

1. Key synergies between the portfolio and Health and Wellbeing

Efficiency- In the area of health, achieving a favourable balance between cost and benefit, providing efficiency savings in health and social care, and in the wider health economy, and providing the most effective services are major areas of interest in public health.

Value for money- NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) has produced ROI (returns on investment) tools for tobaccoⁱ, physical activity and alcohol. NICE also has produced various costing and cost impact tools that could be used locally to assess the returns on investment for various public health initiatives where applicable.

Budget- The public health budget in local authorities is ring-fenced till March 2016. After this it is not clear how this budget will be provided or managed, and this could have a significant impact on the public health function in the borough.

Savings- Health Impact Assessment (HIA)ⁱⁱ is an example of a specialist public health methodology intended to help decision making by predicting the health consequences of a proposal being implemented. In addition to assessing the health consequences it also produces recommendations on how the positive consequences for health could be enhanced and how the negative consequences could be avoided or minimised. Mitigating the negative health consequences will produce savings by avoiding the associated costs of negative impacts. Enhancing the positive consequences will also produce savings to the wider economy through improved health and wellbeing and a knock on impact on use of health and social care services, but also broader benefits including a more productive workforce.

IT- Data is the lifeblood of public health and access to health and healthcare data, especially since public health is no longer situated in the NHS, is vital.

Human Resources- workforce wellbeing and promoting healthy settings are important public health areas that have a direct impact on human resources, including reducing sickness absence and improving the mental and physical wellbeing of employees

2. Achievements and current activities

LBM Public Health now works across Council influences on health, including

- A Responsible Authorities Group established by Public Health to develop strategic responses and to identify common areas of interest, including
 - responding regularly to licensing and planning applications using relevant public health data
 - working with the Licensing Committee and officers to refresh the statement of licensing policy
 - working with local and national planning colleagues to develop a 'best practice' guide setting out key points in the planning process where Public Health can add value, and identification of potential to work across planning and licensing functions

- Health impact assessments – although agreement to embed this across the Council did not move forward, HIAs are now underway with the regeneration team for three estate regeneration schemes. A quantitative HIA has also been commissioned on the cost to the NHS and wider society of private sector housing hazards in Merton, and the potential return on investment of tackling these hazards.
- London Workplace Charter – in collaboration with HR, LBM achieved commitment level. A healthy workplace scheme is being designed for staff and will include Health Champions, frontline training for brief advice and signposting, as well as review of the physical environment (e.g. student dietitians review catering offer on-site).
- In addition, Merton Chamber of Commerce has been commissioned to provide a sustainable healthy workplace outreach service to encourage small and medium size enterprises to support the health and wellbeing of staff, and sign up to the London Healthy Workplace Charter.
- StepJockey has been operating in the Council since the repairs to the lifts started.
- Launch of Merton on the Move – a borough-wide initiative to increase physical activity levels in the borough through encouraging, supporting and raising awareness of active travel (walking, running and cycling) and its role in improving mental and physical health.
- Creation of the Public Health Board as sub-group of Healthy and Wellbeing Board to oversee the Public Health programme

3. Planned work

- In 2015-16 we are working to develop seamless pathways from prevention through to treatment/rehabilitation, in partnership with MCCG for both weight management and alcohol and substance misuse services. This will represent value for money by pulling services together under a single management.

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Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-18

This portfolio links to all themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

A summary page of all five themes with key outcomes is included in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy that can be found at <http://www.merton.gov.uk/health-social-care/publichealth.htm>.

ⁱ <http://www.nice.org.uk/usingguidance/implementationtools/returnoninvestment/TobaccoROITool.jsp>

ⁱⁱ <http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=40141>