

Equality Impact Assessment



Name of project/proposal

Public Health Strategy

Contact name

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Department

Corporate Services

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Purpose for project/proposal

A Public Health Strategy has been developed for Hampshire County Council to support the council in delivering its responsibilities to improve and protect the health of the population. These responsibilities were conferred under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 and the Council took on the local leadership for public health from the NHS in April 2013. Local Authority public health responsibilities are wide reaching. They include some mandatory functions: appropriate access to sexual health services; steps to protect the health of the population, in particular, giving the local authority a duty to ensure there are plans in place to protect the health of the population; ensuring NHS commissioners receive the public health advice they need; ensuring delivery of the National Child Measurement Programme; the NHS Health Check; the five universal health reviews carried out under the universal element of the 0-5 Healthy Child Programme (for 18 months from October 2015) and Oral health surveys. There is a wide range of other responsibilities that are important in delivering improvements in health and wellbeing, including those that support the delivery of mandated functions. These include drug and alcohol misuse services, tobacco control, including smoking cessation services and prevention, public health services for children aged 5-19, interventions to tackle obesity, increasing physical activity, public mental health, workplace health, public health aspects of community safety, violence prevention and tackling social exclusion.

Consultation

Has a consultation been carried out?

No

Formal consultation has not been carried out but the strategy has been informed by the Hampshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and brings together work carried out by the Hampshire Public Health team with other Directorates and partners over the last two years. The JSNA includes the data that identifies the groups that will be impacted by the strategy. Further information about the needs of equality groups is obtained from evidence of what works, national guidelines and best practice guidance and through feedback from service users and staff. This will ensure that the specific impacts of individual services and interventions are understood and steps can be taken to maximise positive impacts and mitigate any negative impacts if they are identified. All these sources of information are used in the development of public health plans, services and initiatives. As services and initiatives are developed to deliver the strategy further work will be undertaken to identify the needs of relevant groups, including insight work.

Statutory considerations

Impact

Age	Medium
Disability	Medium
Sexual orientation	Medium
Race	Medium
Religion and belief	Low
Gender reassignment	Low
Sex	Medium
Marriage and civil partnership	Low
Pregnancy and maternity	Medium

Other policy considerations

Poverty	Medium
Rurality	Medium
Other factors	None
If other please describe	

Geographical impact

All Hampshire

Have you identified any medium or high impact?*

Yes

No

Equality statement

The proposal is to obtain endorsement for the first Public Health Strategy for Hampshire County Council. Good health and wellbeing is a positive asset and something we all aspire to for ourselves, families, carers, friends and

communities. It is essential for thriving, prosperous, resilient and safe communities and vital for the success of future generations. Hampshire is a healthy place to live and people generally have good life expectancy, educational achievement, housing and living environments and employment. Fewer children live in poverty, infant mortality is low and fewer people die from avoidable health conditions. However, we know that we can do better for the people who live in Hampshire – the gap between how long people live and how long they live in good health is widening, there is significant variation in health outcomes between the most and least deprived communities and too many of our most vulnerable citizens have poor health outcomes.

A wide and complex range of factors influence and determine population and individual health and a strategy is needed to set out how the Council, working with its partners, can try to address these in order to improve and protect the health of the population. The strategy identifies a set of priorities for improving the health of Hampshire residents. It sets out proposals for how the County Council can use the breadth of its business and resources to deliver its public health responsibilities and maximise public value, by reducing duplication, identifying synergies in the work we are doing and addressing many of the influences on health through a place-based approach.

Public health policies, actions and interventions are aimed at improving the health of the population and reducing health inequalities. The strategy takes a lifecourse approach and adopts the principle of proportionate universalism, ensuring that while actions are universal there is a scale and intensity proportionate to the level of disadvantage, including a focus on those population groups with the greatest need and the poorest health. Therefore, the strategy specifically sets out to have a positive impact on those population groups where this assessment has identified a medium impact and to improve outcomes for the most vulnerable citizens and communities in Hampshire. The final impact of the strategy will be dependent on the success of implementation and there could be a bigger and more positive impact on certain groups. A detailed action plan will be drawn up to implement the strategy and Equality Impact Assessments will be undertaken for the individual programmes of work as these are progressed.

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The strategy has five priority areas. Overall the strategy aims to have a positive impact on those in the protected groups and on poverty and to take account of both rurality and urban environments and more generally the impact of place when planning services and initiatives. However, within the five priority areas some more specific impacts for people with protected characteristics have been identified and these are set out below.

Priority area 1. Healthy: making healthy lifestyles the norm for everybody across the lifecourse. This includes reducing the inequalities in sexual health for vulnerable groups with the focusing of dedicated resources on engaging with population groups at most risk of poor sexual health, including young people aged 15-24, men who have sex with men and people of black or mixed ethnicity and working to reduce the gap in life expectancy and healthy life expectancy between the populations in the most and least deprived areas in Hampshire - this will have a positive impact on age, disability, race and will also impact on poverty and people living in both rural and urban areas of deprivation.

Priority area 2. Happy: good emotional wellbeing and mental health for all. This promotes parity of esteem and includes implementing the emotional wellbeing and mental health strategy for children (positive impact on younger people) and improving access to support for mental wellbeing across the County (positive impact on all protected groups), although some services will focus on groups with specific needs, for example specific services or initiatives tailored for men or women and will consider the needs of people living in both urban and rural areas).

Priority area 3. Resilient: resilient and healthy children, young people and families. This includes ensuring good support for the most vulnerable families and identifying those at risk and with complex needs as early as possible (age and disability) and improving perinatal mental health (pregnancy and maternity).

Priority area 4. Thriving Communities: making local places healthy and safe places. This includes reducing social isolation (impacts particularly on age, sex, disability, pregnancy and maternity and people living in both urban and rural areas).

Priority area 5. Protect: effective health protection arrangements. This includes input to community safety and crime reduction, including domestic violence, alcohol and drugs and tobacco control. These measures are likely to impact all the protected characteristics. Ensuring that we have high quality screening and immunisation programmes and supporting initiatives to improve uptake is part of this priority and will positively impact on age, sex, pregnancy and maternity and race.

Final decision date

Final decision date due
Decision to be made by

17 Oct 2016
Executive Member