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## Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

### Scrutiny Board (Health)

Date: 26 January 2010

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

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#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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## 1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to introduce the continuation of 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.

### Health and Wellbeing

2.3 As previously reported, 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.

- 2.4 Based on the outcomes and priorities agreed by the Council and its partners and shaped by local people, the Health and Wellbeing Partnership Plan (2009 – 2012) is part of the broader Leeds Strategic Plan: It 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). 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.
- 2.5 At its previous meeting (15 December 2009), the Scrutiny Board heard from a member of the public concerned with the health implications associated with playing field provision in the inner city areas of Leeds: In addition, the Scrutiny Board also took evidence from a range of Council officers, including the:
- Deputy Chief Planning Officer
  - Head of Planning and Economic Policy
  - Head of Sport and Active Recreation
  - Head of Service (Health Initiatives and Wellbeing Team), Education Leeds
- 2.6 However, due to the length of debate at the previous meeting, the Board was unable to discuss the contribution of NHS Leeds associated with particular aspect of public health: The Scrutiny Board subsequently agreed to defer this aspect of the session to its January 2010 meeting.

#### The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE)

- 2.7 Also at its meeting on 15 December 2009, the Scrutiny Board was advised of the work of NICE – as the independent organisation responsible for providing national guidance on promoting good health and the prevention and treatment of ill health.
- 2.8 As part of this, the Scrutiny Board was presented with a guidance document that covered the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children – . NICE guidance CG43 (Quick reference guide 1: For local authorities, schools and early years providers, workplaces and the public).
- 2.9 Further NICE guidance relevant to this particular aspect of the inquiry has been identified (relating to promoting and creating built or natural environments that encourage and support physical activity) and is attached at Appendix 2 for information and/ or consideration.
- 3.0 **The role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health: Session 2 – continued**
- 3.1 In line with the agreed terms of reference, the aim of this part 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.

3.2 Given the main focus at the previous session, it is proposed that this meeting focuses more specifically on the work and priorities of NHS Leeds in reversing the rise in levels of obesity and promoting an increase in the levels of physical activity. In this regard, the following information is re-presented for the Board's consideration:

- Can't Wait – Leeds Childhood Obesity Strategy (Appendix 3)
- Adult Obesity (Appendix 4)

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

3.4 Furthermore, a copy of a House of Commons Select Committee Report on Obesity (published in 2004) is attached at Appendix 5.

#### **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**

Scrutiny Board (Health): *Scrutiny Inquiry: The role of the Council and its partners in promoting good public health (Session 2)* (15 December 2009)