in levels of obesity and promoting an increase in the levels of physical activity, such as:

- The role of the Council and its NHS health partners in developing and delivering appropriate strategies that:
 - Raises general public awareness of the health risks associated with obesity and inactive lifestyles.
 - Identifies and targets those groups most at risk of becoming obese and leading inactive lifestyles.
 - Assesses the quality and effectiveness of services and treatments associated with obesity.
 - Promotes easy access to leisure facilities and activities.
- The role of the Council in terms of its power of well-being through planning policies and associated enforcement/ control procedures.
- The role of commercial sector partners in promoting healthier lifestyles.

3.11 In this regard, the following information is presented for the Board's consideration:

- Local Development Framework (Appendix 4)
- Vision for Council Leisure Centres (Appendix 5)
- Leeds Physical Activity Strategy (Appendix 6)
- Parks and Green Space Strategy (Appendix 7)
- Can't Wait – Leeds Childhood Obesity Strategy (Appendix 8)
- Adult Obesity (Appendix 9)

3.12 Relevant officers from the Council and NHS Leeds have been invited to attend the meeting to highlight any specific matters to the Board and to address any specific questions raised.

Sport England

- 3.13 Within the terms of reference, Sport England is identified as a potential witness / contributor to this aspect of the inquiry. Unfortunately, a representative from Sport England was unavailable to attend the Board meeting. However, the following comment was offered by the Regional Manager (Local Government) and is presented to the Board for information:

'The notable social, economic and health benefits by undertaking sport and physical activity is widely accepted. However, the physical activity agenda is driven by other Departments such as the Department for Health with Sport England now focusing solely on sport alone. We have no direct agenda relating to obesity or other health issues.'

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 Members are asked to consider the details presented in this report and associated appendices, and those matters 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 and Adult Social Care) – Statement: *Obesity in Leeds* (April 2008)

Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care) – *Recommendation Tracking* (17 December 2007)

Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care) – Inquiry into Childhood Obesity Prevention and Management: *Progress Report* (19 February 2007)

Scrutiny Board (Health and Adult Social Care) – Inquiry into Childhood Obesity Prevention and Management: *Formal Response* (24 July 2006)

Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing) – Inquiry Report: *Childhood Obesity Prevention and Management* (April 2006)