

Health and Wellbeing Board

23 January 2017

Proposal to enable Health and Wellbeing Board members and partners to learn more about planning and regulatory decisions and processes in order to maximise the opportunities to improve health in Walsall.

1. Purpose

This report has come to the Health and Wellbeing Board at the request of the Chair to discuss setting up a series of forums to consider issues in the areas of planning and regulatory services that affect all HWB partners, and Public Health in particular. These forums would have a focus agreed by HWB members and provide:

- the relevant information through evidence/presentations from experts using LA officers and other partners, including other local areas
- give an opportunity for questions and debate
- finish with recommendations for action.

The intended outcome for these forums will therefore be achieved through the resulting recommendations for all HWB partner organisations and any appropriate others. Feedback on progress will be given to the HWB within the time scales agreed.

2. Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board considers and agrees the proposal outlined in this report.

3. Report detail

Walsall Council and its partner organisations are responsible for making decisions, developing policy and enforcing regulations on a wide variety of topics, especially in the areas of planning and regulatory services, many of which have a direct impact on the physical and mental health of the population in Walsall.

As described above, it is proposed that the HWB sets up a series of forums to consider issues, in the first instance, in the areas of planning and regulatory services that affect all HWB partners, and Public Health in particular. These forums would have a focus agreed by HWB members and provide:

- the relevant information through evidence/presentations from experts using LA officers and other partners, including other local areas
- give an opportunity for questions and debate
- finish with recommendations for action.

Topics to be considered will involve both planning and licensing applications, the regulatory framework, enforcement activity and current pro active programmes of work (eg; Health Switch, Health and Work). These could include:

- Food
- Alcohol
- Smoking
- Sexual health

Discussions will cover issues such as opening times, location, range/ type of services offered and saturation of similar services in the local area. The impact on health for local residents and service users will be the main focus for the discussions and subsequent recommendations. Consideration may need to be given to particular target groups eg children and young people.

This is an opportunity to look at these areas in greater detail with the help and advice of experts as well as review what has happened and has been successful in other areas and come up with a list of effective recommendations and measures for Walsall.

4. Implications for Joint Working arrangements:

Dependent on the recommendations from the forums there could be a number of joint working arrangements that are affected with either financial, legal or staffing implications. Consideration would need to be given once the recommendations are known.

5. Health and Wellbeing Priorities:

The Marmot objectives, and Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities, cover both the human life span and health determinants. Aspects are sure to be affected by discussions and recommendations from the proposed forums.

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