

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 5 March 2013
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health and Adults, Children and Families.
SUBJECT: Public Health Update Report
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To provide a summary of some of the key public health activities that have taken place in recent months.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That**

1. the Board note the report; and
2. comments be fed back to the Director of Public Health.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Public Health will transfer to the Local Authority in April 2013 from which time it will become a statutory service. In Halton significant steps have already been taken to ensure a smooth transition.

3.2 The Public Health Team have now relocated to Runcorn Town Hall where they are situated in the same office as the Local Authority Contracts and Commissioning team, Environmental Health and the People and Communities Policy Team. They have also made arrangements to sit with Children and families in Rutland House.

3.3 The Team has continued to fulfil its obligations to NHS Halton and St.Helens, which will continue until 31st March 2013, whilst preparing for the transition. Some of the work that has taken place over the last six months include:

Public Health Transition (Some of the work that has taken place/ on-going during the transition year)

- Transfer of staff/ responsibilities - Some areas of responsibility i.e. Vaccinations and Immunisation, the Screening lead and the Dental Public Health lead, will transfer to Public Health England as from 1st April. Otherwise, members of staff that have been identified for transition to the Borough Council are now in post. Public Health vacancies have now

been filled to ensure Halton Borough Council has enough capacity to deliver the new public health functions.

- Transfer of Public Health Budgets -The Public Health budget for Halton has now been agreed and was as expected, which is sufficient to cover commissioning and contract responsibilities.
- Transfer of relevant Public Health contracts - As stipulated in the Health and Social Act that was passed June 2012 this has involved identifying all live contracts on a data capture tool, splitting them between Halton and St Helens and transferring them to Public Health England, the NHS Commissioning Board or Halton Borough Council.
- Information Governance Toolkit - This enables Public Health to access data that previously was only accessible to NHS staff. This toolkit has been completed, submitted to the Department of Health and it is agreed Public Health can now access this data in the local authority.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been agreed between Public Health and Halton Clinical Commissioning Group - This is because there is a requirement for local authorities to provide specialist public health advice to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). So far this is most explicit in relation to health care public health, but it also includes health protection and health improvement. The guidance proposes that there should be a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the local authority and the CCG in order to clarify the expectations on both sides.
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been agreed between Public Health and Merseyside and Cheshire Commissioning Support Unit (MCCSU) – This MoU ensures MCCSU provides Public Health colleagues in Halton Borough Council with hospital data sets needed to produce the Halton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- Wellbeing Areas - During 2012/13 the Public Health Team has worked closely with Halton's Community Development team to implement local Wellbeing Areas. These are based on the existing Area Forum boundaries and are aimed at improving the Health and Wellbeing of the local population. Information has been provided to residents, at their Area Forum meetings, about the key health and wellbeing needs in their locality. Themed events have also taken place within the different areas based around the particular issues that exist. These have proved extremely popular with local people and it is envisaged that more of these events will take place in the future.

Legacy

- Public Health Annual Report (PHAR) - The last Halton and St. Helens PHAR has been produced with input from both areas. In future years Halton will produce its own Annual Report.

- Emergency Planning - In line with legacy guidance there has been an informed conversation between Halton Borough Council and Public Health colleagues to test emergency planning arrangements.
- Sustainable Community Strategy Mid - Year Progress Report 2012- The SCS Health Halton Mid-Year progress report is attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Whilst it is important to acknowledge that significant health challenges remain, progress against key targets has proved to be very encouraging during 2012/13. Out of the fifteen targets reported 12 are on green and likely to be achieved or exceeded. This is very encouraging and it is hoped that this progress can be sustained/ improved upon under the new structures.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 There are no direct policy implications as a result of this report.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The transfer of Public Health into Local Authorities should contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of all residents including Children and Young People.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The transfer of Public Health into Local Authorities should provide a seamless approach to the delivery of local services which in turn should have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of local communities.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None associated with this report. Separate risk assessments for the

transfer of Public Health will be carried out as the need arises.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None

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

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.