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Merton Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 26 January 2021

Time: 6.15 pm

Venue: This will be a virtual meeting and therefore not held in a physical location, in accordance with s78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Declarations of pecuniary interest
- 3 Minutes of the previous meeting 1 - 4
- 4 Covid-19 in Merton (slide presentation)
 - *Situational Awareness Report*
 - *Testing programme*
 - *Current lockdown restrictions*
- 5 NHS update on Covid-19 (verbal presentation)
- 6 HWBB Community Subgroup report - Engagement Work Programme (slide presentation)
- 7 Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan 5 - 10

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Note on declarations of interest

Members are advised to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting. If a pecuniary interest is declared they should withdraw from the meeting room during the whole of the consideration of that matter and must not participate in any vote on that matter. For further advice please speak with the Managing Director, South London Legal Partnership.

Health and Wellbeing Board Membership

Merton Councillors

- Rebecca Lanning (Chair)
- Oonagh Moulton
- Eleanor Stringer

Council Officers (non-voting)

- Director of Community and Housing
- Director of Children, Schools and Families
- Director of Environment and Regeneration
- Director of Public Health

Statutory representatives

- Four representatives of Merton Clinical Commissioning Group
- Chair of Healthwatch

Non statutory representatives

- One representative of Merton Voluntary Services Council
- One representative of the Community Engagement Network

Quorum

Any 3 of the whole number.

Voting

3 (1 vote per councillor)

4 Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (1 vote per CCG member)

1 vote Chair of Healthwatch

1 vote Merton Voluntary Services Council

1 vote Community Engagement Network

Agenda Item 3

All minutes are draft until agreed at the next meeting of the committee/panel. To find out the date of the next meeting please check the calendar of events at your local library or online at www.merton.gov.uk/committee.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

24 NOVEMBER 2020

(6.25 pm - 8.09 pm)

PRESENT: Councillor Rebecca Lanning (Chair);
Councillor Eleanor Stringer;
Councillor Oonagh Moulton;
Rob Clarke (Chief Executive Age UK Merton);
Mark Creelman (CCG Locality Executive Director Merton and Wandsworth);
Brian Dillon (Chair of Healthwatch Merton Independent Board);
Hannah Doody (Director of Community and Housing);
Dr Vasa Gnanapragam (Chair of Merton CCG);
Chris Lee (Director Environment and Regeneration);
Dr Mohan Sekeram (Merton CCG East Merton Locality Lead);
Simon Shimmens (Chief Executive Merton Voluntary Service Council);
Rachael Wardell (Director of Children, Schools and Families);
Dr Karen Worthington (Vice Chair of Merton CCG); and
Dr Dagmar Zeuner (Director of Public Health)

IN ATTENDANCE: Heather Begg (Commissioning Officer for Adult Social Care);
Sally Burns (Carer); Dave Curtis (Healthwatch Merton Manager);
Louise Fleming (Democracy Services) Sarah Keen (NHS South/West London);
Clarissa Larsen (Health and Wellbeing Board Partnership Manager);
Jacob Lawrence (NGDP Graduate); John Morgan (Assistant Director of Adult Social Care);
Farzana Mughal (Democracy Services) and Jenny Qusted (Project Officer)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda Item 1)

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. All the attendees present at the meeting introduced themselves to the Board.

An apology for absence was received from Dr Aditi Shah (CCG West Merton Locality Lead).

2 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST (Agenda Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Agenda Item 3)

RESOLVED: That the minutes held on 29th September, 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

4 COVID-19 UPDATE (Agenda Item 4)

The Director of Public Health provided an update on COVID-19 in line with the Situational Awareness Report which members received weekly. Members were reminded that the Health and Wellbeing Board had an important part in the governance of outbreak control.

The Director of Public Health set out the three major developments to help contain COVID-19: contact tracing, which had begun in Merton and would be very important in the future; testing, the data showed higher daily testing rates and anybody that experienced symptoms was encouraged to get tested; and, vaccination, where there were still practicalities to be worked through but was nevertheless very positive news.

The Director of Public Health referred to the COVID Winter Plan which had been published the day before, outlining the new tiered approach to follow lockdown from 2nd December.

Arising from the discussion, the following points were highlighted:

- People should be encouraged at every opportunity to have a flu vaccination, especially to allow the necessary gap between this and any COVID-19 vaccination.
- Additional staff were being trained to administer vaccinations, once rolled out, to reduce pressure on the NHS.
- There had been a continued rise in numbers of infections in schools and it was recognised how challenging this had been. Schools had been very effective in carrying out risk assessments and had adopted a range of measures to keep pupils safe. It was, however, pointed out, that some schools would still have had limited experience and may need access to support from LCRC.
- Mental Health referrals from primary care and acute settings were higher compared to last year.

The Chair concluded by thanking the Director of Public Health for her report which Members' found very helpful.

5 MERTON CARERS' STRATEGY 2021 - 2026 (Agenda Item 5)

Approval was sought for the Merton Carers' Strategy 2021 – 2026 and for the Health and Wellbeing Board partners to contribute to the delivery of the priority outcomes and Implementation Plan.

John Morgan (Assistant Director, Adult Social Care), Heather Begg (Business Process Lead, Adult Social Care), Sally Burns (Carer and contributor to the Carers' Strategy), Jacob Lawrence (NGDP Graduate) and Jenny Quedsted (Project Officer) presented the Strategy. Members were advised that the Carer Strategy Multi-Agency

Implementation Board would be established to oversee the Carers' Strategy together with task groups as required.

During the discussion the following points were highlighted:

- The Assistant Director of Adult Social Care extended his gratitude to carers for their hard work and support, especially so during the pandemic.
- In Merton, there were estimated to be between 16,000 to 20,000 carers.
- The recent Carers UK National report had reflected the physical and mental impact which the pandemic had had on carers, who reported feeling overwhelmed at times.
- The Strategy had been developed by carers, together with the Council, CCG, Mental Health Trust and voluntary sector.
- It was vital that the voice of carers' was heard and they would play an important role in the Carer Strategy Multi-Agency Implementation Board.
- Development of the Strategy had involved a three-phased approach: an on-line and postal survey of carers; focus groups to draw out further insights; and, engaging with staff and practitioners.
- Members noted the Implementation Plan outlining eleven key priority outcomes for the first year, including promoting digital equality for carers and carer friendly work environments.
- There was an offer to Health and Wellbeing Board Members' to join the Carer's Strategy Multi-Agency Implementation Board and to report back to the Health and Wellbeing Board on progress following the first year of the strategy.

Members of the Board agreed that this was an important and impressive strategy which effectively captured the diversity of carers' roles. The hard work and contribution of the graduate trainees was particularly recognised.

The Chair extended her thanks, on behalf of the Board, to the Carers Strategy Task Group and all the carers and the professionals who took part.

6 MERTON CAMHS STRATEGY 2020 - 2023 (Agenda Item 6)

The Director of Public Health introduced the Merton CAMHS Strategy 2020 – 2023 and thanked the young people and families that had contributed. She explained that the support of Health and Wellbeing Board partners was now needed to deliver this strategy which focusses on the Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy principles including tackling health inequalities.

Sarah Keen (CAMHS Commissioning Manager) gave a summary of the strategy and referenced the common themes discussed during the meeting of prevention and involvement; in this case of children, young people and their families. She explained that the iThrive concept seeks to build on strength in the communities with an emphasis on need rather than diagnosis, recognising each young person is unique. The strategy also considered inequalities across Merton and transitions, including work with schools and pupil referral units, trying to address issues at an early stage.

Members were informed that there was an easy read version of the Strategy which had been designed with the Young Inspectors and also an action plan. The Board acknowledged the hard work from all partners, but recognised that there were challenges around accessing the services. The Board stressed how important it was for all organisations to ensure that services were accessible to a wide cohort of children and young people. It was also emphasised that, as well as involving children and young people in work like this, it was important to actively listen to them in our day-to-day service provision and interaction.

Members of the Board welcomed the CAMHS Strategy and noted the cross cutting theme of digital inclusion, with young people having to work remotely from school and the opportunity for innovative digital engagement. Reference was made to the opportunity to extend the current social prescribing activity to children and young people and work was taking place to develop this.

The Chair summarised the huge support for this work and requested a future report on progress to come to the Board in 12 to 18 months.

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 26th January 2021

Agenda item: Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan

Wards: All

Subject:

Lead officer: Director of Environment and Regeneration, Chris Lee

Lead member: Cabinet member for Regeneration, Housing and Climate Change, Martin Whelton

Forward Plan reference number: None

Contact officer: Katie Halter, katie.halter@merton.gov.uk, 0208 545 3821

Recommendations:

- A. That the HWBB note and comment Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan and the Climate Change Delivery Plan - Year 1.
 - B. That the HWBB support delivery of the climate objectives through their partner organisations.
 - C. That, if resources allow, 5 short term and 2 medium term actions are taken forward in 2021, which go beyond the *Climate Change Delivery Plan - Year 1* and take forward both the health and climate agendas.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report sets out the main areas of common ground between *Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan* and *Merton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2021*. It recommends taking forward further actions in 2021 that go beyond the current plan and further both the health and climate agendas.

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1. In November 2020 Council adopted *Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan* [1], which sets a strategic approach and high level actions to meet Merton's net-zero targets of 2050 for the borough and 2030 for the Council.
- 2.2. Cabinet have recently adopted the *Climate Delivery Plan – Year 1* [2], which sets out how Merton Council will work towards a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change, within the borough and within the Council's buildings and services in 2021.
- 2.3. Both the overarching strategy and the delivery plan recognise that there are many natural synergies between the health and wellbeing of Merton's citizens, and the mitigation of and adaptation to the impacts of climate change in Merton. Joint action in this area is likely to produce significant co-benefits which are in keeping with *Merton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy*

2019-2021 [3] and support the council's response and recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- 2.4 Where health-climate synergies exist within the borough, the delivery plan has identified some areas where progress will be made, and identified others as gaps. Areas where significant progress is being made includes moving away from petrol and diesel vehicles towards more active and sustainable travel through travel policies and plans [3] and the air quality action plan [4]. The Covid Transport Strategy [5] has been an opportunity to accelerate some actions, such as the implementation of 26 school streets, 4-6 low traffic neighbourhoods and the improvement of cycling infrastructure. The Merton School's Neighbourhood Approach Pilot (SNAP) presents another opportunity for place based action with a range of co-benefits for both public health and climate change action particularly in relation to active travel and sustainable food environments.
- 2.5 Action has also been taken to support emission reduction in the CCG and primary care trusts through the development of Merton Climate Champions and the promotion of the RCGPs Green Impact for Health toolkit. Also, a bid to the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme boosted funding through the Warmer Homes project by £2.5 million across Greater London to support fuel-poor households. A portion of this funding will be delivered in Merton through the pre-established 'South London Healthy Homes' project. This project will support Merton residents over the age of 65 on a low income or with a long term health condition or disability to improve their health, creating warmer homes through the installation of energy saving measures, offering impartial advice on utility bills/savings in addition to signposting to other sources of support.
- 2.5 Of the c60 actions contained within *Annex 4* of the *Climate Delivery Plan – Year 1*, only a few are specific to the health/climate agenda. One seeks to add climate change ambitions into the *Merton Borough Health and Care Estates Strategy*, currently being finalised. One seeks to consider whether we should continue with the "green and healthy guardian's group" which was set up to foster a healthy and sustainable work place with Council Staff but was put on hold following the first lock-down in March 2020. One seeks the continuation of support for externally-funded active travel projects. There are also a range of actions where public health can play a role, including the instigation of Merton's Climate Action Group (first meeting on 27th January) [6] and the climate comms plan for 2021. The climate comms plan aims to encourage local residents and businesses to take action to reduce their carbon footprint, through climate change pledges, and focussed on sustainable diets in January [7].
- 2.6 In addition to the agreed actions, we believe there is a significant opportunity to jointly advance the health/climate agenda. The section below sets out further actions which could be undertaken in 2021 to support climate/health priorities for the Health and Wellbeing Board to consider.

3 DETAILS

- 3.1. The Council are directly responsible for around 2% of the borough's emissions, but have powers or influence over around 1/3 of the borough's emissions, including in matters of public health [8]. The main areas with significant opportunity for further action in the health/climate agenda, are:
- a) Protecting the health of Merton's citizens impacted by poor-quality buildings and/or fuel poverty.
 - b) Improving air quality through the replacement of gas boilers/cookers (responsible for around 1/5 of NOx emissions in Merton [9]) with efficient electric heating.
 - c) Protecting local residents from the health effects of more intense and prolonged spells of hot weather and flood risk caused by climate change.
 - d) Ensuring that public health services are in keeping with net-zero targets, and supporting the decarbonisation of NHS services, who have also set a net-zero target.
 - e) Encouraging behaviour change in Merton's residents and businesses by supporting climate/health projects or improved engagement on topics like saving energy, active travel, low-meat/healthy diets, protection from overheating and improved mental and physical well-being in connection to nature.

SHORT-TERM OPTIONS FOR HEALTH/CLIMATE ACTION in 2021 THAT GO BEYOND THE CURRENT CLIMATE DELIVERY PLAN

- 3.2. We recommend that in addition to the actions set out in *Climate Delivery Plan – Year 1* that the following actions, which are relatively low cost/low resource to action, be undertaken in 2021:
- a) Issue a cross-party commitment which recognises that a healthy place/healthy planet leads to healthy people.
 - b) Ensure improved co-ordination with the NHS who are seeking to meet their net-zero targets.
 - c) LBM healthy place officers and other NHS colleagues and other healthcare professionals to attend the newly-formed Climate Action Group to help foster community-led health/climate projects.
 - d) Develop shared climate/comms messages for publication as part of the comms strategy.

MEDIUM-TERM OPTIONS FOR HEALTH/CLIMATE ACTION in 2021 THAT GO BEYOND THE CURRENT CLIMATE DELIVERY PLAN

- 3.3. Looking to the medium to longer term, there is opportunity to develop and implement a number of major health/climate projects if resources become available. A number of recent attempts at seeking significant external funding for health/climate projects have not been successful. We think this is in part due to the fact that short timescales to meet application deadlines do not allow sufficient time for project development. To put Merton in a

position to win funding, we recommend that more time is spent on the development of the following significant projects, and that these are embedded into future climate delivery plans, to action rapidly when resource becomes available:

- a) Targeted prevention of fuel poverty in social housing, private rented sector and other at risk properties through the installation of energy efficiency, low carbon heating and on-site renewable energy. Energy in buildings makes up around 81% of emissions in Merton which require up-front capital investment that low income households will not be able to afford. Fuel poverty affects around [10%] of Merton residents and leads to exacerbated health issues.
- b) Engagement campaigns which target groups who are at high risk of obesity, particularly Merton's younger residents, to encourage healthier and more sustainable diets, and the use of active travel options. One in five children entering reception are currently overweight or obese in Merton, increasing to one in three by year 6 highlighting this as an important priority for joint public health and climate action.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 4.1. No further action beyond the *Climate Change Delivery Plan – Year 1* would still result in the continued collaboration of the health/climate agenda, but we may miss opportunities to maximise the health/climate benefits.
- 4.2. Going beyond the options set out above is unlikely to be possible without additional resource.

5 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 5.1. These options have developed through discussions with Climate Change Officers in the Future Merton Team and Healthy Places and Public Health Officers (Adults and Older People) in the Public Health Team.

6 TIMETABLE

- 6.1. The *Climate Change Delivery Plan – Year 1* will be updated on an annual basis to be responsive to the many changes in funding, policy, innovation and markets.

7 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None for the purposes of this report

8 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None for the purposes of this report

9 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The strategic approach set out in *Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan* and *Merton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2021* embody an ambition for action on climate to have wider community benefits and ensure that neither the effects of climate change, nor the costs of reducing emissions disproportionately affect the vulnerable or those less able to pay. Medium-term options set out in para 3.3 that support the fuel poor and engage young people with a high risk of obesity are in keeping with supporting more at-risk groups.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None for the purposes of this report.

11 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1. The main risks are the additional resource required to undertake actions that go beyond current plans at a time when the public health team are under particular pressure managing the impacts of the covid pandemic.
- 11.2. A separate risk assessment will be undertaken by any project that is taken forward as a result of this paper.

12 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- 12.1. [1] Merton's Climate Strategy and Action Plan
<https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/Draft%20Climate%20Strategy%20and%20Action%20Plan%20-%20Council%20V2.pdf>
- [2] Climate Delivery Plan – Year 1

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- [3] Merton's health and wellbeing strategy 2019-2024, LBM 2019:
<https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Strategy%202019%20FINAL%20WEB.pdf>
- [3] Air Quality Action Plan 2018-2023, LBM 2018:
<https://www.merton.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/pollution/air-quality-and-air-pollution/local-air-quality-management>
- [4] Local Implementation Plan (LIP 3), LBM 2019:
<https://www.merton.gov.uk/streets-parking-transport/lip3#titleCol20>
- [5] Merton's Active & Healthy Travel Response to Covid-19, LBM 2020:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/assets/Documents/Merton%20Covid%20Transport%20Strategy%207%20May%202020.pdf>

[6] Climate Action Group, LBM 2021:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-action-group>

[7] Climate pledges – diet, LBM 2021:

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/planning-and-buildings/sustainability-and-climate-change/make-your-climate-change-pledges>

[8] Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget, Climate Change Committee, December 2020:

<https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/local-authorities-and-the-sixth-carbon-budget/>

[9] Merton – Source apportionment of NOx emissions 2013, graph from Air Quality Strategic Theme Report to Council, February 2019. Data from London Atmospheric Emissions 2016:

<https://democracy.merton.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=142&MId=3077>

<https://data.london.gov.uk/dataset/london-atmospheric-emissions-inventory--laei--2016>