

## Central Bedfordshire Council

### CHILDRENS SERVICES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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#### **PUBLIC HEALTH BRIEFINGS**

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#### **Purpose of this report**

The report introduces the briefings which give an overview of the role and responsibilities of Public Health in relation to improving outcomes for children, young people and families. 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.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee is asked to:

1. To 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**

1. 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 children and young people.

#### **Issues**

2. The briefings identify the key challenges in delivering improved public health for local children and their families. These are reducing the proportion of mothers who smoke throughout their pregnancy,

increasing the proportion of mothers breastfeeding, improving the early identification of mothers with mental health issues, increasing the proportion of children who are a healthy weight, reducing the number of teenage conceptions and improving young people's emotional resilience.

### **Council Priorities**

3. Public Health helps *promote health and well being and protect the vulnerable*, in particular through actions that promote giving every child the best start in life.

### **Corporate Implications**

4. Sustainability – no issues arising directly from this briefing
5. Risk – no issues arising directly from this briefing.

### **Legal Implications**

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

### **Financial Implications**

7. 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**

8. 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.
9. 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.,
10. Analysis of such factors helps to ensure that vulnerable groups are identified and the most effective approaches delivered.

## **Conclusion and next Steps**

11. The committee is asked to consider the briefings.

## **Appendices**

Appendix A contains the briefings relevant to children and young people