

Scrutiny Committee



Report of Head of Community Services

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Developing a health and wellbeing strategy for Vale of White Horse

Recommendation

To note the principle of developing a health and wellbeing strategy for Vale of White Horse, that sets out the council's aspirations and ambitions for health and wellbeing in the Vale in light of creating the Community Services service and various Government strategies, and make any recommendations arising to Cabinet.

Purpose of Report

1. To facilitate discussion around the intention to develop a health and wellbeing strategy for the Vale, which sets out the council's aspirations and ambitions for health and wellbeing in light of creating the Community Services service and various Government strategies.

Background

2. Community Services is a newly created cluster of teams bringing together the functions of leisure, arts, community centres, grants and community liaison.
3. There are a range of policy documents covering these services, including:
 - leisure studies published as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan 2031 Part 2.
 - participation action plan
 - grant policies
 - public art policy

4. What links these functions are their delivery of universal services to communities at a local level and the positive impact they can have on residents' health and wellbeing.
5. The Active Communities team manages the council's leisure contract with GLL, which covers the leisure centres, but the team also run a number of successful outreach programmes, including Go Active Gold, aimed at increasing physical activity within our communities. This team directly contributes towards the delivery of health and wellbeing outcomes. However, it is not the only service within the council that does this, and there are opportunities for other teams, such as The Beacon, to consider how they contribute towards health and wellbeing outcomes.
6. The council delivers a range of services that affect health and wellbeing outcomes. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Health and Wellbeing Profiles for the Vale provide a range of evidence on the needs for health and wellbeing in the district, including tackling adult and childhood obesity, diabetes and depression.
7. A document which sets out the council's high level outcomes and aspirations for health and wellbeing in the Vale would need to be complementary and supportive of the work undertaken by the Health & Wellbeing Board and Public Health. Crucially it would provide a strategic framework for Community Services to deliver against.
8. The scope would need to be determined, but could involve services from across the council, including leisure, community safety, housing, environmental services, parks, arts, leisure, community enablement, community engagement, property and economic development, infrastructure and development. There is also significant scope for partnership working both with other public sector organisations, but also with the voluntary and community sector.
9. It would also provide the council with a strategic framework to respond to the recently published Civil Society Strategy (August 2018), Loneliness Strategy (October 2018) and Prevention is Better Than Cure strategy (November 2018), all of which impact on Community Services and health and wellbeing outcomes.

Conclusion

10. Developing a strategy for the Vale, which sets out the council's aspirations and ambitions for health and wellbeing, would create a framework for the Community Services service and facilitate responding to various Government strategies.
11. It is proposed to take the principle of developing a health & wellbeing strategy for the Vale to Cabinet in January 2019. This paper will set out the context and rationale for developing a strategy, the approach for developing and consulting on it, and the milestones to be met in order for the strategy to be drafted and formally adopted.

Background Papers

- None.