

Walsall Council Scrutiny and Performance Panel Work Group
Initiation Document

Work Group Name:	Childhood Obesity
Panel:	Children's & Young People Scrutiny & Performance Panel
Municipal Year:	2010 - 2011
Lead Member:	Cllr Robertson
Lead Officers:	Susie Gill -NHS Walsall; Janet Catto - Serco
Support Officer:	Matt Underhill
Membership:	Cllr I Robertson (lead Member); Cllr K Chambers; Mr A McDevitt; Cllr L Beeley; Cllr O Bennett

1.	Context																				
	<p>Nationally in 2008, around 1 in 6 boys and girls (aged 2 to 15) were classed as obese, and around 1 in 3 were overweight or obese. This is an increase since 1995 when 1 in 8 were obese and 1 in 4 were overweight or obese.</p> <p>The proportions of children in Walsall classed as overweight and obese in Reception class have been consistently below regional and national levels. However, Walsall Year 6 overweight and obesity levels are higher than regional and national levels.</p> <table><tr><th>Year Group</th><th colspan="2">Obese</th><th colspan="2">Overweight/Obese</th></tr><tr><th>2009/2010</th><th>%</th><th>No</th><th>%</th><th>No</th></tr><tr><td>YR</td><td>10.6%</td><td>343</td><td>22.5%</td><td>726</td></tr><tr><td>Y6</td><td>21.6%</td><td>663</td><td>35.5%</td><td>1090</td></tr></table> <p>There is a strong link between deprivation and the risk of becoming obese. Over a quarter of children in Walsall live in poverty, this figure has increased over the last 2 years.</p> <p>The health impact of obesity is well documented. It is estimated that obesity reduces life expectancy, on average, by 9 years.</p> <p>The most significant long term consequence of childhood obesity is its persistence into adulthood and the early onset of obesity- related co-morbidities such as hypertension and type 2 diabetes.</p>	Year Group	Obese		Overweight/Obese		2009/2010	%	No	%	No	YR	10.6%	343	22.5%	726	Y6	21.6%	663	35.5%	1090
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2.	Objectives																				
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity2. To improve engagement with other key stakeholders e.g. Planning and Transport3. To contribute to the childhood obesity needs assessment being lead by Public Health4. Investigate how other local authorities tackle childhood obesity																				

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	<p>e.g. Dudley's Healthy Town initiative</p> <p>5. Develop recommendations to influence the Healthy Weight Strategy for Walsall</p>
3.	Scope
	<p>Included:</p> <p>All children and families in Walsall targeting high risk groups;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lower socio-economic status groups/areas ▪ African-Caribbean people and Pakistani women ▪ Children, particularly those with overweight parents ▪ Children with physical or learning disabilities
6.	Equalities Implications
	<p>A childhood obesity needs assessment is currently being undertaken.</p>
4.	Who else will you want to take part?
	<p>Transport and Planning</p> <p>Regeneration</p> <p>SERCO</p> <p>Primary Head Teachers</p> <p>Secondary Head Teachers</p> <p>School Catering Services (including private non LA providers)</p> <p>Children Services</p> <p>Greenspaces</p> <p>Black Country Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Voluntary Sector</p>
5.	Timescales & Reporting Schedule
	<p>To report back to the Panel at its meeting on 28/04/11</p>
6.	Risk factors
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The future of School meals • Healthy Schools Programme • Schools Sports Partnership • Ofsted framework • Economic Climate • Free swimming

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