

Update on Other Board Business

Purpose of report

For information and comment.

Summary

Members to note the following updates:

- Childhood Obesity – A Plan for Action
- Future of Mandatory Health Visitor Checks Undertaken by Councils
- Local Transformation Plans (LTP) for Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Health Inequalities
- LGA & the Association of Directors of Public Health Annual Health Conference, Thursday 9 March, 2017

Recommendations

Members of the Community Wellbeing Board are asked to:

1. **Provide oral updates** on any other outside bodies / external meetings they may have attended on behalf of the Community Wellbeing Board since the last meeting; and
2. **Note** the updates contained in the report.

Action

As directed by members.

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Update on Other Board Business

Childhood Obesity - A Plan for Action

1. The government published [Childhood obesity: a plan for action](#) in August 2016. The plan aims to reduce levels of childhood obesity, improve the health and wellbeing of children, and contribute towards reducing future pressures on the NHS and society.
2. The plan sets out 14 key areas of actions. Seven of these relate directly to food (including reducing sugar and a soft drinks levy), four relate to schools (including helping children to have an hour of physical activity a day), the other three are supporting early years settings; harnessing the best new technology and enabling health professionals to support families.
3. Many health experts, campaigners, Ministers and those in the food and drinks industry have expressed their disappointment that the plan does not go far enough in addressing the root causes of obesity; it is acknowledged that this requires effort across government and a range of stakeholders including local councils.
4. The LGA will be responding to the government's [Soft Drinks Industry Levy Consultation](#) which is currently underway and closes 13 October. The LGA has called for fundamental reforms, such as a mandatory reduction of sugar in soft drinks, better sugar labelling on food and drink products, calorie counts on menus in chain restaurants, and for councils to be given powers to ban junk food advertising near schools.
5. We believe that these measures, which would help to promote greater individual responsibility, could help to significantly reduce childhood obesity. It is disappointing that a number of these key asks have not been included in the plan and we will continue to press government for them to be introduced. Local authorities anticipate having spent £505 million tackling obesity in adults and children, following the transfer of public health responsibility in April 2013.

Media work relating to obesity

6. Links to a selection of media releases are included below for information.
 - 6.1 Obesity crisis: 500 children suffering Type 2 diabetes is 'wake-up call' for the nation: http://www.local.gov.uk/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/7860170/NEWS
 - 6.2 Better food labeling: http://www.local.gov.uk/web/guest/media-releases/-/journal_content/56/10180/7957469/NEWS
 - 6.3 [Fizzy drinks need child-friendly 'teaspoon labels' to spell out sugar content, say councils](#)
 - 6.4 [Make pub, restaurant and cinema chains show calorie counts says councils](#)
 - 6.5 Reducing sugar: [Soft drinks firms must commit to sugar reduction in popular drinks to combat obesity crisis, say councils](#)

- 6.6 Online advertising targeting children: [Councils raise public health concerns over food firms' online games for children](#)

Publications relating to obesity

7. Links to some LGA publications are included below for information:
- 7.1 [Healthy weight, healthy futures: Local government action to tackle childhood obesity](#)
- 7.2 [Tipping the scales: Case studies on the use of planning powers to limit hot food takeaway](#)
- 7.3 [Building the foundations - tackling obesity through planning and development:](#)
- 7.4 [Healthier Food Procurement](#)

Future of Mandatory Health Visitor Checks Undertaken by Councils

8. Following the transfer of 0-5 public health commissioning responsibilities in October 2015, local councils are responsible for delivering health visitor checks. At the point of transfer, statutory regulations were enacted to mandate councils to carry out five checks for all babies; an antenatal health visit; a new baby review; a 6-8 week assessment; a one year assessment; and a 2 to 2.5 year review. These checks are referred to as “universal health visitor reviews”.
9. The regulations mandating these checks expire in March 2017. The intention behind them was to safeguard services for families and to provide a degree of national consistency in local council’s provision to families.
10. At the request of the Department of Health (DofH), Public Health England (PHE) has undertaken a review of the mandate and will report its findings and advice to Ministers in October 2016. Ministers will determine whether the regulations should expire, be revised or cease altogether.
11. The Infrastructure and Projects Authority (IPA) (part of Cabinet Office and HM Treasury) has indicated that they will be carrying out an independent review of the health visitor mandated checks. This will include consideration of the PHE methodology for review and outcomes.
12. The Chair of the Community Wellbeing Board and the Chair of the Children and Young People’s Board have written to Nicola Blackwood MP, (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Innovation) requesting that the Government does not make a decision about the mandate of health visiting services in isolation. They propose instead, a collective review of all mandated public health services delivered by local councils¹ next year. This is to ensure that councils are not forced to direct other public health budgets to mandated services and that within the context of reduced funding, there is local flexibility to determine how to target available

¹ National Child Measurement Programme, NHS Health Checks, Sexual Health Services, Public Health advices and Health protection.

resources. The Chairs have invited the Minister to meet with them to discuss this proposal further.

Local Transformation Plans (LTP) for Children & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

13. Local Transformation Plans seek to transform the design and delivery of a local offer of services for children and young people with mental health needs. The transformation of services has been supported by the release of extra funding to Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). NHS England has distributed £30 million of funding to improve eating disorder services. This funding will be recurrent over 5 years. An additional £1.25 billion was also pledged in the March 2015 budget for CAMHS, over the next five years. CCGs need to work closely with a range of local partners to develop and deliver plans and they should be signed off by Health and Wellbeing Boards.
14. The LGA has undertaken a survey to seek views from Directors of Children's Services on how efforts to transform CAMHS are progressing. Results will be fed into the planned LGA's "State of the Nation Report" for CAMHS, which will identify key recommendations for national partners to support local transformation, and highlight good practice underway in some areas. The aim is to launch the report in December. CAMHS is a priority area for the LGA Campaigns Team this year and a campaign will be launched to coincide with the publication of the "State of the Nation Report".
15. The extensive oversight infrastructure for CAMHS at national level (through Department of Health) has been downsized and there is now a single Mental Health Strategic Partnership Group which will oversee all activities and track progress with transformation.

Health Inequalities

16. In her first speech as Prime Minister, Theresa May signalled that health inequalities was a government priority for action, given the great inequalities in health in the UK including the large life expectancy gap of nine years between boys born in the richest neighbourhoods and those born in the poorest.
17. Since then, the Prime Minister has launched a government audit to tackle racial disparities in public service outcomes. This means the public will be able to check how their race affects how they are treated on key issues such as health, education and employment, broken down by geographic location, income and gender.
18. The findings from this audit will influence government policy to solve these problems. The first data is expected to be published before the summer 2017 and will be updated annually to ensure the public can track improvement and better hold services to account.
19. The Health Select Committee has welcomed the government's the focus on public health and reducing health inequalities. In its recent report [Public health post-2013 \(PDF 3MB\)](#) (September 2016), it emphasises that reducing health inequality will need to address the wider determinants of health, such as education, employment, housing, and the environment. This requires cross-Government working.

20. The report sets out some clear actions for the new Prime Minister and her Government to translate this priority into a reality.

**LGA & the Association of Directors of Public Health Annual Health Conference,
Thursday 9 March, 2017**

21. This year's conference will explore and build on the challenging, innovative work being undertaken by councils and public health teams with their partners and local communities. Confirmed speakers include **Nicola Blackwood MP**, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Public Health and Innovation and **Professor Sir Michael Marmot**, Director of the Institute of Health Equity at UCL.
22. Further information on the conference including booking details are available on the LGA website [here](#).