



**Prosperous Communities
Committee**

Tuesday 14th July 2020

Subject: Progress of health related work

Report by:

Chief Executive

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To provide an update on progress of health related work within the authority

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Members;

- a) Approve the ongoing work relating to health and wellbeing and the forward plan
- b) Request a further update report be brought to Prosperous Communities Committee in one year's time

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None arising

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report **MUST** be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/41/21/A/SL

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

(N.B.) All committee reports **MUST** have a Fin Ref

Staffing :

Role of Health Coordinator ended in December 2018 resulting in no dedicated health resource within the council. Any resulting work would need to be picked up by existing staff resource – to be balanced with existing workloads and priorities.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None arising

Data Protection Implications : None arising

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: none arising

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: none arising

Health Implications: reducing health inequalities and promoting wellbeing across the district through the promotion of healthy lifestyles is a priority within the West Lindsey Corporate Plan 2019-2023

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

<http://democracy.sharedlincs.net/documents/s11831/Health%20Commission%20Report%20-%20Prosperous%20Communities%20Jan%202019.pdf>

Risk Assessment : none arising

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

x

Key Decision:

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

Yes

No

x

1 Introduction

- 1.1 A report brought before this committee 29 January 2019 acknowledged that the Council had embraced the importance of health and wellbeing and that it had been incorporated into many strands of work.

It was resolved that Members would receive an annual update on the progress of health related work. Since then the Corporate Plan 2019 - 2023 has been adopted and the focus of health related work has been aligned to the priorities within the plan specifically through the 'Our People' theme with the aim of;

- reducing health inequalities and promoting wellbeing across the district through the promotion of healthy lifestyles
- Creating strong and self-reliant communities promoting positive life choices for disadvantaged residents.

- 1.2 District councils are not formally responsible for public health but as providers of key services which impact on the wider or social determinants of health, such as planning, leisure, housing and environmental health, our role in supporting the health and wellbeing of residents is an important one. It is not restricted to 'Our People' but also has a role within 'Our Place' where key outputs all contribute either directly or indirectly by;

- Improving housing standards across the district
- Improving quality and choice across the local housing market
- Residents feeling safer in the district
- Increased quality of life for residents

- 1.3 Reporting against Corporate Plan performance measures will be presented to this committee later in the year. This report however provides a narrative updating Members on the role and progress the authority has made in relation to improving the health and wellbeing of our residents aligned to our Corporate Plan themes.

2 Progress of work relating to Health and Wellbeing

- 2.1 The importance of the health and wellbeing agenda has been embraced by the authority with its ongoing work through partnerships, leadership, collaboration and enabling, as well as it being embedded in 'business as usual'.

- 2.2 The council acknowledges through its housing strategy that access to good quality housing is critical to good physical and mental health and is the foundation upon which we can build happy and successful lives. It is core to our lives and a place where we spend a large amount of our time. Warm, safe and secure homes help us to lead healthy, independent lives and recover from illness. All aspects of our housing functions therefore contribute through the delivery of affordable housing, enforcement in the private rented sector, improving housing

stock, providing adaptations and preventing homelessness. Progress on each of these functions is reported regularly to members through performance and delivery reports.

- 2.3 The delivery of new housing is one of the most visible aspect of housing. With the process for delivery starting with planning it is clear that this influential tool is instrumental in the provision of healthy places. It shapes places to enable better access to health through a number of policies within the Central Lincs Local Plan (CLLP).
- 2.4 The policies aim to reduce health inequalities, promote healthy lifestyles and maximise health and wellbeing, seeking to deliver sustainable developments to meet the needs of our communities through enabling the provision of open spaces and encouraging physical activity and healthier choices through walkways and cycle lanes. In addition they aim to meet housing need and demand by increasing the housing supply across all tenures ensuring that there are enough homes of the right size and type for people at all stages of their lives.
- 2.5 Keeping people well and independent in their homes is a priority for housing. As a district with an ageing population which is growing faster than the national average, meeting the housing needs of our ageing population has been a focus for us through the delivery of affordable housing. Officers led on a countywide piece of research to assess the housing need of this demographic and have delivered a number of affordable housing schemes in partnership with registered providers to house those over 55. Schemes in Ingham, Nettleham and Gainsborough have delivered 72 affordable dwellings and work is ongoing with partners to deliver further schemes including a potential extra care scheme.
- 2.6 Schemes specifically for over 55's don't just provide safe secure housing, there are the added benefits of downsizing to age appropriate housing. Long standing family homes which may be too big and expensive to heat and maintain may be a cause of stress. This affordable housing gives residents the ability to maintain their independence whilst living in a safe secure, warm and easily maintained home with the added benefit of a sense of community to combat social isolation.
- 2.7 Work across housing, health and social care sectors in Lincolnshire has continued following the signing by members of this committee of the MOU for Improving Health and Care through the Home. Principles for joint working for better health and wellbeing outcomes to reduce health inequalities were agreed through this.
- 2.8 Officers and Members from the three sectors have worked collectively to deliver outcomes relating to the Housing and Health priority of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lincolnshire. Lincolnshire is one of only 14 out of 151 Health and Wellbeing Boards that has a strategic group which brings together the three sectors under a Housing and Health priority. Strengthened partnership working across the sectors has resulted in a more holistic countywide approach resulting in;

- Countywide success with homelessness funding through MHCLG
 - A programme of work to support joint action with the DFG process including a countywide schedule of rates and work towards a countywide policy
 - A Lincolnshire Multi-Agency Hoarding Protocol has been developed to assist agencies to identify, advise and support those who need help.
 - A draft Homes for Independence Strategy providing a high level vision for the provision of a greater range of housing options for those who need additional support and better integrated services to promote and sustain independent living
- 2.9 The draft Homes for Independence Strategy will set out the delivery plans for future collaborative work of the three sectors to meet housing and the related support needs of the residents of Lincolnshire.
- 2.10 One element of this will be to continue to work with the national 'One Public Estate' (OPE) programme which reviews public sector land-holdings to ensure that best use is made of land - in some cases releasing public estate for housing. Ongoing discussions around a project in Caistor which had received funding from this programme with the award being based on the difficulty around the site historically and the fact that it contains public sector partners, housing and public services and far better use could be made of the underutilised site.
- 2.11 Collaboration with partner authorities continues through the delivery of the Wellbeing Lincs contract. The former Health Commission was instrumental in the development of the successful Wellbeing Consortia bid which led to the Wellbeing Lincs service - a countywide provision supporting adults across Lincolnshire to achieve confident, fulfilled and independent lives. West Lindsey continues to be a key delivery partner in the service, which offers residents who are eligible, assistance with improving their financial position, mobility, healthcare, social contact, help to get back onto their feet after a setback, boosting confidence and promoting long term independence.
- 2.12 Launched on April 1st 2018 the annual report for the first year of operation is attached at appendix 1. The service continues to grow throughout its second year of delivery. The staff hosted by West Lindsey perform an essential part of the service through the role of Partnership and Network Development Officers (PANDO) focussing on developing and maintaining networks, partnerships and pathways to enable Wellbeing Lincs customers to receive the support they need. In excess of 300 organisations were referred into Wellbeing Lincs by the West Lindsey element of the service in the first year of the contract.
- 2.13 Throughout the response to Covid19 Wellbeing Lincs, working with Lincolnshire County Council, has provided a vital link between community groups, charities and parish councils with residents who need community help. In addition to this some of our own staff were

redeployed to our own 'Community Hub' which was instrumental in providing the link between many of our vulnerable residents and community groups and charities in West Lindsey.

- 2.14 Projects and services delivered by our Communities Team have a strong focus on achieving positive health related outcomes for residents and communities. Examples of such work include our Community Defibrillator Service where 18 defibrillators were installed during 2019/20 and our green space maintenance work where investment has been made in refurbishing the footpath at Ashcroft Road Park in Gainsborough. This not only improves the look of the site and it also makes it easier for people to access. This work has complemented planting and growing projects delivered by local residents and further improvements are planned for this year with new benches and bins due to be installed.
- 2.15 The health benefits of access to green space is widely documented and as a rural district there are many opportunities for our residents to take advantage of this. West Lindsey boasts many open spaces and beautiful gardens some of which take part in the open gardens weekend, normally taking place in June. Unfortunately postponed this year many are now looking forward to taking part in 2021.
- 2.16 Within the built up area of Gainsborough and particularly the South West Ward however access to green space for those who need it the most is limited. This led to it being one of the themes for mood boards identifying 'wicked issues' used as a discussion aid at an 'Alchemy Event' held in the summer of 2019. Working with partners themes for discussion included;
- mental health
 - Child poverty
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Housing
 - Employment and skills

These all link to a set of underlying issues in parts of Gainsborough with the majority being linked to inequalities brought about by poverty and deprivation and in turn significant health inequalities. The Gainsborough Alchemy event brought together a large number of stakeholders to examine local needs and to formulate potential solutions. Leading on from this a successful bid was made to the Local Access Programme which is part of a journey towards seeking funding to support the development of a new social economic model and a planned approach to meeting local presenting needs and issues.

- 2.17 Discussions begun at the Gainsborough Alchemy centred on potential housing interventions. These have continued with local housing providers and national organisations and the objectives of a project to deliver a Viable Housing Solution with all the health and wellbeing

benefits that safe secure housing can provide have been agreed by this committee. Further detail will be brought before members in July.

2.18 Engagement with partners, stakeholders and communities to enhance partnerships and joint working to support and deliver health and wellbeing improvements, to both residents and visitors to the district, is one of the objectives of the biannual roundtable events – established by the former health commission. These events continue and are well supported. They provide an excellent opportunity for partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors to highlight the work of local services, network and share information and good practice. Speakers from a number of organisations have shared their work and feedback from attendees tell us that these forums provide a valuable opportunity for frontline staff from many organisations to increase their knowledge of services. Topics and speakers at recent events include;

- One You Lincolnshire
- Wellbeing Lincs
- Acis
- Gainsborough Integrated Neighbourhood Team
- Well family Project
- West Lindsey wellbeing initiatives including DFG, Trinity Arts Centre
- West Lindsey Housing Strategy and affordable housing delivery
- Cancer care
- NHS Lincolnshire
- Age UK
- Vulnerable Adults Panel
- Social prescribing
- Everyone Active Outreach Programme

2.19 The Everyone Active Outreach Programme and Active Communities Manager works with communities within the wider district to facilitate physical activity in remote or isolated areas. It is an element of the council's leisure contract with Sport and Leisure Management LTD (SLM). The role includes applying for funding for equipment and/or coaching staff to ensure the activity is sustainable long term before moving on to work with other communities. Schemes have been launched in both Sudbrooke and Scothern. Activities undertaken have included walking exercise, seated aerobic classes and Boccia. These classes are now an established part of the Active Seniors programme and it is hoped that the village committees will continue to work alongside Everyone Active to apply for funding for equipment to widen out the scheme.

2.20 The new contract with SLM commenced in June 2018 and has seen the completion of the refurbishment of the leisure centre in Gainsborough resulting in a state of the art fitness suite. The council's new leisure centre in Market Rasen is in the final stages and SLM are due to take over the facility in July.

- 2.21 The facility in Gainsborough has a separate seniors room to assist the over 60's and those referred by GP's to improve their health, fitness and wellbeing. The GP Referral scheme, a partnership between West Lindsey Leisure Centre and John Coupland hospital continues to grow with cardiac rehabilitation classes being well attended. These classes are vital in getting residents with heart conditions back into exercise and providing a sustainable plan for them to continue to be active. An Active Seniors programme was introduced with a hub created in a previously unused area of the centre and now provides on activities such as Short Mat Bowls, Table Tennis, Walking Netball and use of the Easyline equipment as well as a social space.
- 2.15 Officers worked closely with both Public Health and Active Lincolnshire with the aim of developing a blueprint for increasing physical activity across Lincolnshire which was launched in May 2019. It describes a 'whole system approach' to increasing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to be more physically active every day. Due to lack of staff resource West Lindsey has been unable to progress work around developing a physical activity delivery plan to support this work. An organisational review by Active Lincolnshire in September last year also reduced capacity to progress the work across the county however a new Chief Executive is now in post and we are currently liaising with them to look at opportunities to tackle inequalities around access to physical activity for harder to reach groups and communities.
- 2.16 As a district council we are responsible for many aspects of environmental health with waste and recycling collections and street cleansing being amongst some of the councils most visible functions - evidenced clearly throughout the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. These operational services will soon move to a brand new operational depot, the health and wellbeing of our staff has been at the forefront of the design process. Continuing to provide these services throughout the current crisis and in years to come contributes to the health and wellbeing of all our residents.
- 2.17 The value of arts and culture in relation to improved health and wellbeing is widely evidenced with interventions having a positive impact on specific health conditions such as dementia, Parkinson's and depression. In addition to the regular publicised programme of events the Trinity Arts Centre hosts a number of activities which unfortunately are on hold due to Covid 19 but will recommence when the theatre reopens;
- Disability drama group
 - Dance classes for young people
 - Mental health drama group
 - Daytime activities and performances/films for elderly
 - StoryDen sessions for early years children during holidays

- 2.18 In addition to the above plans for future activities including youth and community theatre sessions and creative workshops across all arts subjects.
- 2.19 The Wolds Walking Festival is a long-standing popular event, which takes place over two weeks in May each year. Unfortunately it will not return next year but in its place, a bigger and better 'Outdoors Festival' which will incorporate all the outdoor activities that can be found in the Wolds area is currently in the development stages and will be launched in 2021.
- 2.20 West Lindsey Churches Festival takes place over two weekends in May each year and attracts a significant number of visitors from across Lincolnshire and neighbouring counties. Sadly, the festival was cancelled this year due to COVID-19; however, work now continues to work towards next year when it celebrates its 25th anniversary. Churches offer a quiet place for reflection and a chance to explore the history of the area and provides an opportunity to meet new people and come together as a community.
- 2.22 2020 is the 400th anniversary of the sailing of the Mayflower. Sadly many events have been cancelled or postponed; however, a lot of work has gone in to making events and activities available online, allowing people to still be involved. Events will now move in to next year will enable people to get involved with local events and activities which are already proven to improve community relationships as well as individuals' health and wellbeing. Many of these events are inclusive of schools and communities in hard to reach areas.
- 2.23 The council continues to support staff wellbeing which is essential to the delivery of all services. This is through the use of occupational health, an employee assistance programme, wellbeing events and accessible resources for staff. Mental health first aiders are trained within the council and training for managers has been rolled out regarding mental health and our responsibilities. Absence is reported to management team and JSCC and we continue to see absence within our range of 7 days per FTE. We also consider absence by type and long term and short term to understand where and how we can support and facilitate staff returning to work.

3 Summary

- 3.1 It is clear that whilst the statutory responsibility for public health is the responsibility of the county council the role we play as a district not only in delivering our services but also in enabling and collaborating to explore opportunities and solutions to meet our strategic aims cannot be underestimated in delivering a whole system, joined up approach to health and wellbeing. Our influence over the wider determinants of health and the delivery of preventative services assist in keeping people well and ease demand on other services.
As a housing authority we provide crucial services that increase levels of wellbeing, safety and independence in the home.

We are embedded in our local communities and have an understanding of their needs.

By nature we are collaborative and are well placed to facilitate joined up working and create links between health, social care, local businesses, leisure and the voluntary and community sectors.

Through all of the above we work proactively to maximise the positive impact we can have on the health and wellbeing of our residents.

4 Forward Plan

| Service area/event | Timeframe |
|--|---|
| Next steps Local Access | July/August 2020 |
| Health Roundtable | Autumn 2020 January 2021 July 2021 |
| Adoption of Lincolnshire Independent Living Strategy | Autumn 2020 |
| Arts and Culture Trinity Arts Centre programme Trinity Arts Centre community and group activities West Lindsey Open Gardens Mayflower 400 events West Lindsey Churches Festival Wolds Outdoor Festival | Post Covid19 Post Covid19 June 2021 2021 May 2021 May 2021 |
| Opening of new Depot | Summer 2021 |

5 Recommendations

That Members

- a) Approve the ongoing work relating to health and wellbeing and the forward plan
- b) Request a further update report be brought to Prosperous Communities Committee in one year's time