

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 27 NOVEMBER 2017

HEALTH AND WELLBEING TASK GROUP UPDATE

Summary

At the request of the O&S Chairman this brief report and Appendices highlight the work that is being undertaken under the remit of the Health and Wellbeing (H&WB) Task Group who report into Woking Joint Committee.

Having a responsibility for over seeing the delivery of the agreed priorities of Woking's Health and Wellbeing Plan, the H&WB Task Group last met on the 8 November 2017 to receive an update from the various partners against the identified priorities in the Plan. (Key partners include: Public Health, NWS CCG, SCC and WBC).

The five key priorities are based on joint strategic priorities from various partner's including: Local Joint Commissioning Group, Surrey Heartlands, Surrey Health and Wellbeing Board and local need and are:

Priority 1: Promoting Mental and Emotional Wellbeing

Priority 2: Improving Wellbeing of Carers in Woking

Priority 3: Promoting Independence, Inclusion and Resilience

Priority 4: Supporting good quality of life for people with dementia and their carers

Priority 5: Enabling Healthy choices so that people can live well

The presentation received by the H&WB Task Group (Appendix 1) provides more detail regarding the Priorities in terms of what will be different when these priorities are delivered, together with more detailed information about what actions are currently being proactively worked on with Partners to deliver the Action Plan. Of particular note is the work that is being undertaken in establishing a Local Dementia Action Alliance for Woking and how community groups and organisations are actively engaging in helping to make the borough 'Dementia Friendly'. Additionally work that is being undertaken in connection to Carers and also Social Isolation is also progressing well.

In addition to the H&WB Plan, the Task Group also has oversight of the Family Support Programme for the borough including the work that the Team do in supporting and delivering the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme. Attached at Appendix 2 is the covering report (excluding appendices) summarising the position to date. The key headline issues noted by the Task Group were that:

- 14 families consisting of 27 children and 26 adults had been assisted in Woking to date, with another family due soon to arrive.
- The biggest area of need to date has been health - with mental health being of particular concern which is not unsurprising bearing in mind the very serious trauma that many of the individuals had undergone in Syria, and that the effects of such trauma are ongoing.
- It was noted that the children had settled well into the schools (with additional funding being made available for Teaching Assistants) and were doing well with conversing in English.

- Of concern has been the ability for families to access employment quickly enough so that they are able to avoid the benefit cap and sustain their housing arrangements. It was noted that whilst the majority of families are in Thamesway Housing properties (9) there are 4 families in private accommodation.
- Employment barriers are mainly being experienced due to the requirement to have a suitable standard of English language. Arrangements had therefore been made to run specific ESOL classes as well as pre-ESOL class level activities, together with looking at specific pre-employment packs.
- The local community response was noted to have been exceptional, with help from agencies such as Liaise Women's Centre, the Lighthouse, Shah Jahan Mosque, local churches and Sythwood Children's Centre.

Recommendations

The Committee is requested to:

RESOLVE That the update be noted.

Background Papers:

Health and Wellbeing Task Group Meetings

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APPENDICES

Health and Wellbeing Task Group – 8 November 2017

Appendix A: Presentation

http://shikarilive/DTTSecure_2/SubjectDetail.aspx?SubjectID=27871

Appendix B: Syrian Vulnerable Person Relocation Scheme (covering report).

http://shikarilive/DTTSecure_2/SubjectDetail.aspx?SubjectID=27842