

# RIBBLE VALLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

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meeting date: 31<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2023  
title: SUGGESTED PRIORITY WORK AREAS FOR THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING WORKING GROUP  
submitted by: DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING  
principal author: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

### 1 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide Committee with suggested priority areas for the work of the Health and Wellbeing Working Group following the first meeting of the Group on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023.
- 1.2 Relevance to the Council's ambitions and priorities
  - Community Objectives - To help make people's lives healthier and safer.

### 2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 It is the Health and Housing Committee that decide the work areas for the Health and Wellbeing Working Group. To assist in this decision, the Health and Wellbeing Working Group met on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2023 to receive information on the current health landscape and to discuss priority areas of work that would have the most impact on the health and wellbeing of Ribble Valley residents.
- 2.2 This report summarises those discussions for Committees consideration.
- 2.3 At a County level, major developments are taking place regarding the design and delivery of future health and wellbeing services. The Integrated Care Board for Lancashire and Cumbria is now established, and it is developing a "Place Based" model which will work on a district footprint. This work will be led by a local Health and Wellbeing Partnership which has yet to be constituted. This partnership will bring together key stakeholders such as the NHS, Primary Care Network, the Community and Voluntary Sector, Mental Health and the District Councils. It is suggested that the Working Group be a key consultee in the design and development of the partnership and monitor its progress and effectiveness. The Working Group propose that three of its members should sit on the partnership, namely Cllr Hirst, Cllr Ray and Cllr Brown.
- 2.4 Information provided to the Working Group showed that Ribble Valley scores positively against other Lancashire Authorities on almost all health indicators. Areas where Ribble Valley performs poorly are:

#### ***Access to services***

This covers access to GP services and pharmacies.

#### ***Cardiovascular disease***

Ribble Valley scores lower than the Lancashire average on cardiovascular disease which could be due to an older population and people living longer, thus developing this condition.

#### ***High blood pressure***

High blood pressure is also more prevalent than the national average.

- 2.5 The health services consider that the provision of preventative community interventions can assist in the reduction of the prevalence of these illnesses as well as making the general population healthier overall.

- 2.5 The Working Group recognise that the health landscape is incredibly complex and it can be overly concerned about structures and treatment rather than focusing on prevention and local need. Councillors have possibly the strongest understanding of the needs of their local community and as such the Working Group, through the partnership, does need to be a strong voice for the needs of local residents. In terms of delivery however, patient care and treatment will rest with the health care professionals. Where the Council and the Working Group can add maximum value is in the co-ordination of maximising community and partner engagement in health activities.
- 2.6 It is therefore proposed by the group that the Working Group should focus on establishing mechanisms for obtaining an understanding of the whole picture regarding health activities in the community and that partnerships and connections are strengthened to have maximum impact.

### **3 ISSUES**

- 3.1 The key concern of the Working Group is that the health landscape is vast and complicated with a great deal of strategic capacity in place. Identifying where the Working Group can have most impact is crucial, and the Working Group consider they have done this in the recommendations of this report. The Health and Wellbeing Partnership is in its infancy and will need careful monitoring by the Working Group to ensure it serves the people of Ribble Valley effectively.
- 3.2 It is considered by the Working Group that there is a great deal of excellent community activity taking place by the council, other partners and by the community itself. By understanding this activity and by linking it together and promoting it, the group feel that even more impact could be achieved. It is envisaged longer term that the health and wellbeing partnerships could be responsible for commissioning local services and by better understanding all provisions, the Working Group will be in a better position to make suggestions on future investment.
- 3.3 Access to services is a key issue for Ribble Valley, to both GP's and pharmacies. Limited public transport exacerbates this problem. Effective signposting, mobile services and outreach services are all areas the Working Group would wish to look at.

### **4 WORKING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1.1 The Working Group have carefully considered those areas of work which will provide the most benefit to the residents of Ribble Valley. On the basis of the issues within the Borough along with the input possible at a District Council level the Working Group considered that consideration of the barriers to services is where the work of the Group would be of most value.
- 4.1.2 The Working Group made the following recommendations for consideration by Committee:
- Influencing the work of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership
  - Examining access to services and how difficulties in reaching health facilities and pharmacies can be overcome.
  - Map council, partner and community health and wellbeing activities which contribute to better health and wellbeing so that better linkages and promotion can take place.
- 4.1.3 Regular updates would be reported back to this Committee.

## **5 RISK ASSESSMENT**

5.1 The approval of this report may have the following implications:

- Resources –there are no resources implications as a direct result of the approval of this report.
- Technical, Environmental and Legal – Legal Services were consulted and their comments are included in this report.
- Political – N/A
- Reputation – N/A
- Equality and Diversity- will be a consideration when considering matters such as access to services. Any suggestions of the group going forward may be subject to an equalities impact assessment.

## **6 RECOMMENDED THAT COMMITTEE**

6.1 Approve the Director of Economic Development and the Head of Strategic Planning and Housing along with Councillor Stuart Hirst, Councillor Rachel Ray and Councillor Ian Brown are proposed as Members of the local Health and Wellbeing Partnership following its constitution.

6.2 Approve the priorities of the Working Group as being:

- To examine access to health and wellbeing services and to consider ways in which access to those services could be improved. Such suggestions would be first agreed by this Committee and then fed into the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
- To map council, partner and community health and wellbeing activities which contribute to better health and wellbeing so that better linkages and promotion can take place.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.