

<b>Mayor and Cabinet</b>			
<b>Report Title</b>	Response to Recommendations by the Healthier Communities Select Committee on the Premature Deaths Review Update		
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	<b>Item No.</b>	10
<b>Ward</b>	All		
<b>Contributors</b>	Frankie Sulke, Executive Director Children and Young People		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	<b>Date</b>	19 June 2013

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 This report provides a response, for consideration by Mayor and Cabinet, to the recommendations expressed by the Healthier Communities Select Committee, following discussions held on the Preventing Premature Mortality Review Recommendations Update at their meeting on 19 March 2013.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Mayor is recommended to agree the responses to each of the recommendations, and forward the report to the Healthier Communities Select Committee.

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 The Healthier Communities Select Committee review was scoped in June 2011 and four evidence gathering sessions were held, with the Committee agreeing the final report and recommendations in March 2012.
- 3.2 On 11 July 2012 the Mayor received a report providing officer and partner responses to the recommendation in the review. These responses outlined what work was being undertaken and planned to address the issues raised in the review. This report was further discussed at the Healthier Communities Select Committee meeting on 5 September 2012.
- 3.3 In March 2013, an update on the recommendations in the review returned to the Committee, who made two further recommendations and referred to Mayor and Cabinet on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2013. This report provides a response to each of these recommendations.

## **4. Policy context**

- 4.1 The review undertaken by the Healthier Communities Select Committee specifically related to the Sustainable Community Strategy priority 'Healthy, Active and Enjoyable – where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and wellbeing' and its underpinning principle of reducing inequality.
- 4.2 In addition, the review linked to the Council priority 'Active, healthy citizens'.

- 4.3 The recommendations made on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013 relate to children and young people, and therefore relate to The Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015 (CYPP), which outlines the vision across Lewisham's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership for improving outcomes for all children. We want all of our children and young people to 'Be Healthy' and our priorities in the plan are targeted at key actions, and those most in need to ensure that we close the gaps and make a difference.
- 4.4 The recommendations from the review made on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2013 relate specifically to the priorities BH4 Reduce childhood obesity and BH5 Reduce substance misuse, including alcohol and tobacco.

## **5. Healthier Communities Select Committee Views**

- 5.1 The Healthier Communities Select Committee made the following comments and recommendations:
- 5.1.1 All secondary schools to be encouraged to commit to on-going participation in the Tobacco Peer Education Programme (the programme focuses on the tobacco industry's marketing strategy to target young people to create the next generation of smokers).

### **Response**

The Tobacco Peer education programme has been offered to every secondary school in Lewisham through individual letters from the Executive Director of Children and Young People and the Director of Public Health and a notice in the Heads bulletin, followed up with direct calls and emails to each school.

To date, four schools have taken up the programme: Sydenham Girls, Sedgehill, Ladywell Fields Prendergast College and Addey and Stanhope. Twelve students from year eight are chosen by their peers in each school and trained to become peer influencers. In addition, Bonus Pastor ran a tobacco education programme for year eight tutor groups. The time and resource implications of the programme made it challenging for schools to release students and commit a member of staff for 3 half days and to link the programme to other areas.

The programme is currently under review for 2013/14, exploring how to provide a universal 'core' programme which reaches every student that schools can commit to, as well as a more intensive targeted programme for young people who are most at risk of taking up smoking.

- 5.1.2 School Governing Bodies redouble efforts to encourage the uptake of school meals in their schools.

### **Response**

Schools in Lewisham are able to purchase support from the LA Governors' service through service level agreements. This support includes a termly Governors' information pack that highlights key policies, research and legislation both nationally and locally that are relevant to governing bodies. It has been agreed with the service that an article promoting the benefits of school meals, including activities being promoted by the caterer to encourage take up will be included in the Autumn

2013/14 publication, the next one due to be circulated to Lewisham Governors, and that this be highlighted by clerks, where provided by Lewisham, in appropriate Governing Body meetings.

Further to the formal engagement as noted above, Lewisham Governors work with the Council in partnership with Chartwells (our schools catering contractor) proactively, to encourage the increase in uptake of school meals, through a number of interventions/initiatives.

Examples of interventions/initiatives include;

- Feedback improvements to the school menus, food quality and delivery processes to ensure that meals served have maximum appeal to all pupils.
- Engagement through school council meetings, promotional exercises such as meal making competitions 'On Your Marks' and cookery classes for pupils and teachers run after school.
- Food tasting sessions for parents and pupils throughout the year. Events are arranged for new starters and where schools have a low uptake noted by meal statistics, Pupil Support Services can be invited to promote free meals entitlement.
- Double sided menu flyers are provided to all parents in order for them to be advised of the meals to be served for the coming term. Leaflets are also produced outlining 10 great things about the school meal services.

As a result of this recommendation we will ensure all schools are further encouraged to increase take up.

## **6. Financial Implications**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

## **7. Legal Implications**

7.1 The Constitution provides for Select Committees to refer reports to the Mayor and Cabinet, who are obliged to consider the report and the proposed response from the relevant Executive Director; and report back to the Committee within two months (not including recess).

7.2 The Equality Act 2010 (the Act) introduced a new public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

7.3 The duty continues to be a “have regard duty”, and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the Mayor, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

7.4 The Equality and Human Rights Commission has recently issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>

7.5 The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has previously issued five guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty:

1. The essential guide to the public sector equality duty
2. Meeting the equality duty in policy and decision-making
3. Engagement and the equality duty
4. Equality objectives and the equality duty
5. Equality information and the equality duty

7.6 The essential guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice. Further information and resources are available at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/advice-and-guidance/public-sector-equality-duty/guidance-on-the-equality-duty/> "

Public bodies such as local authorities are legally required to consider the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty (set out in the Equality Act 2010) and document their thinking as part of any decision-making processes. The Act sets out that public bodies must have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share that characteristic; and
- foster good relationships between those who share a protected characteristic and those who do not share that characteristic.

7.7 The following equalities characteristics are ‘protected’ from unlawful discrimination in service provision under the Equality Act 2010: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief; gender; and sexual orientation.

## **8. Equalities Implications**

- 8.1 In addition to its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010, the Council has set its own equality objectives that underpin the Comprehensive Equalities Scheme (2012-2016). These five equality objectives are as follows: 1. Tackle victimisation, harassment and discrimination; 2. To improve access to services; 3. To close the gap in outcomes for citizens; 4. To increase understanding and mutual respect between communities; and 5. To increase participation and engagement.
- 8.2 The work of the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership is delivered within the context of our Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015. This plan aims to improve the lives and life chances of every Lewisham child, and inherently seeks to reduce inequalities in all that we do.

## **9. Environmental Implications**

- 9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising out of this report.

## **10. Crime and disorder implications**

- 10.1 There are no direct crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

If there are any queries on this report please contact Catherine Bunten on 0208 314 6577

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s20928/03PreventingPrematureMortalityReview190313.pdf>