

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board

DATE: 13th November 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health/Operational Director,
Children's Organisation and Provision

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Better Health Outcomes for children and young
people: Our Pledge

WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the government's pledge to improve health outcomes for children and young people.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1) note the contents of the report; and**
- 2) agree to sign up to the pledge (attached as Appendix 1 to this report)**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 On 20th July 2013, the Children's Health Minister, Dr. Dan Poulter wrote to lead members for children's services and Chairs of Health and Wellbeing Boards to invite them to sign up to the Government's pledge: *Better Health Outcomes for Children and Young People*. The pledge is part of the February 2013 system wide response to the Children and Young People's Health Outcomes Forum Report (2012).
- 3.2 The introduction to the pledge emphasises that whilst children and young people growing up in England today are generally healthier than they have ever been, international comparisons and worrying long- term trends demonstrate there is room for improvement, with poor health outcomes for too many children and young people compared with other countries. The document also states that vulnerable groups such as looked after children suffer much poorer outcomes.
- 3.3 It goes on to say that system-wide change is required to achieve this and each part of the system, at each level has a contribution to make. The shared ambitions set out within the pledge are:

- Children, young people and their families will be at the heart of decision-making, with the health outcomes that matter most to them taking priority.
- Services, from pregnancy through to adolescence and beyond, will be high quality, evidence based and safe, delivered at the right time, in the right place, by a properly planned, educated and trained workforce.
- Good mental and physical health and early interventions, including for children and young people with long term conditions, will be of equal importance to caring for those who become acutely unwell.
- Services will be integrated and care will be co-ordinated around the individual, with an optimal experience of transition to adult services for those young people who require ongoing health and care in adult life.
- There will be clear leadership, accountability and assurance and organisations will work in partnership for the benefit of children and young people.

3.4 Health and Wellbeing Boards are encouraged to ensure that there is a proper focus on children within its priorities, that there is a thorough assessment of their needs through the Joint Strategic Needs, as well as from engagement with children and young people themselves.

The Halton Picture

3.5 At a local level the Health and Wellbeing Board has already made an excellent start in considering the Health and Wellbeing needs of Children and Young People.

Some examples that demonstrate this commitment are outlined below:

- Child development is identified as a key priority in Halton's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- A separate JSNA Children and Young Peoples Working Group has been set up to ensure that the needs of children and young people are adequately reflected across the JSNA. This work will be closely linked to the development of the new Children and Young People's Plan which will be developed later in the year.
- The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy has been developed using a Life Course approach to ensure that wherever possible, actions against the Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities are considered across all age groups
- Key issues/ developments for Children and Young People are presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board on a regular basis
- A Commissioning Sub Group has been established underneath the Health and Wellbeing Board to look at joint commissioning across health and wellbeing priorities. This group includes representatives from Children and Young People's commissioning to ensure a joined up approach across partnerships.
- A Memorandum of Understanding is currently being developed between Halton Children's Trust, Halton Safeguarding Children Board and Halton Health and Wellbeing Board. This will clarify respective

roles and functions, membership of the boards, arrangements for challenge, oversight and scrutiny, and performance management.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Needs of Children and Young People are already a key consideration for Halton's Health and Wellbeing Board.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified at this time.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

All of the considerations outlined within this report directly contribute to improving outcomes for Children and Young People.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Improving health outcomes for children and young people will contribute towards improving educational attainment, skills and maximising employment opportunities.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

All of the areas outlined within this report focus on improving the health and wellbeing of Children and Young People.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Reducing the incidence of crime, improving Community Safety and reducing the fear of crime has an impact on health outcomes particularly on mental health. There are also close links between partnerships on areas such as alcohol and domestic violence. It therefore remains a key consideration for the Health and Wellbeing Board.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

The environment in which we live and the physical infrastructure of our communities has a direct impact on our health and wellbeing. It should therefore be a key consideration when developing strategies to address health and wellbeing.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

Halton Borough Council may be at risk of not meeting national targets if recommendations outlined in the report are not met. There are no financial risks. The recommendations are not so significant they require a full risk assessment.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

This is in line with all equality and diversity issues in Halton.

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

None within the meaning of the Act.