

Cabinet – 25 July 2012

Fair Society, Healthy Lives: Applying the findings of the Marmot Review in Walsall

Portfolio: These proposals cross all portfolios

Service: These proposals cross all services

Wards: All

Key decision: No

Forward plan: No

1. Summary

1.1 This report asks the Cabinet to recommend to Council revisions to the Corporate Plan to incorporate the 'Marmot objectives'. It explains what the Marmot objectives are and how they can provide a framework for addressing inequalities across all areas of activity. Applying these objectives can assist in enabling people and communities to become more self-sufficient and thereby decrease the demand on public services. This enhances the knowledge we already have and strategies we are already building, as well as with learning from Working Smarter to date.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Cabinet recommends to Council that it includes a set of core priority objectives within the Corporate Plan for 2011-12 to 2014-15 that reflect the key objectives of the Marmot Review in addressing deprivation and health inequalities within the borough. These are as follows:

- Give every child the best start in life
- Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
- Create fair employment and good work for all
- Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
- Create and develop healthy and sustainable communities
- Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention

This is consistent with the learning from Working Smarter Reviews to date. Going forward, Working Smarter Reviews will help to ensure that the Marmot Principles are at the heart of our work.

2.2 That all partners be encouraged to adopt the same set of objectives for partnership working going forwards by including core priority objectives within the Sustainable Communities Strategy.

3. The Marmot Review

- 3.1 The Marmot Review ('Fair Society, Healthy Lives') presents a national strategic review of health inequalities post-2010. The review was commissioned by the Secretary of State for Health in 2008 and published in February 2010. The review presents a detailed analysis of health inequalities in England, and the inequalities in the social determinants of health e.g. educational attainment, employment status, social networks and support which lead to the wide variations in health and well-being outcomes. It makes recommendations about how these can be addressed more effectively in future than they have been in the past. The term 'social gradient' is used to describe the slope/ trend that is seen between people at different points across the socio-economic spectrum. This is the third national review of Inequalities in the Health. Previous reviews were undertaken by Sir Douglas Black (1980) and Sir Donald Acheson (1998)
- 3.2 Although tackling inequalities in the social determinants (the underlying causes) of inequalities in health is described as 'a matter of fairness and social justice', it can equally be described as an economic necessity, and entirely consistent with the Vanguard principles of Systems Thinking already adopted the Council.
- 3.3 The Council needs to find savings of £53 million in the next four years. The need to provide care for 'looked after children', the inter-generational cycle of benefits dependency, the proportion of young people leaving school without basic literacy and numeracy skills and not 'work-ready', the costs to health and social care of treating illness caused by unhealthy lifestyles, the proportion of older people losing independence through admission to residential and nursing home care can all be seen as 'failure demand', a failure of the system to identify needs earlier and respond more appropriately and effectively to prevent deterioration and restore self-reliance and independence from 'the 'State'. These are some of the issues which the Marmot report analyses and which its recommendations address.
- 3.4 The review concludes that reducing inequalities will require action on six policy objectives, across the life course, from 'cradle to grave', end-to-end systems review:
- Give every child the best start in life
 - Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
 - Create fair employment and good work for all
 - Ensure a healthy standard of living for all
 - Create and develop healthy and sustainable communities
 - Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention

- 3.5 These objectives have formed the framework for the current Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, the findings of which have been accepted and endorsed by the Shadow Health and Well-being Board on 11 June 2012, which also sets out proposals for local action to achieve these objectives.
- 3.6 If adopted by the Cabinet and then Council, these objectives can then inform the development of the Health and Well-being Strategy due to be developed by March 2013.
- 3.7 The Marmot objectives are also being used to refresh Area Plans – so that they reflect the same structure as the JSNA and Health and Well-being strategy. This will assist in encouraging area partnerships to focus on the broader contribution that they can make to tackling inequalities as well as addressing more immediate environmental and community safety concerns. Local priorities and interventions will in this way be heavily influenced by the Marmot objectives going forwards.

4. Working Smarter

- 4.1 The Council has been using the Vanguard Method of systems thinking to support radical re-design of services since August 2011. As our knowledge is building and we are taking a customer-focused look at what is important and how the Council operates, we recognise that there is close alignment to the Marmot objectives. The learning from Working Smarter currently has indicated that there are six systems that the Council operates within that are critical, under-pinning systems for Walsall people and businesses and, thereby, the Council. Learning from the reviews will be continually matched against the Marmot objectives through the existing governance arrangements. The reviews link to the Marmot objectives as shown in the following table:

Working Smarter reviews	Marmot Objectives
I want a better life for me and my family	Give every child the best start in life
Help me with my money, my home, my job I want a better life for me and my family Help me get the skills to get and keep work Help me if I am vulnerable when I get older	Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives
Help my business grow and be successful Help me get the skills to get and keep work Help me with my money, my home, my job	Create fair employment and good work for all
Help me keep healthy Help me if I am vulnerable when I get older	Ensure a healthy standard of living for all

Help me keep healthy Help me get the skills to get and keep work	Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities
Help me keep healthy	Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention

4.2 Taking action on these systems is vital for both enhancing the self-sufficiency and thereby quality of life of local people and enabling the council to make best use of diminishing resources.

4.3 This essentially aligns Walsall's implementation of the Marmot objectives through the Council's Corporate Plan, linking policy to delivery via the Working Smarter Reviews.

5. Council priorities

5.1 The Marmot policy objectives are consistent with the Council's priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan (Economy, Communities, Health and well-being) and of partners in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

6. Risk management

6.1 These objectives provide an opportunity to agree on high impact changes and co-ordinated action across Council Services, the public, private and third sectors to deliver improved health, well-being and quality of life for the people of all ages in Walsall. The risk of not seizing this opportunity will be to continue will later, less effective, more costly interventions which deliver poorer outcomes which will very soon become unaffordable.

7. Financial implications

7.2 There are no direct financial implications of these proposals. Over time intervening early to improved health and well-being at all ages, in particular of those people most disadvantaged and increasing healthy life expectancy (adding life to years, not just adding years of life) will contribute to reducing the costs of treating and caring for people with avoidable disease and disability, across Council Services and the Public Sector as a whole.

8. Legal implications

8.1 The Council has a statutory duty to improve the health and well-being of its population. The recommendations of this report contribute to fulfilling this obligation.

9. Property implications

None

10. Staffing implications

- 10.1 There are no direct staffing implications of these proposals. The transfer of Public Health staff into the Council from April 2013 will enhance the capacity and capability of the Council to deliver these proposals.

11. Equality implications

- 11.1 The primary purpose of the Marmot Review was to understand and describe actions to reduce inequalities in health, well-being and life-changes. By adopting these principles, the priorities and actions of Walsall Council will be informed by the best information currently available to improve equality in the Borough by addressing current inequalities in health and well-being and their underlying social determinants.

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5 July 2012