

Central Bedfordshire Council

**ADULT SOCIAL CARE HEALTH AND HOUSING SERVICES OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

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PUBLIC HEALTH BRIEFINGS

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Purpose of this report

1. The report provides an overview of the role and responsibilities of Public Health in relation to improving outcomes for Adults and Older People

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is asked to:

1. Consider the content of the briefings and identify any areas where further information or briefings would be helpful to the committee in order to understand the public health role of the Council.

Introduction

2. Public Health transferred to Local Authorities in April 2013 together with a ring-fenced grant and a number of responsibilities to improve the health of the local population. These briefings outline the main public health responsibilities, achievements and challenges in relation to adults and older people
3. The briefings were originally prepared for new Members of the Council following the May elections and the Executive Member for Health asked that they were made available to a wider audience.

Issues

4. The briefings identify the key challenges in delivering improved public health for adults and older people. These are reducing the proportion of residents who smoke, are an unhealthy weight or have risky behaviours such as drinking to harmful levels, take drugs or do not take care of their sexual health. The other major challenge in which Public Health has a part to play is reducing avoidable hospital admissions

Council Priorities

5. Public Health helps *promote health and well being and protect the vulnerable*, in particular through actions to help people live in good health for longer.

Corporate Implications

6. Sustainability – no issues arising directly from this briefing
7. Risk – no issues arising directly from this briefing.

Legal Implications

8. Legal implications – no issues arising directly from this briefing

Financial Implications

9. There are no direct financial implications arising from the briefings as activity will be carried out within the agreed ring-fenced allocation for 2015/16.

Equalities Implications

10. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
11. The Public Health team coordinates the production of the local JSNA (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment). The JSNA describes the current and future health and wellbeing needs of the local population and comprises of over 80 reports. As part of the development of the JSNA, consideration is given to the identification of vulnerable groups and variations in prevalence of illness and treatment outcomes which might

be influenced by factors such as socio economic status, sex, race, disability, etc.,

12. Analysis of such factors helps to ensure that vulnerable groups are identified and that the most effective approaches are delivered.

Conclusion and next Steps

13. The committee is asked to consider the briefings. Any issues which arise from the public health responsibilities for adults and older people and have implications for scrutiny will be brought to the committee as and when appropriate.

Appendices

Appendix A are the briefings