

**Subject: Health Commission and Future Role of Health**

Report by:	Mark Sturgess – Executive Director of Operations
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Purpose / Summary:	Establishment of a West Lindsey Strategic Health Partnership

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. Members support the work currently being undertaken across the Authority with regard to health and agree that a formal Strategic Health Partnership is not required at this time.
2. Members agree to receive an update report on progress of health related work in one years time.
3. Members agree to the formation of specific health related task and finish groups as and when these are appropriate, and subject to the appropriate governance being in place.
4. Consideration be given by the administration at the time to nominate a Member representative at Full Council to sit on the West Lindsey Dementia Action Alliance.

## IMPLICATIONS

**Legal:**

**None arising**

**Financial : FIN/183/19**

**The Health Commission and associated staffing was for a fixed term of two years. There is no ongoing budget assigned to this work in respect of expenditure or staffing.**

**Staffing :**

**The role of Health Co-ordinator ended in December 2018 and there is currently no dedicated health resource within the Council.**

**Any resulting work will need to be picked up by existing staff resources, this needs to be balanced with existing workloads and priorities**

**Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :**

**None Arising**

**Risk Assessment :**

**None arising**

**Climate Related Risks and Opportunities :**

**None arising**

**Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**Call in and Urgency:**

**Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?**

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

**Yes**

**No**

**Key Decision:**

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

**Yes**

**No**

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 In 2016 the Health Commission was formed for a period of two years to address concerns raised by Members around the health and wellbeing of residents and health care provision. The work of the Health Commission ended in December 2018.
- 1.2 In July 2018 Prosperous Communities considered a report on the work of the Health Commission and progress to date. It was resolved that a report be brought to Committee to recommend the establishment of a Strategic Health Partnership to replace the Health Commission at the end of its remit. It was further recommended that the Strategic Health Partnership for West Lindsey be aligned to the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 1.3 Since July Members and Officers have been working together to identify the need and future role for a strategic health partnership. As the Health Commission has been successful in raising the profile of health across the Authority there is now a significant amount of work currently being undertaken that impacts on the health of our residents. Therefore it has been difficult to identify a strategic role for a formal partnership going forward and an associated workplan.
- 1.4 As a result of this the Health Commission and associated staffing resource came to an end in December 2018.
- 1.5 Over the last twelve months it has become increasingly apparent that Central Government are encouraging district councils to fully embrace their role within improving the health and wellbeing of their residents. The Council have engaged with these discussions through the District Council Network and the Local Government Association.

## **2. Health Related Work**

- 2.1 Although it has no statutory role with regards to health, the Council has embraced the importance of the health and wellbeing agenda and how both its Corporate priorities and ongoing work have the opportunity to positively impact on the health and wellbeing of residents.
- 2.2 The matrix at Appendix One is a summary of the Council's current engagement in health related work streams and how this work aligns to the six strands of the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
- 2.3 There continues to be a clear lobbying role for both Members and Officers with regard to improving ongoing health provision for our residents. Members and Officers have been actively engaged at a national level providing a rural viewpoint on policy issues affecting health and wellbeing, and will continue to be part of the Rural Services Network and the Rural Social Care and Health Group, helping to inform social care, rural health, rural vulnerability as well as wider community matters.

- 2.4 The Council is in the process of forming a Housing Programme Board, which will be responsible for delivery of the Housing Strategy, of which health is a key strand. The Board will have a terms of reference and appropriate governance arrangements to monitor progress.

The vision for housing in West Lindsey is for a district where 'Everyone has access to good quality housing which meets their housing need and aspiration, in a pleasing environment which enables a healthy lifestyle.'

Delivery of the housing strategy will involve a raft of projects, interventions and business as usual tasks, which will be delivered both by the council and through collaborative work with public, private and voluntary sector partners.

The strategy acknowledges that the right home environment is essential to health and wellbeing of current and future residents throughout their lives by;

- Ensuring the appropriate use of planning and housing policies to address current and future housing and support needs
- preventing homelessness at strategic and local level through the delivery of the Lincolnshire Homelessness Strategy
- raising housing standards, addressing energy efficiency and reducing fuel poverty

- 2.5 The Health Commission were instrumental in the development of the successful Wellbeing Consortia bid which has delivered £16.5 million of funding into Lincolnshire over a five year period to support adults likely to lose their independence. The Wellbeing Lincs service was successfully launched in the Summer and will reduce the pressure on health care, housing and other areas.

- 2.6 The Health Commission were previously responsible for the establishment of round table events which have been held every six months. These events have highlighted the work of local health services, and partners have provided feedback on how valuable these round table events are in joining up organisations with similar work streams, thus avoiding duplication of effort. These events have been well attended with representatives attending from the each of the Health Trusts, the Vice-Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board, CCGs, Healthwatch and Neighbourhood Teams as well as individual organisations such as the Disability Network. These events can continue to be supported through existing resources in the short term, although the effectiveness and outcomes from these events will need to be analysed on an ongoing basis to ensure they remain effective.

- 2.7 A number of pilot projects have been implemented in West Lindsey independently of the Council. These include a social prescribing initiative which encourages GPs to prescribe non-medical interventions, Project Gainsborough which seeks to use evidence and key data to target resources where they are most needed and the

WellFamily project which aims to support families experiencing difficulties in Gainsborough by addressing their practical and emotional needs.

- 2.8 There is both Officer and Member representation on the Housing, Health and Care Delivery Group, a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board. As this is a significant opportunity for the Council to influence improved outcomes for residents and allow a two way flow of information, the active membership of this group remains a priority and will need to continue.
- 2.9 The West Lindsey Dementia Action Alliance provides a collaborative approach to improving conditions of those living with Dementia in the community. The Council currently has Member representation on this partnership which is currently working towards achieving Dementia Friendly status for West Lindsey. Although this is currently working well it is recommended that Member representation is formalised at Full Council.
- 2.10 Officers and the Chair of Prosperous Communities currently attend the District meeting held in advance of the Health and Wellbeing Board meetings. This is the Council's opportunity to consider the reports going before the Board and to contribute to a consolidated response from the seven Districts
- 2.11 Health and wellbeing is a key focus within the Council's leisure contract, with a healthy lifestyle being very closely linked to physical activity. The outcomes of the contract provide a range of health benefits across the District as a whole and, in addition to the improvements at West Lindsey Leisure Centre, plans are being drawn up to deliver a new leisure centre in Market Rasen and the outreach service has been launched.
- 2.12 Officers are working closely with both Public Health and Active Lincolnshire with the aim of developing a blueprint for increasing physical activity across Lincolnshire. The blueprint is scheduled for publication in March 2019.
- 2.13 The Council has a seat on the Greater Lincolnshire One Public Estate Board which looks to maximise the use of publically owned assets. Through this work there are clear links to NHS colleagues and the business cases that are currently being developed to support the Strategic Transformation Plans.
- 2.14 The Council has Member representation on the County Council Health Scrutiny Committee. This body is responsible for reviewing and scrutinising NHS funded health care and the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board, particularly in regard to the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment. This is a statutory function

of the County Council and a West Lindsey representative is nominated at Full Council.

### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 It is very clear from the achievements and the current work being undertaken that the Health Commission have been very successful in raising the profile of health related work in the Council. Although health is not a statutory function of the Council, through our work there are significant opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents.
- 3.2 Due to health now being an intrinsic part of the work carried out across the organisation, it has not been possible to identify a clear role for a formal Strategic Health Partnership at this time. As a result of ongoing financial pressures, it is vital that the Council uses it's time and resources effectively and where they have the maximum impact.
- 3.3 The Council acknowledges that it clearly has a role to continue to lobby for improved healthcare provision within the District and this will continue both from an Officer and Member perspective.
- 3.4 Whilst a role for a formal health partnership has not been identified at this time, as new work streams emerge there will be a need for Officers and Members to work together on specific topics. These could be dealt with by forming task and finish groups with the appropriate Officer and Member representation for that particular subject.
- 3.4 In order to ensure that the excellent work being undertaken with regard to health continues it is proposed that a report, which assesses the ongoing impact and identifies any gaps, is produced on an annual basis and this be reported to Prosperous Communities.

### **4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 It is therefore RECOMMENDED that:
  - a) Members support the work currently being undertaken across the Authority with regard to health and agree that a formal Strategic Health Partnership is not required at this time.
  - b) Members agree to receive an update report on progress of health related work in one years time.
  - c) Members agree to the formation of specific health related task and finish groups as and when these are appropriate, and subject to the appropriate governance being in place.
  - d) Consideration be given by the administration at the time to nominate a Member representative at Full Council to sit on the West Lindsey Dementia Action Alliance.

