

## **Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Date: 28 January 2014**

Wards: All

## **Subject: Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge Feedback**

Lead officer: Simon Williams Director of Community and Housing / Kay Eilbert Director of Public Health

Lead member: Councillor Linda Kirby, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

Forward Plan reference number:

Contact officer: Clarissa Larsen, Partnership Manager Health and Wellbeing Board

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### **Recommendations:**

- A That members of the Health and Wellbeing Board note the feedback, observations and recommendations of the Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge.
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## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

To set out the feedback from the Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge and outline the observations and recommendations and planned response.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

The Local Government Association manages a 'health and well-being system improvement programme', of which peer challenge is a part. Merton took part in a pilot programme of the Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge - the only London Borough to do so. The Peer Team were on site for four days in early October 2013.

## **3. HEALTH AND WELLBEING PEER CHALLENGE**

- 3.1 The purpose of the peer challenge was to support the Council in implementing its new statutory responsibilities through a systematic challenge by peers to improve local practice. The challenge particularly focused on:

- The establishment of effective health and wellbeing boards
- The operation of the public health function
- The establishment of a local HealthWatch

Specifically asking:

- i. How well are the health and wellbeing challenges understood and how are they reflected in the Merton Health and Wellbeing Strategy and in commissioning?

- ii. How strong are governance, leadership, partnerships, voices, and relationships?
  - iii. How well are statutory and discretionary functions delivered?
  - iv. How well are the strengths of the DPH and team being used?
- 3.2 The Peer Team were on site in the Civic Centre from 7 to 10 October 2013. The team comprised:
- Gillian Norton – Chief Executive, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
  - Councillor Wendy Simon – Cabinet Member, Liverpool City Council
  - Dr Andrew Furber – Director of Public Health, Wakefield Council
  - Dr Shona Arora – Centre Director for Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, Public Health England
  - Dr Jagan John, ONEL Integrated Care Lead and Clinical Directors, Barking and Dagenham Clinical Commissioning Group
  - Tim Baxter – Head of Public Health Policy and Strategy Unit, Department of Health
  - Kay Burkett – Challenge Manager, Local Government Association
- 3.3 There was a busy schedule of meetings which included all members of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Council Cabinet members, Chair and Vice Chair of Health Scrutiny, Council Directors, Merton CCG, HealthWatch, MVSC as well as other partner agencies and the voluntary sector.
- 3.4 The Peer Challenge concluded with a feedback session which all participants were invited to attend. The Peer Team made a presentation on their observations and recommendations. This was followed up by a full feedback report/letter in which there were many positive and constructive comments.

*‘The HWB .. has adopted a clear strategy and shown considerable enthusiasm and commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of its residents and narrowing the inequalities gap. This is a key issue, recognised by all political parties and partners.’*

*‘The high quality of working relationships between key partners in the health, care and wellbeing system is seen as something people can rely upon and the benefits which derive from it are valued by everyone’*

*‘There has been some good engagement with partners and communities to inform the joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and to decide upon priorities’.*

*‘The energy and drive of the Director of Public Health and her team is widely recognised and appreciated. There has been a positive response to this from Council staff who are both engaged in the agenda and motivated to succeed. Partners are equally enthusiastic, all of which creates a positive context for moving forward’.*

- 3.5 The report speaks of a need for the Health and Wellbeing Board to maintain a focus on delivery with pace. It highlights specific actions for consideration including:
- Realise your ambition to grow social capital by building on the strong voluntary and community arrangements and by embedding asset mapping as part of the JSNA.
  - Build on the strengths of Merton by further developing sub-regional alliances for greater resilience in health and social care.
  - Ruthlessly prioritise in order to deliver tangible improvements through a clear work plan owned by all the HWB partners.
  - Ensure straightforward shared communication and engagement with the community on health and wellbeing.
  - Clarify the role of the HWB and the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
  - Support the DPH and her team in further understanding the jargon, culture, norms and values of the council to enable them to continue to operate positively within a political environment.

The report also states that ‘the Council has acknowledged that its service plans now need to pick up health and wellbeing more explicitly in order to reduce the health inequalities identified in (the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and) the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Peer Team strongly support this.’

- 3.6 The full report, set out in a letter, is attached in Appendix 1.

#### **4. NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 The outcomes of the Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge will feed into action planning contributing to the first evaluation and review of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its Delivery Plan and the Annual Public Health Report.
- 4.2 The recommendation that Council departmental service plans embed the needs of addressing health inequalities in departmental Service Plans 2014-18 will be led by Council departments. Public Health will support this planning process.
- 4.3 The Local Government Association has requested that the feedback report be made publically available and it is planned to publish it on the Council’s web site. Public Health was also asked by the LGA to provide details of work, identified as part of the Peer Challenge, which will be published by LGA as notable practice.

**5. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

If Merton had not taken part in the HWB Peer Challenge it would have failed to benefit from the helpful feedback received from the Peer Team.

**6. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

A range of partner organisations participated in the Peer Challenge

**7. TIMETABLE**

As set out in the report.

**8. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

Costs of the MP Conference were managed within existing budgets.

**9. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

None

**10. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

None

**11. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

None

**12. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

None

**13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**14. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Feedback report letter on Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge