

To: Cabinet
Date: 17 April 2024
Report of: Head of Corporate Strategy
Title of Report: Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-30

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-30, as a key partner in developing and delivering the strategy.
Key decision:	No
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Louise Upton, Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities
Corporate Priority:	Supporting Thriving Communities
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24

Recommendations: That Cabinet resolves to:
1. Note the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-30; and
2. Note the draft Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2024 at Appendix 2.

Appendices	
Appendix 1	Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2024-30
Appendix 2	Draft Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Action Plan
Appendix 3	Risk Register

Introduction and background

1. In March 2023 the Cabinet noted completion of the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and West Berkshire Integrated Care Partnership (“BOB ICP”) Strategy, which set the strategic direction for health and care delivery across the BOB ICP area. Shortly after that the Director of Public Health, Oxfordshire led a partnership working programme to update the Oxfordshire County Council’s own Health & Wellbeing Strategy, which sits under the BOB ICP Strategy and is in turn informed by the findings of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2023.

2. The work to develop the Oxfordshire County Council Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2024-30 (“the Strategy”) involved significant input from Oxford City Council alongside all other Oxfordshire councils, health bodies and voluntary and community sector representatives. Following a period of public consultation a finalised Strategy was approved at the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board on 7 December 2023.

Headline commitments in the Health & Wellbeing Strategy

3. In keeping with the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Board - to prevent ill health, reduce the need for treatment and delay the need for care - the Health & Wellbeing Strategy has three principles at its core: addressing health inequalities, preventing ill-health, and closer collaboration. It focuses on the things people need to stay healthy such as decent employment, warm homes, environments that allow healthier living and communities that are well connected and supportive. It also focuses on what we can do jointly across health and social care in Oxfordshire to prevent people being at risk of poor health, from birth to older age.
4. The Strategy takes a life-stages approach, outlining how services across the sectors can work together to help Oxfordshire residents “Start Well, Live Well and Age Well”. It also considers the “Building Blocks of Health”, including housing, employment and climate adaptation. These are in-line with the Council’s corporate priorities as outlined in the draft Corporate Strategy 2024-28.

Engagement and consultation process

5. The Strategy has been led by the Director of Public Health, Oxfordshire and developed as a co-ordinated strategy for health services, local government and community organisations to work together to tackle preventable health problems.
6. The development process for this Strategy has taken a partnership approach from the start. A Task & Finish group with representatives from Public Health, the NHS, City and district councils, Oxfordshire County Council, Healthwatch Oxfordshire and BOB ICP has met throughout the development process, and both officers and Cabinet Members have taken part in these meetings. Community feedback has also been considered, with the Director of Public Health commissioning community engagement from Healthwatch Oxfordshire and the Oxfordshire County Council leading focus groups for key seldom-heard communities.
7. The Council was closely involved in the development of the Strategy, helping shape the focus on preventing poor health through a joined-up approach between health services and other partners. This is central to tackling inequalities in the city, and is delivered across the work of the Council, including good housing and good jobs as well as leisure, culture and community activities that promote good physical and mental health.
8. A six-week public consultation on the Strategy took place during October and November 2023. As part of this process each district council partner was invited to give a corporate response. For the Council, in addition to the corporate response, officers presented the draft Strategy to the Scrutiny Committee and invited the committee to submit an independent response, as there would be no further opportunities for scrutiny at district level. Some of the comments made at the Scrutiny Committee were more relevant for the action plan and have been incorporated into feedback on that document.

Governance and accountability

9. Overall responsibility for this Strategy sits with the Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing Board, a partnership between local government, the NHS and the people of Oxfordshire which aims to prevent ill health, reduce the need for treatment and delay the need for care. The Council is represented on the Board by the Chief Executive and the Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities. The Strategy was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in December 2023.
10. The Strategy is aligned with commitments under several Council strategies, including the Thriving Communities Strategy, the Oxford Housing, Homeless and Rough Sleeping Strategy and the Inclusive Economy Strategy. It also reflects partnership work undertaken by the Council as part of the Children and Young People's Partnership, the Mental Health Concordat and the Tobacco Control Alliance.
11. Work to develop an action plan to deliver the Strategy was delegated to the Task & Finish group that developed the Strategy, which includes officer representation. The draft Health and Wellbeing Action Plan will be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board for approval on 14 March 2024, and is attached at Appendix 2.

Other implications

Financial implications

12. There are no direct financial implications associated with this report and the financial implications of the Council's participation in delivery of the HWS will be agreed in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Healthier Communities within existing budget envelopes.

Legal issues

13. There are no identified legal issues arising directly from this report. Any steps taken in the delivery of the action plan will be subject to the Council's usual governance requirements.

Level of risk

14. The risks are assessed in the risk register at Appendix 3. The Health and Wellbeing Board did not require a risk assessment for this Strategy, however for completeness officers have considered the risks for the Council of working in accordance with this Strategy, as one of a number of delivery partners in Oxford.

Equalities impact

15. Health inequalities are at their most stark in Oxford, with 13-year life-expectancy differences from the most to the least affluent parts of the city. Tackling health inequalities plays a key role in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Strategy places front and centre the need to tackle avoidable and unfair inequalities in health outcomes, experiences, and access to health and care services.

16. Oxfordshire County Council officers have engaged with residents from disadvantaged groups across Oxfordshire during the process of updating the Strategy, especially those whose health has been adversely impacted by their respective disadvantage. Officers have drawn on existing networks and community groups to run targeted focus groups to ensure the voices of those individuals/groups are heard.
17. Any programmes undertaken in the delivery of the action plan will be subject to the Council's usual governance requirements.

Report author	Clare Keen
Job title	Policy and Partnerships Officer
Service area or department	Corporate Strategy
Telephone	01865 335 447
e-mail	ckeen@oxford.gov.uk

Background Papers: None
