

REPORT TO: Health Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 9 September 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: SeeHear - Commissioning Strategy for those living with sensory impairment in Halton 2014-2019

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present to Health Policy and Performance Board the draft integrated Commissioning Strategy for those living with sensory impairment in Halton 2014-2019 and supporting evidence paper.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board note and comment on the content of the draft integrated Commissioning Strategy for those living with sensory impairment in Halton 2014-2019 and supporting evidence paper.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 At all ages sight and hearing loss have a large impact on quality of life. Significantly fewer deaf or blind adults of working age are in full time employment than those without sight or hearing loss.

3.2 Halton's ageing population means by 2020 there will be more than a 20% increase in numbers over age 65 living with hearing impairment and a similar increase for those living with visual impairment. Both are contributing factors to falls in older people and many over 65's will experience loss in both senses. 50-70% of sight loss in the older population is avoidable or treatable.

3.3 'SeeHear' is Halton's first stand-alone commissioning strategy focusing only on sight and hearing impairment for adults and older people. It takes an integrated approach to improve the quality of life for Halton residents living with sensory impairment and brings together commissioning intentions of Public Health, the Clinical Commissioning Group, and Adult Social Care.

3.4 This holistic approach will strengthen prevention of avoidable sight and hearing loss. Earlier detection when it does occur means rehabilitation support can be offered to minimise the impact on daily

living.

- 3.5 National policy for disabled people including those with sensory impairment is set out in 'Fulfilling Potential: Making it Happen' (DWP 2013) whilst the 'UK Vision Strategy 2013-2018: Setting the direction for eye health and sight loss services'¹ sets out a framework to build a society in which avoidable sight loss is eliminated and full inclusion becomes accepted practice.

As yet there is no government strategy relating to hearing loss though Action on Hearing Loss promotes best practice at national level.

There is a commonality in the themes of these policies and these have formed the keystones of 'SeeHear':

- i. prevention and early intervention,
- ii. appropriate support including rehabilitation
- iii. inclusive communities.

- 3.6 'SeeHear' incorporates the three strategic outcomes of the UK Vision Strategy:

1. Everyone looks after their eyes and their sight
2. Everyone with an eye condition receives timely treatment and, if permanent sight loss occurs, early and appropriate services and support are available and accessible to all
3. A society in which people with sight loss can fully participate

- 3.7 'The strategic priorities set out in 'SeeHear' for 2014-19 have been informed by feedback at public engagement events, open consultation with the public and key stakeholders through a recent survey. Discussions have also taken place with Vision Support and Deafness Resource Centre to gather their experience of local needs:

Priority 1 – Raise awareness of avoidable sight and hearing loss and encourage early action when it does occur

Priority 2 - Maximise independence and wellbeing of those living with sensory impairment through rehabilitation and technology

¹ <http://www.vision2020uk.org.uk/ukvisionstrategy/page.asp?section=291§ionTitle=Strategy+publications>

Priority 3 - Recognise the expertise and assets of people living with sensory impairment and use these to improve services

Priority 4 - Raise awareness of the barriers to social inclusion faced by people living with sensory impairment to build responsive, inclusive communities

Priority 5 – Ensure efficient and effective use of resources

3.8 Halton’s Better Care Board will oversee progress in implementing ‘SeeHear’ and is accountable to the Council’s Executive Board and NHS Halton Clinical Commissioning Group’s Governing Body.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 ‘SeeHear’ will support progress in local delivery of Fulfilling Potential, the UK Vision Strategy and the three national outcomes frameworks for the NHS, Adult Social Care and Public Health.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The action plan within the strategy contains a summary of resources required. These are primarily investment of staff time to effect the change or redirection of current investment to achieve service redesign. This is deliverable within existing staffing structures and funding levels; however the need to make efficiency savings across the system may impact on successful delivery of the strategy.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

This strategy considers the needs of young disabled people in transition to adulthood and some social needs of children and their families. Halton Children’s Trust oversees integrated commissioning and development of support for children with sensory impairment .

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

Employment is a key determinant of health and wellbeing.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Delivery of ‘SeeHear’ will have a positive impact on the health of Halton citizens.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

The strategy promotes inclusion and raising awareness of the impact of living with sight or hearing loss to reduce isolation and contribute to building stronger communities.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 'SeeHear' supports progress in delivering the strategic priorities of the Council for a Healthy Halton. As described in 5.1 the Strategy is capable of delivering within existing resources, however a reduction in budget or staffing levels will impact on service delivery.

Any reductions in funding allocations for sensory services in the financial years that the Strategy covers could have an impact in delivering on key aims.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 An equality impact assessment (EIA) has been completed.

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

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Fulfilling Potential: Making it Happen (Office for Disability Issues DWP July 2013)	Runcorn Town Hall (Second Floor)	Liz Gladwyn
UK Vision Strategy 2013-2018: Setting the direction for eye health and sight loss services	Runcorn Town Hall (Second Floor)	Liz Gladwyn