

Committee: Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 17th March 2014

Agenda item:

Wards: ALL

Subject: Draft report and recommendations arising from the scrutiny review of incontinence amongst women of child bearing age in Merton

Lead officer: Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Councillor Suzanne Evans, Chair of the incontinence amongst women of child bearing age task group review.

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Recommendations:

- A. That the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel considers and endorses the recommendations arising from the scrutiny review on incontinence amongst women of child bearing age in Merton attached at **Appendix 1**.
 - B. That the Panel agrees to forward the review report to Cabinet and Merton Clinical Commissioning Group for approval and implementation of the recommendations, by means of an action plan to be drawn up by officers and relevant partners working with the Cabinet Member(s) to be designated by Cabinet.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. In the last municipal year the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel agreed to undertake a scrutiny review of continence services in Merton. The review came to a close during the transition from the Primary Care Trust to the Merton Clinical Commissioning Group, (MCCG). Therefore the task group decided to allow the time for the organisation to embed before forwarding the report.
- 1.2. MCCG have received the report and recommendations and will provide a response. However they wish to highlight that since they received first sight of this work in February they have not had the opportunity to incorporate it into their existing work programme.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. This review looked at the services available to people suffering from incontinence. Although rarely life-threatening, urinary and/ or faecal incontinence can seriously influence the physical, psychological social well-being of affected individuals.
- 2.2. The task group decided to focus on women of child bearing age, those between the ages of sixteen and forty four, not least because, urinary incontinence often occurs following pregnancy. This contributes to making it about two to three times more common in women than in men.

- 2.3. Also the task group felt that if services can be improved for this age group, there will be a direct knock on effect on older age groups where it is more prevalent. This supports the task group's commitment to the prevention agenda – identifying problems at an early stage and addressing them before they become worse, which creates unnecessary suffering and requires more invasive and expensive interventions later on. This review also looked at how to raise awareness of incontinence and tackle the stigma that prevents people seeking help.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.

- 3.1. Cabinet is not, however, required to agree and implement recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny. Cabinet could agree to implement some, or none, of the recommendations made in the scrutiny review final report.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. The Panel will be consulted at the meeting

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The Panel will consider important items as they arise as part of their work programme for 2013/14

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None relating to this covering report

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None relating to this covering report. . Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory implications of the topic being scrutinised.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the crime and disorder implications of the topic being scrutinised.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None relating to this covering report

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

- Draft scrutiny review of incontinence amongst women of child bearing age

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

12.1. .

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