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# Progress Report: Priority 1 - Reduce differences in health between different groups of people

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**Report being considered by:** Health and Wellbeing Board

**On:** 13 July 2023

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**Report Sponsor:** April Peberdy

**Item for:** Discussion

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The Berkshire West Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS) sets out five priorities:

- (1) Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people.
- (2) Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives.
- (3) Help children and families in early years.
- (4) Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people.
- (5) Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults.

1.2 Each of the three Health and Wellbeing Boards within the Berkshire West 'Place' has developed its own Delivery Plan to address these shared priorities, tailoring the approach to their particular needs and circumstances.

1.3 A rolling programme of reports will update the Health and Wellbeing Board on progress in implementing the actions set out in West Berkshire's Delivery Plan for each of the above priorities. This report focuses on the first priority *reduce the differences in health between different groups of people*.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (1) note the report and the progress made to date;
- (2) consider if the actions are still appropriate, if existing actions need to be updated, or if additional actions are required;
- (3) agree the actions to be referred upwards to the 'Place' or 'System' levels;
- (4) commit their respective organisations to delivering the agreed actions.

### 3. Executive Summary

This report relates to actions in the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan that relate to the priority *reduce the differences in health between different groups of people*. It presents the progress that has been made since the Strategy was adopted in December 2021 and highlights key deliverables that will be targeted in the coming year. It also identifies where actions would be more appropriate to be progressed by other partnerships operating at the 'Place' or 'System' level.

### 4. Supporting Information

#### Background

- 4.1 Many people in our area experience health inequities. This may include groups who are economically disadvantaged, isolated young people, refugees and asylum seekers and people with disabilities.
- 4.2 People who experience health inequities are often at high risk of bad health outcomes, so there is overlap between groups identified above within this priority, and those who are also identified within the second priority of this Strategy: *Support Individuals at High Risk of Bad Health Outcomes to Live Healthy Lives*.
- 4.3 Health outcomes are affected by a wide range of factors including: their individual characteristics; their lifestyle choices; their social and community networks; and their socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions.
- 4.4 In tackling health inequities, the focus is on closing gaps in healthy life expectancy between those who have the worst and best outcomes.
- 4.5 The JLHWS identified three key issues:
- (1) Inequities in opportunity and / or outcome;
  - (2) Inequities and lack of access;
  - (3) The impact of Covid-19 and how it has exacerbated existing health inequities
- 4.6 The Strategy also identified the following core objectives under this priority:
- Use information and intelligence to understand our communities, identify those who are in greatest need and ensure that they are able to access the right services and support.
  - Assess how Covid-19 has differentially impacted our local populations, including through the displacement or disruption of usual services. We have to ensure access to these services are available to all during Covid-19 recovery.
  - Take a Health in All Policies approach that embeds health across policies and various services. The aim of this approach is that the impact on health will be considered for all of the work that the three council's do, encouraging closer working relationships between statutory bodies and the voluntary and community sectors.

- Address the variation in the experience of the wider social, economic and environmental determinants of health
- Continue to actively engage and work with ethnically diverse communities, the voluntary sector, unpaid carers and self-help groups, ensuring their voices are heard.
- Ensure services and support are accessible to those most in need through effective signposting, targeted health education, promoting digital inclusion and in particular addressing sensory and communication needs. All in a way that empowers communities to take ownership of their own health.

4.7 The Delivery Plan sets out a range of actions that are being progressed to work towards the above objectives. A summary of some of the key actions is provided below, while a more detailed description provided in Appendix A:

- The Health Inequalities Task Force has completed a health inequalities needs assessment and has produced a digital dashboard.
- A Covid dashboard was created for West Berkshire on the Berkshire Public Health website, with data updated on a weekly basis. This was discontinued when domestic restrictions were lifted in April 2022.
- A Recovery and Renewal Strategy was approved by West Berkshire Council in June 2020, with an updated version approved in [May 2021](#). This set out a range of projects and opportunities to support recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. Most actions have since been completed or have been incorporated into business as usual activity.
- In order to promote sustained employment of people from under-represented groups, Groundwork successfully delivered an employer event at the Watermill Theatre on the 15 September 2022. This was focused on helping organisations to understand Autism, Asperger's and mental health issues and how small changes within organisations can result in successful placements, employment, and training.
- Work has been progressing to support patients with learning disabilities and severe mental illness to take up the offer of an annual health check.
- 15 physical activity champions have been trained and a network established.
- A Health in All Policies (HiAP) pilot '[Wild West Berkshire](#)' was developed around the Environment Strategy Delivery Plan's action to 'encourage children to spend more time in nature', while delivering statutory health education to primary school children and a healthy lifestyle service. Delivery of the programme commenced in September 2022 in partnership with Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) to deliver public health and environmental objectives in an education setting. The pilot featured on BBC South Today in March 2023.

4.8 Looking forward, further progress is expected with some of the above actions, with work also starting on a number of additional actions. Key priorities for 2023/24 include:

- Increase awareness and uptake of council support services for those most in need. Community Spaces, building on the success of the Cost of Living Hub.
- Develop digital inclusion champions.
- Health on the Move van to support the Covid-19 spring booster campaign. Delivered as a partnership between West Berkshire Council, Solutions4Health and Oxford Health. The Health on The Move Van will take Covid-19 vaccination out to residents and provide advice and signposting to other support services.
- Inequalities funding with a focus on cardiovascular disease prevention and outreach, Commissioning of NHS Health Check outreach and engagement.
- Embed HiAP work within the Council following approval by Corporate Board on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023. A HiAP approach seeks to ensure health and wellbeing are at the centre of decision making. A HIAP approach recognises health and wellbeing as 'everyone's business', benefits all partners involved and supports shared goals. Specific actions include:-
  1. Development of a health impact policy for planning to support healthy environments. A protocol has been drafted and further assessment will take place around training for key staff prior to implementation. The aim is to have the protocol implemented by March 2024.
  2. Evaluation of the Wild West Berkshire pilot, including production of an executive summary of service reports and review of further development opportunity. The reports which will be shared with stakeholders for consideration in 23/24.
  3. Development of a health impact scoring system for pipeline funding bids and an application template for future bids.

4.9 The following actions have been identified as being more appropriate for delivery at the Place or System levels and will be escalated accordingly:

- Embed a population health management approach across all programmes, incorporating 2021 Census data when available. The Integrated Care Board (ICB) accepts the ambition, but further work is required to understand what this means and to break this down into actions with agreed timescales, targets and indicators.
- Undertake a dental review to understand current provision and identify recommendations for action - Utilising results of the British Dental Survey 2022/23. Commissioning of dental services has recently passed to the Integrated Care Board.

## 5. Options Considered

All actions have been reviewed to understand:

- if they are still relevant;
- if they have the necessary support, resources and budget;

- if they are completed and should be removed;
- if they represent business as usual activity that will be delivered through existing business / service plans;
- if actions would be best delivered at the 'Place' or 'System' level;
- if additional actions are needed to respond to circumstances that have changed since the Delivery Plan was first adopted.

## 6. Proposal(s)

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- consider if the actions designed to deliver Priority 1 of the JLHWS are still appropriate, if existing actions need to be updated, or if additional actions are required;
- agree the actions to be referred upwards to the 'Place' or 'System' levels;
- commit their respective organisations to delivering the action plan.

## 7. Conclusion(s)

This report provides the Board with assurance that actions related to implementation of the actions around the JSHWS priority to *reduce the differences in health between different groups of people* are being delivered and updated.

## 8. Consultation and Engagement

The Health and Wellbeing Board Steering Group has been consulted on this report.

## 9. Appendices

Appendix A – JLHWS Delivery Plan: Priority 1

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### Background Papers:

[Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2030](#)

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### Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by reviewing the Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy Delivery Plan actions.

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## Appendix A