

South Lakeland District Council
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
26 April 2019
Executive Report 2018/19

Portfolio: Health and Wellbeing Portfolio

Report from: Cllr Philip Dixon

Portfolio Responsibilities

To work with other tiers of government, community groups and other relevant partners to enhance the health and wellbeing of residents.

Alleviate the harmful effects of poverty in the district, looking at issues to address those who are disadvantaged.

Working with key partners with regards to welfare reforms.

Nominated representative on the Health and Wellbeing Board as appropriate.

To drive our Localism agenda.

Policies, Plans and Strategies

- Community Strategy
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- Public Health
- Community Safety Strategy

Key Areas:

- Localism
- Devolution
- Public Health
- Community Development
- Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy
- Voluntary Sector in relation to Health and Wellbeing Sector
- Health and Safety

Devolution

The Council has been continuing to closely monitor any updates regarding devolution deals in order to prepare for any changes or mitigations that may be required from the County Councils outcome in partnership with the other Cumbrian districts. Work has been ongoing through the Joint Districts Board and Lancaster and South Cumbria Economic Region, to progress key relationships with other authorities in health, housing and economic growth. A devolution framework is expected from government sometime in the near future, however this continues to be delayed due to other business.

Public Health

The Council has been working towards promoting and disseminating positive health messages across the workplace, these messages reflects improvements for physical and mental wellbeing. In February 2019 the Council were awarded a Bronze award in the Better Health at Work Scheme which recognizes the achievements of organisations promoting healthy lifestyles and considering the health and wellbeing of their employees and helps them move forward in a structured and supported way. The Council operates flexible working which has been recently considered by HR Committee to remove the core hours, to promote a better work/life balance and alleviate stress and increase awareness of positive mental health. The Council is now taking steps to work towards achieving the Silver accreditation. The Silver Level of the award builds upon the basics of the Bronze level and rewards organisations that take a more holistic view of the workplace. This will see the Council amend or introduce policies to embed health and wellbeing within the organizational structure.

A number of employees across the Council have taken on the role of Health Advocates who act as a point of contact within the organisation as a health specialist. The advocates have been involving and motivating others to actively participate in the various health, wellbeing and lifestyles changes and campaigns that have been promoted through the Council such as Stoptober and reducing the sugar in your diet.

The Council recently undertook another successful Health and Wellbeing Week in February 2019 which included personal training sessions, health checks, talks on the employee assistance programme and incorporated lunch time walks held each day as part of February walking month. Following the success of the lunch time walks these have been continued to get employees and members active in their lunch breaks.

The Public Health Strategy has been previously reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and was adopted at Council on 28 March 2018.

This policy has now superseded the SLDC Public Health Strategy 2014-19 and sets out how the Health and Wellbeing board will work collaboratively over the next 10 years to enable Cumbrian communities to be healthy and tackle health inequalities. This Strategy acknowledges the wider determinants of health conditions i.e. the environment in which a person is born, lives, works and age impacts on their access and ability to live a healthier life. This approach will demonstrate cross cutting themes and how the Council can contribute to promoting, enabling and proving services to improve our communities health. The results from the 2017 Quality of Life survey show that 72% of South Lakeland residents reported good or very good health. This strategy will support communities in increasing this percentage.

Community Development and Localism

Over the past 12 months the Council has been assisting communities by building relationships with parish and town councils to promote the benefits of localism and identify the areas of development within communities. These meetings have opened up communication channels between the town/ parish to the district council and identify areas where areas of support can be further provided.

The applications to apply for funding to improve changing facilities opened in October 2018. These grants were too improve public changing facilities for people with disabilities. A total of 4 applications were received by SLDC and a total of £2500 was granted in locations across the district. These grants are being used to enable feasibility studies to ultimately raise the standard of public facilities for those people who cannot use standard accessible toilets.

Building Financial Resilience

Since the development of the Building Financial Resilience Group (BFR) SLDC and partners have developed an action plan across 4 task groups.

Task group 1: Increase partner collaboration and publicise the support available to the public

This task group has arranged for training and expansion of the Multi Agency Resilience System (MARS) system to aid inter-referrals (including health via integrated care communities). An intensive campaign of the group included web and print coverage of the support and resources available to the public.

Task group 2: Increase access to skills and education

The group has been working with partners such as Kendal College, Cumbria LEP and Queen Katherine School to promote work placements, apprenticeships and access to college education including a Cumbria Careers Launch, South Lakeland Skills Festival and promotion of free employment skills sessions offered by CCC.

Task group 3: Reduce Fuel Poverty

In November 2018 the LEAP scheme was launched to provide free energy advice to South Lakeland residents, including energy tariff support and telephone support on financial management.

Task group 4: Food waste and redistribution

Promotional activities were recently undertaken offering free food waste advice for a variety of groups across South Lakeland.

The BFR group has also recently made links with the Morecambe Bay Poverty Truth Commission and their initiatives across North Lancashire.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy

The Community Safety Partnership (CSP) has been developing a joined up and collaborative problem solving approach to crime prevention in South Cumbria. This included developing Local Focus Units for a multi-agency approach to local, tactical issues and establishing links between 3rd sector and statutory agencies e.g. Barrow Multi-Cultural Forum and the Local Focus Hubs

and MIND and Morecambe Bay CCG. The Cumbria Constabulary are attending Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 26 April to provide in-depth updates on the issues affecting Cumbria. The total number of crimes reported in Quarter 3 2018/19 was 1,227. This has risen from 1,248 in Q3 which is believed to be due to the increased confidence for reporting crimes to the police and improved reporting methods.

The CSP has been working on the key priorities throughout 2018/19 which support the overall reduction in crime, which included:

Alcohol and violent crime

The CSP granted £10,000 of support funding for the creation of a welfare hub of statutory and third sector partners in Barrow and the installation of CCTV to tackle serious issues of alcohol and substance misuse within this area.

£5,000 of funding was also granted to the 'Barrow Detached' project. This project allowed for youth workers (in pairs) to be present in Barrow Town on Friday and Saturday nights, to encourage young people to access support services, engage them in diversionary activities and reduce the levels of anti-social behavior.

Domestic Abuse

The CSP have worked to establish links between the homelessness teams, in South Lakeland and Barrow and the Women's Community Matters to provide domestic abuse training for all staff.

£5,000 grant funding was awarded to CADAS for a collaboration project with Springfield Hostel, Kendal to work closer to support victims and rehabilitate perpetrators of domestic abuse. This training was available for anyone who worked with victims or perpetrators of domestic abuse.

In Q2 2018/19 the number of domestic abuse reports was 253 which has reduced to 241 in Q3.

Child Sexual Exploitation

The Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) attended at CSP meeting to provide a presentation on missing, exploited and trafficked children, following a reported increase over the past 3 years in support for children's who are at risk. Following this presentation the LSCB and CALC agreed to raise awareness of Child Sexual Exploitation within the rural areas of South Lakeland.

Mental Health

The CSP has opened up discussions between leading local mental health agencies to understand the areas of improvement in South Cumbria.

This discussion was an opportunity to look at the issues of people with mental health problems in the criminal justice system, who have no access to support services. These key partners included Haverigg Prison, Assistant Coroner, Cumbria Partnership Foundation Trust, Cumbria Police, Prohibition Services, MIND, Unity and Cumbria County Council. From this meeting a group has been involved in health service plans for development of linked up mental health services.

The key issues identified by the CSP were:

- The lack of liaison following a patient discharge from Prison, mental health in-patient services and care, which can lead to homelessness or missing the links into local services.
- The inability for statutory services to accept referrals for those with substance misuse issues.

The CSP proposed to the CCG that key mental health issues such as discharge, dual diagnosis and suicides should be raised with relevant bodies, with the potential to be included in new CCC and CCG mental health strategies. The homelessness teams at SLDC and Barrow have met with health service professionals to discuss mental health referrals.

ATiC Project

County Lines is becoming an increasingly big issue within South Cumbria, which involves drugs, serious and organised crime, exploitation and links to modern day slavery.

The Council is supporting the second year of the ATiC project which will consist of interactive performances for students in year 9 on decision-making and critical thinking related to drugs and county lines. The performances will be held in May 2019.

These interactive performances will involve students who will be faced to make a decision and face the consequences related to their choice. The students will be taken on a journey through the use of film, music and interactive sets. Students will then have the opportunity to reflect on their choices, seek advice and help through workshops.

Health and Safety

Across 2018/19 the Health and Safety Advisor has worked with Human Resources to coordinate behavioural safety and behavioural framework aims and objectives which we anticipate will lead to a culture responsibility. In 2018 84% of Health and Safety service requests were responded to within 5 working days.

The Street Scene service has continued to develop and introduce new measures to ensure health and safety of employees and customers is key, by introducing new 44 litre recycling boxes which will reduce the weight of the boxes which in turn will support the reduction of potential Musco-Skeletal injuries.

The Health and Safety Partnership with Craven District Council has been successful continuing to work together to implement the three year health and safety strategy.

Through the promotion of the Reach for Zero campaign the authority has been ensuring that all staff regularly complete Desk Assessments and are aware of the reporting methods should a health and safety risk occur.

Following approval of the Health and Safety Strategic Improvement Plan at Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee on 16 October 2018, the strategy now sets out measures, current status and milestones. This plan will support the Council in ensuring that the health, safety and wellbeing of staff is key and continuously improved.