

Item 7: Scrutiny Board Statement: Enabling Active Lifestyles - Response

Submission from Councillor Lamb.

Thank you for the email and the invitation. Unfortunately, I'm working on Tuesday and so will sadly not be able to be at the board in person. I would be very pleased to have a chat with the Chair in advance of the meeting.

The one key issue that I feel is not addressed in the report is the key recommendation of the board last year which has sadly not been taken up. I hope that the successor board might consider retaining the pressure around this.

The evidence we received last year was incredibly compelling and we collectively and unanimously came to the view that getting the city active is the closest thing we have to a silver bullet to make significant impacts on a huge array of key city priorities from reducing cancer and dementia, to improving mental health and helping reduce poverty and a huge variety of other areas.

The potential gains were so significant that we felt that getting the whole city active should become a council wide obsession. If it is left to the sports service alone to deliver this strategy there will be some impact but it will be negligible.

Without planners thinking about this when they deal with planning applications and strategic planning and development for instance, how can this be effectively delivered?

If the older population in Leeds was fully active, the improvements to their quality of life and the subsequent easing on pressure and resources in Adult Social Care and the NHS could be enormous.

I could go on but the point is that there is a role in this for every department of council without exception and many of our partners. The prize is potentially huge but we are in danger of taking an excellent strategy but not giving it the profile and spotlight that it needs and deserves.

I hope these comments are helpful and I wish you and the board well in the year ahead. If I can be of assistance at any stage I would be only too happy to contribute.

Many thanks,

Cllr Alan Lamb
Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group
Chair of the Children & Families Scrutiny Board