

Suggested City Executive Board response to the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee on Health Inequalities

Provided by the Board Member for Finance, Asset Management and Public Health

Before tabling specific responses, I wanted to preface this commentary with a note of great sadness that these recommendations were amongst the last projects of Cllr Van Coulter before his sad passing. Van was a great colleague, with a huge passion in this area and a real eye for detail, but also detail which would make a concrete difference to people’s lives. It is tragic that Van will not be able to scrutinise our council’s progress in this area – I know he would have been a thoughtful, challenging, critical friend to work in this area.

3

Recommendation	Agreed?	Comment
1. That the recommendations of the Health Inequalities Panel that have been identified as being most relevant to district councils (see appendix) are supported as far as possible by the Council within existing resources.	Yes	See separate comments in paper attached “OCCG Inequalities Commission Recommendations Relevant to Oxford City Council”
2. That the Council supports reducing health inequalities and will adopt the ‘Health in All Policies’ approach, which is supported by government and the World Health Organisation.	Yes	The policy review process, which new and renewed policies go through, requires a consideration of impacts and equalities. We will investigate how we can widen this consideration to incorporate health more explicitly and make a recommendation to the programme boards who manage this process.
3. That the Council looks at how it can improve monitoring the health and wellbeing impacts of key services that impact on health and wellbeing.	Yes	As part of the Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy a range of indicators are being developed such as: Leisure Centre Usage by Target Groups (p 22) The policy review process has been revised and will now include a section on monitoring and evaluation that considers the impact of the policy over a set period. We will further encourage service areas to include health measures in their policy evaluation via the policy development toolkit.
4. That consideration is given to whether more could be done within existing resources to tackle loneliness and isolation among the city’s growing elderly population	Yes	Through the community grants programme we have and will continue to fund community and voluntary organisations whose work contributes towards alleviating

<p>through community services, with reference to the work of the Jo Cox Foundation's Loneliness Commission.</p>		<p>isolation and loneliness for many people in Oxford.</p> <p>This includes funding The Clockhouse project based in Greater Leys who provides activities for older people, the Parasol Project in Northway that provides inclusive leisure and play activities for disabled children and young people and Open Door that works from East Oxford community centre which is a drop in service for refugees and asylum seekers.</p> <p>Of the community associations leasing community centres at peppercorn rent many provide lunch clubs that target older people in their local community and put on family activities all helping towards reducing isolation and loneliness.</p> <p>The OSP of which the council is a partner, is looking to add value to work that reduces loneliness and isolation. For example the council, via the OSP has contributed funding to an AGE UK event in May, linked to the Jo Cox loneliness commission, bringing together organisations to look at what more can be done in Oxfordshire around loneliness. The OSP will also be looking at ways to influence partners to encourage more staff to volunteer their time via organisations such as Ami https://www.withami.co.uk/ that works to reduce loneliness and isolation. As a member of the OSP the council can look at what more can be done to encourage our own staff to volunteer via organisations such as Ami.</p> <p>We will consider whether this area can be further supported when commissioned grants are next reviewed.</p>
<p>5. That the Council continues to support and encourage advice agencies in helping people to claim the benefits they</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Ensuring that people suffering from poor health and disabilities have access to the right benefits plays a key</p>

<p>are entitled to.</p>		<p>role in reducing health inequalities. The council funds four advice agencies that provide a range of support to some of our most vulnerable residents. Recent work has supported people moving from Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independence Payment around understanding the changes and in some circumstances challenging decisions. The Council gathers monitoring information on the client group of advice agencies including those who are disabled, and will be reviewing the service in advance of new contracts in 2018. There is no intention to reduce funding but the review will ensure the Council commissions the right service to ensure the needs of our most vulnerable residents continue to be met.</p> <p>We will be interested in discussing collaboration with the CCG in this area as well, and assessing the outcomes of the <i>Benefits in Practice</i> pilot.</p>
<p>6. That consideration is given to how the 1001 Critical Days Manifesto, which focuses on the importance of the conception to age 2 period, is relevant to the work of the Council, including support provided to children's centres in the city.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>The vision of the 1001 Critical Days Manifesto is here http://www.1001criticaldays.co.uk/sites/default/files/1001%20days_oct16_1st.pdf . While the council is not directly responsible for services for 0-2 year olds, we support them in other ways for example; funding and supporting community centres that host a range of pre and post natal activities for parents and babies; improving air quality in the city which has a direct impact on children's' health; ensuring we have appropriate safeguarding processes in place to identify risk to children; continuing to fund grants to the voluntary sector who provide a range of services that support young children and their families. This year's budget also included some support for "stay and play" provision, which is sadly being withdrawn by the Oxfordshire County Council in almost its entirety.</p>

		Oxfordshire County Council will be presenting on children's services at the next OSP meeting in May. At this meeting the OSP will identify ways in which partners, can add value to their work. Through this process we will be able to highlight if the council can add any further value to this area of work.
7. That the Council looks again at whether it could provide funding for struggling city schools with poor levels of attainment, perhaps focused on sports provision or other activities that can reduce health inequalities.	Yes	<p>The City Council has been involved with the strategic school partnership and is attending their meetings to gain a better understanding of the position of schools and to work with partners to identify appropriate support and actions. The City Council is represented on the vulnerable learners group which is developing a strategy to support vulnerable learners. We are also engaged in a number of projects to promote attainment such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - supporting the legacy project to enable teachers to learn from best practise, following on from the learning and leadership programme - support to pupils on the pupil premium to access cultural opportunities (May evaluation forthcoming) - a range of youth ambition projects that promote and support improved educational attainment. <p>A key concern is around recruitment and retention of key staff, and we are part of an open dialogue with schools about housing projects, and have kept funding in our capital programme to support loans for senior teachers to help with purchasing a property.</p> <p>We share the panel's frustration at areas of poor attainment, and will keep the role we can play under close review.</p>
8. That the Council redoubles efforts to publicise, promote	Yes	1. Because of the high costs of living in Oxford, we have

and enhance the visibility of the Oxford Living Wage scheme (as well as other good employment practices), given that the new Westgate Shopping Centre will reopen in autumn 2017.

- set a separate Oxford Living Wage based on the Living Wage. We pay this to all our staff and agency workers working for us and it is above the Living wage
2. We also require all contractors with contracts over £100,000 to pay the Oxford Living Wage to their staff and subcontractors.
 3. We believe this benefits staff, employers and the wider Oxford economy.
 4. The Oxford Living Wage is currently **£9.26** an hour. For someone working a 38 hour week, this would mean annual pay of **£18,303**.

Currently more than 2,000 employers are signed up to the Living Wage scheme, which offers a number of business benefits to employers:

- 80% of employers believe that the Living Wage has improved their staff's quality of work
- Better loyalty and customer service, and fewer complaints
- Absenteeism down by a quarter
- Better retention of staff and lower HR costs
- 70% of employers think that the Living Wage has increased consumer awareness of their commitment to be an ethical employer
- Living Wage accreditation is confirmed by a license signed between the Living Wage Foundation and an employer.

As a Council we advertise the OLW within all our recruitment activities and also apply 1 above. In addition there is the requirement at 2 above however the council could consider reducing this figure (for example down to £50,000). There is also potential to advertise it further within Oxford and have our own 'Council Accreditation'

		<p>scheme although the legalities of this would need to be explored. As we have a high employment rate there may be some attraction to businesses locally</p> <p>We will continue to seek out new avenues to promote the OLW and are very open to suggestions.</p>
<p>9. That the Council uses procurement as a tool for tackling poverty and to extracting measurable social value, drawing on good practice from Manchester City Council, and reinforces rules for contractors to pay Oxford Living Wage</p>	Yes	<p>The City Council aims to seek social value where it practically can through procurement. Where services or works are delivered within Oxfordshire we already encourage suppliers to pay their staff at least the Oxford Living Wage. Social value considerations are included where relevant and are subject to evaluation. An example of social value being delivered under a construction contract is for the Oxford Tower Refurbishment project with circa £900k of social value being committed by the contractor; there are lots of examples of the different types of social value being offered including apprenticeships, training and educational opportunities, supporting local community projects etc. The Procurement Team are working with the LEP to review our Ethical & Sustainability guide which forms part of our Corporate Procurement Strategy to include more guidance around social value. Over the next financial year the importance and benefits of social value will be promoted to officers through the Procurement Champions network.</p>
<p>10. That the Council continues to engage constructively with partners, including through discussions about the emerging local NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plan, about delivering more health services in community facilities and improving access to health and other services in estates.</p>	Yes	<p>Oxford City Council is actively engaged in the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Health Improvement Board and the Children's Trust and a number of working groups. Through this process the council works closely with other agencies to deliver health services in the community. For example; supporting the homelessness pathway; strategies to reduce obesity; promotion of health</p>

		<p>initiatives, and fuel poverty. On each of our estates we have a health partnership that supports the health needs of the neighbourhoods and is underpinned by an action plan.</p> <p>In addition to the day to day work the council undertakes to support the health of the population, we are working closely with Barton Health Town to pilot innovative approaches to health. The council is also supporting the food poverty programme which may lead to a food project being delivered on one of our estates. The council are responding to the OCCG consultation on their transformation plans.</p> <p>Our community centres are a tremendous resource for healthcare facilities and we hope that at Barton and Rose Hill, there will be a significant and ongoing offering of health facilities. We are extremely open to including health partners in discussions about community buildings to ensure they can offer services in them.</p>
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