

STEVENAGE BOROUGH COUNCIL

**COMMUNITY SELECT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Date: Tuesday 25 October 2016

Place: Shimkent Room, Daneshill House, Danestrete, Stevenage

Present: Members: S Mead (Chair), M Notley (Vice-Chair), D Bainbridge, J Brown, E Connolly, E Harrington, J Mead, A Mitchell, C Saunders and G Snell.
In Attendance: Councillors: M Downing and M McKay.
Start/End Time: Start Time: 6:00 pm
End Time: 8:10 pm

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D Bainbridge, E Connolly and C Saunders.

There were no declarations of interest.

2. PUBLIC HEALTH DISCUSSION ITEM WITH THE HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

The Corporate Health and Wellbeing Manager for Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL) gave a presentation on the Stevenage Healthy Hub which opened in January 2016 and had 1,665 total visitors to date, of these 246 had been via medical referrals. The Hub was explained as a free service providing signposting and advice. It was noted that due to providing general health and wellbeing support it was considered to be more accessible and approachable for people with mental health issues.

Promotion of the Healthy Hub in the Community was assisted by third parties including: Irish Network, Job Centre, Lister Hospital Hub, Westgate, Age Concern and Crossroads.

Hub partners included: Stevenage Library, Mind in Mid Herts, Smoking Cessation and YMCA.

In addition the Healthy Hub had specialist equipment for which funds were still being raised; a Function Electrical Stimulation bike and an Anti-Gravity Treadmill for people recovering from mobility issues such as strokes and spinal injuries.

Members asked the Strategic Director – Community if they could utilise Local Community Budget (LCB) monies to support the purchase of the specialist equipment. The officer responded that it was within the LCB scheme rules to do so and Councillors were welcome to do so if they

wished.

Future plans for the Healthy Hub were to expand the range of free health and wellbeing services offered to include diabetes prevention project, improving opening hours and increasing publicity by exploring the possibility of publishing a newsletter or a page in the Stevenage Chronicle.

Members asked other detailed questions which included requesting clarification of the target audience of 40,000 people for the Healthy Hub. This was identified to be the estimated number of people who could be helped over time by expanding the services and increasing the number of its partners.

The Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) Director of Public Health stated that with regards to improving the public health of Stevenage all parties engaged in this work should be aware that it would take quite a long time to see significant improvements as many of the behaviours and lifestyle choices are ingrained and the causes are multifaceted.

The Director of Public Health discussed issues regarding the delivery of local public health focusing on primary, secondary and tertiary preventative issues. In addition some information on predicted health and wellbeing of Stevenage residents was presented to the Members.

The Director of Public Health stated that it would take all partners in the public sector to work together in order to address the huge task of improving public health outcomes for local residents. The NHS local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), GP surgeries and Acute Hospital Services alone would not be able to solve the health inequalities of Stevenage. The Director of Public Health stated that GPs need to shift their behaviour to include more preventative solutions to long term health problems like type 2 diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular heart conditions, and strokes, all of which would benefit from changes in lifestyle and increased exercise. District Councils have leisure facilities, networks and other facilities that could further be put to use to improve public health.

The Director of Public Health encouraged the Borough Council that they should lobby the East and North Herts Clinical Commissioning Group and their GP Surgeries to commission more services from the Healthy Hub, which he commended for the work they are doing.

Members requested that officers liaise with the CCG to arrange a Seminar on the changes in the NHS resulting from the Sustainability and Transformation programme.

The Strategic Director – Community welcomed the contribution from HCC on developing the Borough Council's local health and wellbeing strategy.

In response to a Members question regarding why the Heart Disease was around the national average in 2010 but is now worse than the national

average, the Director of Public Health stated that there were underlying systemic social issues that were a major factor such as a persistently high number of smokers in Stevenage. Early diagnosis of conditions, such as widespread blood pressure monitoring, coupled with a change in lifestyle, was the only way to improve these health figures.

It was **RESOLVED** that the presentations are noted and that a Public Health Summit be arranged including the officers and Members of the Borough Council, Stevenage Leisure Limited, HCC, East & North Hertfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), as well as representatives of patient forums.

3. URGENT PART I BUSINESS

None.

4. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required.

6. URGENT PART II BUSINESS

None.

CHAIR