

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 29 September 2015

Agenda item:

Wards: All

Subject: Proactive GP Pilot and Award

Lead officer: Dr Kay Eilbert, Director of Public Health

Lead member: Councillor Caroline Cooper Marbiah, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health

Forward Plan reference number:

Contact officer: Dr Kay Eilbert

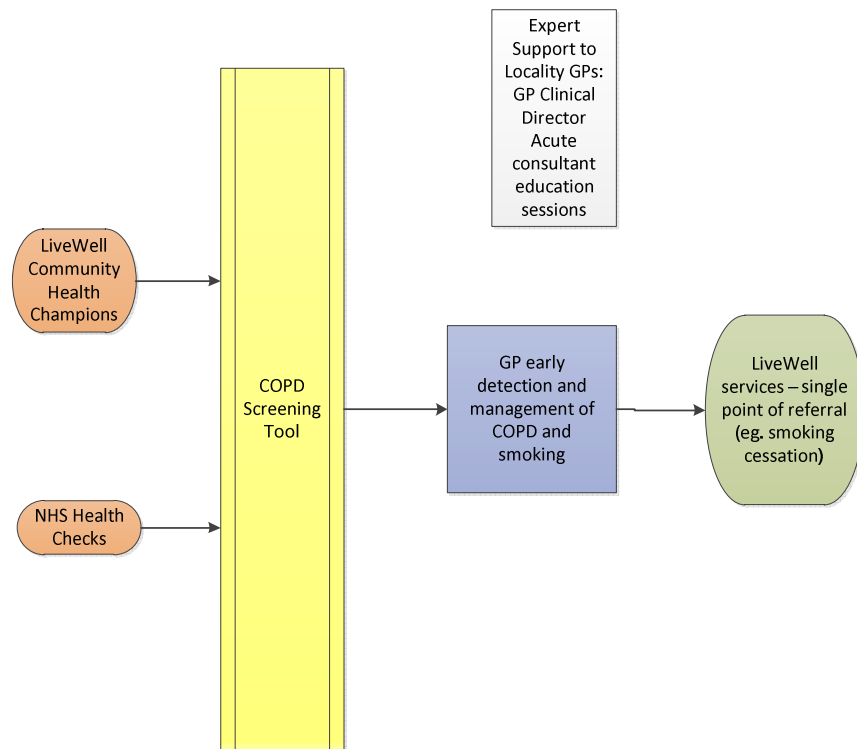
Recommendations: To agree the Proactive GP Health and Wellbeing Board Award and note and support the development of the Proactive GP Practice Merton pilot.

1. Purpose of report and executive summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief on the Proactive GP pilot and the proposal to gain agreement from the Health and Wellbeing Board to develop a HWB board sponsored award recognising achievement within the scheme.
- 1.2 Merton's Proactive GP Pilot project works within existing resources to embed prevention in GP practices and tackle health inequalities within hard to reach communities. The project links GP practices to Community Health Champions who screen group members for early diagnosis of long-term conditions in the more deprived east of Merton involving a partnership of the Council, Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, GP practices in East Merton and the voluntary sector Health Champions.

2. Background

- 2.1 The scheme brings together an integrated pathway across prevention and early detection. See Figure 1 below. It joins together primary care and Public Health through our Livewell Community Health champions who work in part to encourage their members to take up preventive screening opportunities such as NHS Health Checks. Community health champions will be trained to use a screening tool for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease or COPD and to refer patients identified at risk to their GP.



2.2 GPs then carry out a COPD assessment. At the same time or through the NHS Health Check, they will determine the smoking status of the patient and refer smokers either to a GP practice staff member trained as a smoking advisor or refer smokers into the Livewell Stop Smoking service.

3. Details

Merton Pilot

- 3.1 The pilot works within existing resources through a partnership to engage with Health Champions in east Merton, where residents suffer higher levels of long-term conditions initially targeting smoking and COPD. Partners include:
- Merton Voluntary Services Council – working with community groups to identify and support community health champions
 - Merton Clinical Commissioning Group – providing expertise and support to GP practices through its GP Clinical Director for Keeping Healthy and Well
 - LBM Public Health providing a literature review of best practice, support to design of the initiative and monitoring data.
- 3.2 Health Champions are trained, volunteer members of community groups who encourage their members to take up healthier lifestyles and preventive screening opportunities such as NHS Health Checks.

As part of the pilot community Health Champions are trained to use a screening tool for COPD and to refer patients identified at risk to their GP who will carry out a COPD assessment. GP practices refer known smokers to an embedded smoking cessation service provided on site.

- 3.3 Participating GP practices share results and experience among themselves to improve early detection and management of COPD. A kite mark scheme is under development.

Health and Wellbeing Board award

- 3.4 It is proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board agree a HWB board-sponsored award that recognises achievement within the Proactive GP scheme for both GPs and Community Health Champions. If agreed, Public health will work with partners and LBM communication team to develop the award and public celebration of the winners.

4. Next steps

Should the pilot be successful, a second phase is currently being designed to work on other prevention (e.g., diet and exercise) and early detection (e.g., diabetes) initiatives, as well as to be expanded across the whole borough.

5. Alternative options

None for the purpose of this report

6. Consultation undertaken or proposed

Local consultation has included a discussion with relevant GP Clinical Directors, GP lead for East Merton, and GP Board Member with Public Health, where participants agreed to develop the pilot further, starting with smoking and COPD, along with NHS Health Checks, which include smoking status. An initial presentation was made at the October meeting of the East Merton locality.

7. Timetable

An initial launch of the Proactive GP Practice pilot was held in September.

8. Financial, resource and property implications

None for the purpose of this report.

9. Legal and statutory implications

None for the purpose of this report

10. Human rights, equalities and community cohesion implications

The Proactive GP Practice pilot is targeted at addressing health inequalities.

11. Crime and Disorder implications

None for the purpose of this report

12. Risk management and health and safety implications

None for the purpose of this report

Appendices – the following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report

None

Background papers

This page is intentionally left blank