

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 14 April 2011

**SUBJECT:** Health Inequalities Working Group – Final Report

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Samantha Tunney  
Assistant Chief Executive

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Michele Wainwright  
Head of Overview & Scrutiny  
Tele: 0151 934 2666

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To formally present the final report of the Health Inequalities Working Group.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

The Working Group has made a number of recommendations that require consideration by the Cabinet

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the recommendations of the Health Inequalities Working Group, set out in paragraph 2.2 of the report, be referred to the appropriate named Officer to enable them to bring costed proposals for implementation (including relevant budgetary considerations) to be considered by the Cabinet.

**KEY DECISION:** YES

**FORWARD PLAN:** YES

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Immediately following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

NONE

**IMPLICATIONS:****Budget/Policy Framework:** NONE**Financial:**

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>	<b>2013/ 2014 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

There are no financial implications arising as a direct result of this report.

**Legal:** N/A**Risk Assessment:** N/A**Asset Management:** N/A**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

Headteachers and staff in the participating schools;  
Pupils in the participating schools;  
Local community representatives;  
Ward Councillors;  
Health professionals and GPs;

The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT has been consulted and her comments have been incorporated into this report.  
**FD737 /2011**

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

<b><u>Corporate Objective</u></b>		<b><u>Positive Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Negative Impact</u></b>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Creating Safe Communities	√		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People	√		

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT**

Outlined in the reference section of the attached report

## 1.0 BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 During 2009/10, NHS Sefton presented the 2009 Annual Report of the NHS Sefton and Sefton Council's Director of Public Health, *Invest for the Future*, to all the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees. This latest Annual Report made the connection between health and general well-being, with other areas of strategic importance, such as employment, education, housing and environments.
- 1.2 Towards the end of 2009, the Centre for Public Scrutiny put forward a programme to raise the profile of overview & scrutiny as a tool to promote community well-being and assist Councils & Partners in addressing health inequalities within their local communities.
- 1.3 Bids were invited from Councils to become Scrutiny Development Areas, to seek to understand and address health inequalities within their areas, using innovative approaches to undertaking scrutiny reviews. During January 2010 the joint Sefton bid was selected to become a 'National Health Inequalities Scrutiny Development Area', 1 of 3 successful bids from within the North West and 1 of 9 throughout England.
- 1.4 A Working Group was established by the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board, comprised of the 4 Chairs of the Council's Overview & Scrutiny Committees. Membership was subsequently amended to include representation from the Labour Party. Between them, these Committees cover the remit of all the cross-cutting themes outlined within the 2009 Director of Public Health's Annual Report. The review held between June and December 2010 also involved NHS Sefton, local schools, parents and children and other stakeholders.
- 1.5 The Working Group wanted to develop a clear understanding of how health inequalities impact on the lives of people and their families in the Bootle area and in a comparator area in the Borough where people are considered to be 'better off' and in particular, to target children and their parents/carers/grandparents. They wanted to explore methods for reviewing the underlying determinants of health inequalities, with the aim of gaining a better understanding of the inequalities in society that affect health and how these play out for children of primary school age in selected areas in Sefton.
- 1.6 Members were clear from the outset that this review would be people-focused and would operate in 'listening mode', staying open to the broader and complex factors that matter to people and affect to their ability to 'live well'. In addition they were very keen to avoid negative labelling and to work from people's strengths and capacities rather than assumed and/or measured deficits. This dictated the chosen focus for the detailed work of the Review and influenced the multiple activities chosen to progress it. Sefton has good educational results and it was felt that this would avoid a focus on specific streets or areas where other quantitative data indicated that there is deprivation.

1.7 The review was based around three primary schools, two in the south of the Borough and one in the north of the Borough with a particular focus on children aged 5-7 and their families. The Working Group adopted an approach that would explore the broad, complex, and interconnected factors which Marmot and many other sources demonstrate have a major influence in health and well being. These include employment/income, transport, housing, social networks and activities provided within the Borough by the Council and by the third sector and independent organisations. Year 1 and Year 2 children and their families were chosen to take part in the review process as it was felt that this cohort would be settled into the routine of school life and would be able to articulate feelings and thoughts about the first 5 to 7 years of their lives. Schools would also have a great deal of information about these children and their families. The work was organised into the following strands of activity including:

1. Data gathering: statistical information was drawn from sources such as free school meal uptake and National Child Measurement data.
2. Member walkabouts: These took place in the vicinity of the Schools during the half term week at the beginning of June 2010 and the main facilities in each area were noted. Relevant Ward Councillors were also invited to attend. Notes were recorded from these 'walkabouts' but the real value came from Members being able to 'get a feel' for the area that they were looking at, particularly during a time when the local school was closed for half term.
3. Visits to Schools: Members visited Schools and met with Heads and other school teachers to gather their views at the beginning of the review.
4. Engagement with Children: The Working Group used resources provided by the Centre for Public Scrutiny to employ a *Community Artist* to engage the children within the 3 schools identified. The engagement programme involved six half day creative work shops in each school entitled 'Me, My Life & My Community' followed by a celebration event for family and pupils. Using a large 3D dolls house to depict separate scenes for home, school, community & aspirations each child was invited to re-enact their own home & community life.
5. Engagement with Parents / Carers: Parents and carers of Year 1 and Year 2 children were invited to complete a short questionnaire which would capture their views and perceptions about local assets and obstacles to their well being. Parents and carers were approached through the 'Active Kidz' camp held on 26<sup>th</sup> August as part of the 'Free and Active' programme run by Sefton Council's Leisure Department.

6. Training & Capacity Event: Members also used support from the Centre for Public Scrutiny to facilitate a training and capacity development event. The event was held at the end of July 2010 and attendance was drawn from Working Group Members, Cabinet Members, Sefton PCT Board Members, relevant Council officers, Headteachers, Governors and representatives from the voluntary and community sectors and faith communities. This event was perceived as highly successful in stimulating new kinds of conversations with a very diverse range of stakeholders enabling the new insights into local assets as well as local needs in the target areas.

## 2.0 WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORT

- 2.1 Attached at **Appendix A** is the executive summary of the report. In view of the need for economies to be made in the amount of papers circulated to Members, the copy of the full report and the various appendices, are available in the Modern.gov Committee System Library which can be accessed via the Council's website via this link:

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecCatDisplay.aspx?sch=doc&cat=13124&path=13058>

- 2.2 The recommendations arising from the review are set out below:-

1. Having found excellent examples of schools promoting healthy eating and lifestyle, the Working Group recommends that the focus on this area of work should continue and be developed;
2. That the Strategic Director (People), in consultation with individual schools, be requested to promote the wider use of local school buildings for the benefit of our local communities;
3. That the Strategic Director (People), in consultation with individual schools, be requested to promote the value of the role of the Head Teacher within the local community. This is particularly relevant during the appointment process of a new Head Teacher and could be included in both the job description and person specification drawn up by the Governing Body;
4. That the Chief Executive of Sefton MBC, the Acting Chief Executive of NHS Sefton and the Acting Director of Public Health be requested to identify all Public Sector and community assets available in Sefton local areas, and ensure that partner organisations and the voluntary, community and faith sector have access to the information/data source effectively;

5. That the Chief Executive of Sefton MBC, the Acting Chief Executive of NHS Sefton and the Acting Director of Public Health be requested to work together in ensuring that the local community is aware of the services and activities available to them, for example through the production and distribution of appropriate promotional material, and the circulation of information relating to the activities in Children's Centres across the Borough;
6. That the Chief Executive of Sefton MBC, the Acting Chief Executive of NHS Sefton and the Acting Director of Public Health be requested to develop a protocol to involve the leaders of communities in policy and service development for tackling health inequalities;
7. That the Acting Chief Executive of NHS Sefton and the Acting Director of Public Health, in conjunction with the leadership of the developing GP led Local Consortium, be requested to consider whether Ainsdale Health & Well Being Centre is being fully utilised in its service use;
8. That the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board be requested to consider the merits of the methods adopted during this review, and consider adopting these methods in future reviews; and
9. That the Acting Chief Executive of NHS Sefton and the Acting Director of Public Health be requested to make provision for the continuity and passing on of the findings of this report to the GP Consortia in the Borough of Sefton, and positively facilitate the development and fostering of good partnership working between local GPs, the Local Authority, schools and the voluntary, community and faith sector.

2.3 In view of the financial implications that may need to be considered by the Cabinet it is proposed that they be referred back for the appropriate named Officer to bring costed proposals for implementation (including relevant budgetary considerations) to be considered by the Cabinet.

### **3.0 IMPACT OF THE REVIEW**

3.1 Although the report and recommendations from the review have only recently been completed – there are some early signs of impact. These include:

- The review developed and built on innovative methods, by using examples from previous working groups. This facilitated better information sharing and the availability of data for the project but also beyond

- Members found that visiting community venues to meet with key stakeholders and services users, and walking around the community were invaluable ways of getting to the heart of an issue.
- A legacy of collaborative working has been left by the review – as it was very effective at building partnerships – both across organisations and with seldom heard groups (such as children)
- Local democracy in the community - awareness of the services that Sefton Council and its partners provide has increased with the schools and the children knowing more about their local area, who their councillors are and what keeps them healthy

3.2 Through its involvement as a Scrutiny Development Area, the Working Group's review will be part of the published resource kit from the CfPS. This resource kit will be available on the website as national support and assistance for future scrutiny reviews that deal with complex and cross-cutting issues.