

## Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 28 January 2014

Wards: All

## Subject: Merton Partnership Health Inequalities Conference

Lead officer: 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 and discuss the outcomes of the Merton Partnership Health Inequalities Conference
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### 1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To provide feedback to members of the Health and Wellbeing Board on the Merton Partnership Conference that was held in November 2013 on the subject of health inequalities.

### 2. BACKGROUND

Merton Partnership holds an annual conference which it was agreed for 2013 would focus on health inequalities. This followed on from the Health and Wellbeing Peer Challenge, the transition of Public Health and the wider changes in health structure.

It presented an opportunity to both raise awareness of Public Health and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and to generate pledges to help address health inequalities in Merton.

### 3. DETAILS

- 3.1 The MP Conference was held on 12 November 2013 with an aim 'to commit to new ways of working that will help reduce health inequalities in Merton'.
- 3.2 There was an excellent attendance of over 80 delegates. All members of the Health and Wellbeing Board were invited to attend and other delegates came from a range of partner agencies and the voluntary and community sectors.
- 3.3 The conference programme included presentations on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and data that show the continuing differentiation and inequalities that exist in almost all areas across east and west Merton.  
Delegates were encouraged to think about what a 'good life' looks like and agreed the five elements that contribute to it:

- Good health – preventing illness and accessing health care
- Early years and strong educational achievement
- Community participation and feeling safe
- Life skills training and good work
- A good natural and built environment

Workshops on each element were run by facilitators from both the Council, Merton CCG and partner organisations. Local and national case studies of ‘interesting practice’ were prepared for each workshop to inform discussion.

The workshops raised awareness of each organisation’s role in delivering health through the five components of a good life. All participants were asked to give a written pledge to work in a new way to reduce health inequalities. A total of 76 written pledges were made and examples of pledges were fed back and all were recorded for future action.

- 3.5 The outcomes of the MP Conference and pledges will feed into action planning which contributes to the review of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, its delivery plan and the Annual Public Health Report, which will be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board,

#### **4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

None

#### **5. CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED**

The MP Conference was planned by a task group comprising of the Council and partner organisations.

#### **6. TIMETABLE**

N/A

#### **7. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

Costs of the MP Conference were managed within existing budgets.

#### **8. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **9. HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS**

The focus of the MP Conference was on reducing health inequalities.

#### **10. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **11. RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

None

**12 APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Merton Partnership Conference on Health Inequalities List of Pledges

**13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

## **Appendix 1**

### **Merton Partnership Conference on Health Inequalities, 12 November 2013**

Delegates were asked to participate in workshops on the five themes that make up 'a good life' in Merton. All participants were then asked to make a written pledge to reduce health inequalities in Merton.

Seventy six pledges were made and are listed below.

#### **List of Pledges**

##### **GROUP 1 (20 Pledges)**

###### **Good health – preventing illness and accessing health care**

1. Work with local partners to improve mental health support for BME community in Pollards Hill, Longthornton wards.
2. As part of the Customer Contact programme, look to link new people to the borough with a GP.
3. To work with public health to deliver sporting programmes to those at risk of committing crime.
4. Help to set up a conference for faith groups to look at how they can assist on the FIA model to support targeted needs. I will sign up to the Local Community Fund.
5. CCG will look at model of general practice; already being considered under 'Call to Action'. This will look at primary care in the broadest context, to include: opticians, pharmacists, GPs, possibly community services. All these groups will be included in the development of the model. CCG pledges the health advocates will be directed towards working in East Merton.
6. Discuss within SMCS/RMH Children's Services in conjunction with the CCG the model of care around access to health care. To review and consider improvements which will allow better access to services in a timely way.
7. Updating with evidence what works to reduce health inequalities.
8. Engage with GPs and others practices to ensure they understand the public health preventative agenda.
9. Continue to encourage the Partnership to reduce health inequality through early intervention strategies and services.
10. To invest more protected time to reach out to communities within Merton to strengthen new and existing relationships, find ways to communicate better / improve communications.

11. Work more closely with other organisations in the East of the borough to deliver better outcomes for older people specifically around loneliness and social isolation.
12. By actively working with the staff and trustees to develop our Health Programme for older people to prevent isolation and hospital admissions.
13. Counsel needy people of ways of keeping out of debt and living within their means through running money management courses and debt counselling.
14. To support the HWB to keep an unrelenting focus on health inequalities including though future development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its delivery.
15. Make a greater effort to spreads awareness of facilities/support available to the BAME communities taking greater responsibility for their own health.
16. To continue to promote my community and the individuals within it as people who should be at least equal to service providers.
17. Working with the CCG to increase awareness of how health services work and to increase use of health services. To help engage with Polish community in Merton.
18. Engage more with the voluntary sector in the delivery of local sexual health services. There is a wealth of expertise and local knowledge that we can use.
19. To cascade ideas a and development within Merton at our monthly resident's meeting.
20. Work in partnership with local churches and faith groups and schools to engage more local people in health awareness in Pollards Hill and Longthornton wards.

## **GROUP 2 (17 Pledges)**

### **Early years and strong educational achievement**

21. I pledge to improve education of new parents regarding healthy eating for children.
22. Will work across directorates to increase update of Healthy Schools in East Merton.
23. Review Youth Fund to ensure targeted leases. Deliver improved out cover for at risk young people. Further development Junior Wardens. Increased apprenticeships and employment and training: Together we can., KS4, MTEC
24. Ensure that any new developments take into account growing number of children in the borough but also consider health issues.

25. Increase participation in national challenge for FSM eligible children and those in areas of deprivation.
26. Pledge to use our resources to help with mentoring young people to divert them from deviant, unhelpful behaviour and into more productivity activity to benefit themselves and the wider society.
27. Raise with Public health the opportunity for greater asset mapping (including assets for children and families) as part of the JSNA
28. Improved housing conditions in parts of the borough which will in turn improve health outcomes for many people.
29. Increase the take up of free school meals as healthy eating plays a part in educational outcomes.
30. Give young people a wider experience outside their own communities to develop experience and confidence.
31. East Mitcham Partnership ways in which the gang issue could be integrated into the work that they do.
32. Education Department look into Asian Youth before they will become a violent gang. School part and then parents part to be done in co-operating.
33. Conservative school governors encourage sport and children's wider well being and participate through sports, dance etc.
34. Maintain progress in school standards and narrowing the gaps. Sharper targeting of early years offer to narrow gaps.
35. Work with CSF, CCG and other partners to develop 'top 10 tips' for parents that can be used by all partners so that consistent messages are very used across Merton.
36. To take the idea of intergenerational work between Merton Seniors Forum and schools in Merton.
37. Commit to refreshing the joint working across children's agencies and workforce to continue improvement.

### **GROUP 3 (9 Pledges) Community participation and feeling safe**

38. To work in partnership with all other organisations to engage with residents more effectively, to get their views of sexual health and the services which they require.

39. Ensure that the Merton Partnership and Executive Board will hold all partners to account for tackling health inequalities.
40. To participate in community integration and rehabilitation through partnership working, sharing information and focussing on positive outcomes./ prevention. I will offer to lead any working party.
41. To run a positive imagine / perception campaign across Mitcham
42. To help build a clearer picture of behaviour and perception through increased insight of residents and customers.
43. Support the Council's Public Health team to achieve effective interventions in Merton.
44. Ensure we make better contact and engage some of the hard to reach faith groups.
45. Would like to return to creating opportunities to empowering community participation skills via commissioning a community development course (established in NHS as pilot 2001)
46. To work with community groups in the East to increase their voice in services provided.

#### **GROUP 4 (15 Pledges)**

##### **Life skills training and good work**

47. Commit to finding out about prescribing learning. High need for money management course.
48. Improve the self-esteem of individuals and communities within Mticham to create civic pride and a sense of purpose (using One Mitcham and its successes – in particular arts and sports programmes underpinned by Public Health).
49. Committed Merton Senior Forum to consider intergenerational mentoring
50. Collective resource of Community and Housing to support training, employment and volunteering.
51. Encourage further the take up of apprenticeships within Merton Council.
52. Engaging local businesses in supporting the reduction of health inequalities in Merton.
53. Conservative Governors will encourage schools to work with them re help with finding work experience, apprenticeships and mentoring for young people in secondary school and primaries re discussing careers.

54. Mentoring – search out good practice of how I can encourage mentoring through CWG and in my role to enlist mentors.
55. By increasing volunteer opportunities and to engage upwards with the dignitaries.
56. Improve employability prospects of hard to reach groups through supported volunteering opportunities.
57. Embed health within curriculum areas such as family learning and ESOL.
58. By encouraging businesses to transfer to, or start in, Merton and preferably East Merton, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce.
59. Display information about health initiatives in Merton and encourage / promote health lifestyles to/for our clients.
60. GPs on East of the borough must educate people to do more active life and reduce reliance on prescription.
61. By naming and shaming bad private sector landlords, using the enforcement team supported by Public Health funding.

#### **GROUP 5 (15 Pledges) A good natural and built environment**

62. To encourage the Council and Disability Go to complete the access survey of the buildings in Merton
63. To make / suggest ‘other ways’ in which BAME communities can improve their health eg through cycling, allotments and other areas we are not currently involved in to any significant extend.
64. Promote community gardening and food growing activity. To support and actively promote credit union and financial health checks and campaigns to raise awareness of the true cost of pay day lenders. Brighthorse etc.
65. Providing more allotments or spaces where local people can produce their own vegetables, fruits etc.
66. Work with partners (schools, businesses, housing providers) across Merton to develop a cycling proposal that is robust, deliverable and can attract grant funding and widen the use of bikes as a choice for travel.
67. Work with other agencies to increase healthy food and drink choices on the high street.

68. Participating in community safety initiatives. To develop sports with public health.
69. To endeavour to increase the use of allotment grown food to supplement the fresh food supply to the community.
70. Extend the fruit picking and processing into jams across the entire borough.
71. Engaging (and getting responses) with young people on public health issues such as hot food takeaways to help improve health eating.
72. Use existing EHO inspections of food premises to offer healthier food options to customers via 'Healthier Catering Commitment'. Look to use Licensing powers to create a 'cumulative impact zone' in the east of the borough to limit the effect of licensed premises on crime, disorder and health.
73. Support and encourage the Merton Partnership Executive to maintain a focus on public health.
74. Strive for excellence in urban design, creating more attractive, safe, walkable and less car dominated environment in Merton. NB if you design for cars, you get cars!! Re-prioritise investment in public realm.
75. Challenge planning recommendations that fail to make adequate provision for recreation and amenity without mitigation.
76. To work in partnership with other organisations and departments to determine the links between sexual health and the wider determinants eg. housing

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