



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 13 JUNE 2013

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

LONGER LIVES

Purpose of Report

1. This report is to inform the health and wellbeing board of the launch of “Longer Lives

Background

2. Appendix A to this report is the Public Health England (PHE) brochure outlining the launch of “Longer Lives”. This is the first stage of a programme of work initiated by the Secretary of State for health to reduce premature mortality (i.e. deaths before the age of 75 years). This first phase is a presentation of data for the four biggest causes of premature mortality in England: cancer; heart disease and stroke; lung disease and liver disease. The website, launched on 11th June 2013, presents comparisons by upper tier local authority with England as a whole and with a group of local authorities with similar levels of socio-economic deprivation. It also provides links to sites (e.g. NICE) that provide evidence for effective interventions to reduce premature mortality.

Proposals

3. The Director of Public Health brought a paper to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board on 4 October 2012 about cancer mortality with recommendations to reduce premature deaths. Interventions to reduce cardiovascular disease (coronary heart disease and stroke) and respiratory mortality are covered comprehensively in the Joint health and Wellbeing strategy (JHWS). Although deaths from liver disease are the lowest of these four disease areas, the number of premature deaths in Leicestershire is increasing more quickly than the national average. The JHWS does include work to reduce deaths from liver disease, particularly through reducing harmful alcohol use, it may be helpful to review whether the Health and Wellbeing Board needs to undertake more action more rapidly in this area.

Resource Implications

4. Most actions required are already covered in the JHWS

Equal Opportunities Implications

5. Reducing inequalities between local authority areas is very much at the heart of the Longer Lives project, which aims to reduce health inequalities across the country.

Partnership Working Implications

6. To reduce premature mortality will require good partnership working as illustrated in the JHWS.

Recommendations

7. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
 - (a) Note the launch of the Longer Lives project;
 - (b) Continue to support interventions to reduce premature mortality through implementation of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Background Papers

Report to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board on 4 October 2012 – Improving Cancer Mortality Rates.

Officer to contact

Dr Peter Marks, Joint Director of Public Health
Email: peter.marks@leics.gov.uk
Tel: 0116 3057913