

## **IDeA Healthy Communities Programme**

### **Decisions**

1. For information and discussion

### **Actions Required**

2. To comment on the future direction of the Healthy Communities Programme
3. That the new LGA Programme Director for Community Well-Being be invited to become a member of the IDeA Healthy Communities Programme Board

**Action by: Anne McDonald, Programme Director for Community Well-being**

**Contact Officers: Susan Biddle and Sue Johnson, Joint Heads of the Healthy Communities Programme, [susan.biddle@idea.gov.uk](mailto:susan.biddle@idea.gov.uk) , [sue.johnson@idea.gov.uk](mailto:sue.johnson@idea.gov.uk) , 020 7296 6578**

## **IDeA Healthy Communities Programme**

### **Summary**

1. This item provides members with information about the first year's activities of the IDeA's Healthy Communities Programme and asks for comments on and ideas for the future work programme.

### **Background**

2. In February 2006, the IDeA was awarded a contract by the Department of Health to deliver a Healthy Communities Programme with a completion date of March 2007. The purpose of the programme is to build capacity in local authorities to tackle health inequalities and to develop effective health improvement strategies in their communities. A team of experienced health improvement specialists has been seconded from Leeds PCT and Enfield, Essex, Gateshead and Manchester councils to deliver the programme's objectives. The joint managers of the programme are seconded from within the IDeA and from London Councils. They report to the IDeA's Strategic Adviser for Children Adults and Health Services.

### **Programme activities to date include:**

3. programme activities to date:
  - 2 pilot Healthy Communities Peer Reviews (using a newly developed benchmark against which to assess a council's health community leadership role) have been undertaken and a further 20 are programmed up to the end of March 2008. Peers with a broad range of experience have been trained to undertake these reviews.
  - 2 national Leadership Academies for lead members in health have run successfully. A newly developed five-day modular Healthcare and Well-being Academy, which amalgamates the former Healthy Communities and Adult Well-being and Social Care leadership academies, will ensure a "joined-up" approach and will appeal to members with multiple roles. A further 2 Academies are planned up to the end of March 2008.
  - A pilot local leadership academy for members and their health partners in County Durham is taking place in July with a number of others planned up to the end of March 2008.
  - A health based section on the Knowledge website, accessible to health professionals across the public and third sectors has been established. It includes information, case studies, articles and useful links. This has become the most visited section of the website and has received positive feedback. The link is [www.idea.gov.uk/health](http://www.idea.gov.uk/health)

- The Programme has developed a workforce/healthy employer work strand. A publication will be produced to offer good practice examples and useful links. In addition a pilot programme is underway in 4 local authorities with the aim to develop the knowledge, skills and ability of specific groups of local authority employees to improve the health and well being of their customers and service users.
- Joint working with the Centre for Public Scrutiny to broaden scrutiny reviews from assessing NHS services to more holistic reviews looking at health and inequalities in their local communities.
- A number of ad hoc projects with individual and groups of local authorities and their partners have been agreed in the regions, in conjunction with the IDeA Regional Associates.
- Relationships have been developed and joint working has been undertaken with key stakeholders. Some examples are NIHCE, UKPHA, Healthcare Commission, regional government offices, DoH national support teams, NHS Confederation and others.
- Marketing and communications has been a key activity, with the programme sponsoring a number of awards, team members speaking at national and regional events and contributing to articles and publications in local government and public health journals.

## **Programme Governance**

4. The programme is governed by the Healthy Communities Programme Board, which comprises representatives from the IDeA, the Departments of Health and Communities and Local Government, the Treasury, a council chief executive and a PCT Deputy Director of Public Health. The Board's role is to monitor and evaluate the impact of the programme's objectives.

## **The future**

5. The Programme Board has recently agreed an extension to the duration of the programme. This is an endorsement for the work undertaken so far and an opportunity to look at what the programme can achieve over the next 12-18 months.
  6. The Healthy Communities team will be considering its future work programme at an away day in July and the Programme Board will be discussing the longer-term sustainability of the programme at its September meeting.
- The joint Heads of the Healthy Communities Programme welcome comments and ideas from members of the LGA Community Well-Being Board about the future direction of the programme, in order that these can be taken account of in their wider discussions.
  - It is proposed that the Anne McDonald, Programme Director for Community Well-Being is invited to join the Healthy Communities Programme Board as the LGA's representative.

## **Implications for Wales**

- 7. Strong links have been made with the Welsh LGA health improvement team, which has developed a number of innovative initiatives with Welsh authorities. Invitations to attend the Leadership Academy have been given to Welsh elected members and WLGA officers have contributed to the development of the Healthy Communities benchmark. These links will continue to be strengthened.**

## **Financial/Resource Implications**

- 8. The Programme is wholly funded by the Department of Health**

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