

Portfolio Holder for Planning and Assets

Report to Health Scrutiny – 7th January 2015

Better Care Fund

A revised/updated version of the Better Care Fund (BCF) Plan for Staffordshire was signed off by Newcastle Borough Council in September 2014, alongside other borough/districts councils in Staffordshire.

The BCF aims to shift resourced away from acute care and into social care and preventative work, supporting people to live at home. Concerns expressed about the future of Disabled Facilities Grant {DFGs} by NBC and other Districts, but signed off after receiving assurances from Staffordshire County Council.

The general view is that, despite further reservations being made to the Plan, Districts Councils will not have to sign it again, but the situation is being monitored.

Districts Councils are keen to ensure that the Plan not only refers to DFGs but also the input which Councils can offer in terms of prevention.

Locality Commissioning

A review of existing commissioning work for health and well-being was carried out by a group headed up by Tony Goodwin, CEO of Tamworth BC. The review covering all District Council including Newcastle, examined how services which aid health and well-being can be commissioned in 'local' areas like our own.

Results of the review, including proposed changes to the Newcastle Partnership structures have been taken up by partners across all sectors based in Newcastle. This has led to the formation of the Partnership Delivery and Commissioning Group {NPDCG}, made up of all key partners in the Borough. Also the publication of the NPDCG Prospectus in December 2014 has brought together previously separate funding streams and focuses on the commissioning of eleven services, a number of which cover health and well-being.

Further updates will be provided in due course, as the contracts for these services are let in February 2014.

The strategy underpinning this work can be seen on the next page. Having identified the needs of the Borough, partners have developed a vision and two priorities – enhancing economic growth and tackling vulnerability – both of which cover issues relating to health and well-being. Based on these priorities and a set of linked objectives, the work contained within the Prospectus aims to improve the Borough in the areas identified as outcomes, including improved health and well being and also

areas which contribute to improved health and well-being such as prosperity and safer communities.

Newcastle Partnership – Strategic Framework

NEEDS				
Ageing Population	Worklessness	Alcohol/Drugs	Health Issues	Crime
VISION				
Newcastle Communities together, securing a prosperous future				
PRIORITIES				
Enhancing Economic Growth		Tackling Vulnerability		
KEY OBJECTIVES				
PEOPLE	PLACES		PROSPERITY	
Helping those who feel vulnerable and providing support to those who need it	Improving life in the home – tackling domestic abuse		Developing the skills local people need to access job opportunities	
Tackling fear of crime	Improving and increasing access to public spaces and our environment – town centres; parks and green spaces		Supporting people in re-entering the job market	
Preventing and addressing drug and alcohol addiction and abuse	Improving our communities – reducing anti-social behaviour		Transforming the image of the Borough	
Addressing offending and repeat offending and victimisation	Ensuring that housing meets the needs of local people		Helping to maintain and support new/existing business	
Increasing physical activity and reducing sedentary behaviour	Providing healthier solutions to our localities		Increasing access to healthy affordable food	
Improving nutrition and healthy eating	Making our places safer		Maximising opportunities through appropriate advice and guidance	
DELIVERY				
OUTCOMES				
Improved health and wellbeing	Safer communities	Reduction in the fear of crime		Improved prosperity
EVALUATION				

Members should note that the Prospectus and accompanying documents have been circulated to Group Leaders and Scrutiny Chairs, together with Members of the Cabinet. In addition, Members should note that the next version of the Prospectus will be published in around six months' time (probably after the May 2015 elections).

In terms of the areas identified in this report, Members of the Scrutiny Committee may wish to focus on a number of areas, including:

- The future direction of the BCF process – what role should districts/boroughs play?
- What should the Council be offering in relation to the wider health and well-being agenda, particularly in terms of the services it delivers?
- Has the Partnership focused on the 'right' areas in terms of needs, priorities and outcomes?

Thanks, Cllr John Williams