

**REPORT TO:** Health Policy and Performance Board

**DATE:** 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Dr Ifeoma Onyia, Director of Public Health,  
HBC

**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Wellbeing

**SUBJECT:** Scrutiny Review Topic Brief 2023/24

**WARD(S)** Borough Wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To present the topic brief for Health Policy and Performance Board (HPPB) 2023/24 scrutiny review.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That**

- 1) the report be noted; and
- 2) the Board approves the topic brief.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Annually, as part of the HPPB remit, there is a duty on Members to scrutinise a specific area of focus within health and social care and make recommendations to Executive Board.

3.2 At the February 2023 HPPB meeting, and as part of Member involvement in the business planning process, Public Health was discussed as an area for consideration for the next scrutiny review. It was agreed that 'Health inequalities across Halton and approaches to reducing them' would be the focus of the 2023/24 scrutiny review.

3.3 The proposed scrutiny topic brief is:  
*Health Policy and performance Board will look at **health inequalities** across Halton and **approaches to reduce them**. The scrutiny review will consider:*

- *The current epidemiological distribution of health inequalities*
- *Recent trends*
- *The impact of external forces such as the cost of living crisis and COVID-19*
- *Approaches that are being used to address health inequalities through contracts, partnership working and direct provision of services.*

\*Whilst health inequalities may span the life course, this scrutiny topic review will be concerned with health inequalities from an ADULTS perspective.

- 3.4 The topic brief in full, including rationale for choosing the brief and the scope of the brief, can be found as an appendix to this report.
- 3.5 Members of the scrutiny topic group will be nominated by the Chair of the HPPB at the June HPPB meeting, with the first meeting of the group taking place in July 2023.
- 3.6 Prior to the first meeting Members will be issued with a background paper to provide wider context to the topic area.
- 3.7 Meetings will take place monthly and provide opportunity for Members to be presented with information relating to the areas covered in the topic brief and scrutinise service delivery, emerging issues and opportunities in order to develop a set of recommendations for presentation at the February 2023 HPPB meeting. These recommendations, once approved by HPPB, will be presented to Executive Board.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 Any policy implications arising from the recommendations of the Scrutiny Topic Group will be presented to HPPB and Executive Board and considered in line with existing process.

#### 5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Any financial implications arising from the recommendations of the Scrutiny Topic Group will be presented to HPPB and Executive Board and considered in line with existing process

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

##### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None

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

None at this time

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Understanding health inequalities, and approaches to reduce them, may lead to recommendations impacting on local health and social care policy, service development and service delivery. There are wider determinants of health inequalities that sit outside of health and social care, and recommendations made as part of the scrutiny review process may incorporate these.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**  
None at this time

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**  
None at this time

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 None identified at this time

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 None identified at this time.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 None identified at this time

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

Health Policy and Performance Board Report 'Draft Scrutiny Review Report – Adult Social Care Workforce Needs' February 2023, in which reference to the proposed 2023/24 Public Health scrutiny topic brief was made.

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