



HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 15 JUNE 2022

PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY 2022 - 2027

MINUTE EXTRACT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Public Health which advised on the development of the Public Health Strategy 2022-27 ahead of the Cabinet meeting on 24 June 2022, where approval for the Strategy would be sought. A copy of the report, marked 'Agenda Item 13', is filed with these minutes.

In introducing the report the Director explained that this was the first Public Health Strategy since the Department had transferred to the County Council from the NHS in 2013. Up until now the Health and Wellbeing Strategy had been the main Strategy document along with individual strategies for areas such as sexual health and substance misuse. The aim was to include Public Health aspirations in all of the County Council's strategies, not just those of the Public Health Department.

Arising from discussions the following points were noted:

- (i) Members welcomed the Strategy, particularly the emphasis on communities and putting residents' needs at its heart, and praised the initiatives that were proposed.
- (ii) A member noted that the Public Health Strategy 2022-27 made no reference to tackling drug problems. In response the Director explained that the Department carried out a lot of work in this area particularly in partnership with the NHS and agreed that it should be better reflected in the Strategy.
- (iii) A member suggested that current programmes being delivered in schools for tackling terrorism and knife crime could also be used for teaching about the dangers of drugs. In response the Director explained that there were strong links between the Public Health Department and colleagues working in Community Safety and one member of the Department specialised in community safety.
- (iv) The community asset based approach involved viewing people in communities as assets and taking advantage of particular skills and knowledge they may have.
- (v) Concerns were raised by members that only 30% of adult carers in Leicestershire had as much social contact as they would have liked (the national average was 35.5%) and it was questioned what impact the Covid-19 pandemic had on these figures. In response it was explained that the 30%

figure was taken as the pandemic began and therefore was likely to be much worse now, however reassurance was given that the Public Health Department was working with colleagues in Adult Social Care to tackle the problem. Community Recovery Workers were looking at the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and trying to encourage individuals to come out of their homes.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Public Health Strategy 2022-27 be supported;
- (b) That the comments now made be forwarded for consideration by Cabinet at the meeting on 24 June 2022.