

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 10 November 2014

Agenda item:

Wards: All Wards

Subject: Scrutiny Review on incontinence amongst women of child bearing age in Merton.

Lead officer: Stella Akintan, Scrutiny Officer

Lead member: Councillor Brenda Fraser, Task Group Member

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Recommendations:

- A. That Cabinet considers the report and recommendations (attached in Appendix 1) arising from the scrutiny review on Incontinence amongst women of child bearing and the response to the report from Merton Clinical Commissioning Group (attached at Appendix 2)
- B. That Cabinet agrees to the implementation of the recommendations through an action plan being drawn up by officers working with relevant local partner organisations and Cabinet Member(s) to be designated by Cabinet.
- C. That Cabinet decides whether it wishes to formally approve this action plan prior to it being submitted to the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To present the scrutiny review report on physical activity amongst the fifty five plus age group for endorsement and seek approval to implement the review recommendations through an action plan being drawn up.

2. DETAILS

- 2.1 At the first meeting of the 2013/14 Municipal Year, the Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel agreed to undertake a scrutiny review of incontinence.
 - 2.1.1. The 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.
 - 2.1.2. 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.
 - 2.1.3. 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

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.
- 3.3 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 In carrying out its review, the task group questioned senior council officers as well as voluntary and community sector organisations.
- 4.2 TIMETABLE
- 4.3 The final report was approved by the Panel on 17 March 2014 where it was agreed to present the report to Cabinet.

5. FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 None for the purposes of this covering report. It is envisaged that the recommendations in the attached report will not have any major resource implications. However, any specific resource implications will be identified and presented to Cabinet prior to agreeing an action plan for implementing the report's recommendations.

7. LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 None for the purposes of this 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. An Equalities Impact Assessment was completed as part of the review process and is available on request from the Scrutiny Team (020 8545 3864).

9. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 None for the purposes of this 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 for the purposes of this report.

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

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – task group review report on incontinence amongst women of child bearing age.
- 11.2 Appendix 2 Response from Merton Clinical Commissioning Group

12. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1 Notes of task group meetings on Incontinence amongst women of child bearing age.

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