

**TO: ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8
SEPTEMBER**

SUBJECT: HEALTH IMPROVEMENT & WELLBEING PARTNERSHIP

FROM: STRATEGIC DIRECTOR/STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The Committee consider the above partnership between Warwick District Council (WDC) and Stratford-Upon-Avon District Council (SDC) as part of their wider scrutiny of Health and consider if they wish to recommend to the Executive if the partnership should be established on a permanent basis.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 On 1 April 2003, Stratford-on-Avon District Council (SDC) and Warwick District Council (WDC) implemented a pilot scheme designed to provide a comprehensive and cost effective Health Improvement Service in partnership.
- 2.2 This report outlines the progress made towards the delivery of health priorities in South Warwickshire. Similar reports will be presented to both Partner Authorities during September. WDC Executive will need to make a decision on the future of the partnership in October.
- 2.3 The Executive, in approving the concept of the Health and Wellbeing Partnership, requested that progress reports were prepared on a regular basis. This report outlines the progress made in achieving targets.
- 2.4 The Health Act 1999 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to work together with the National Health Service (NHS) and other bodies to achieve the objectives of the Government's Our Healthier Nation (OHN) strategy. Whilst traditionally, addressing poor health has been the responsibility of the NHS, OHN directed emphasis towards the prevention of illness and the promotion of well being – issues which have always formed part of core Local Authority business. The forthcoming White Paper 'Improving People's Health' is likely to reinforce this approach.
- 2.5 In a separate document, "Reducing Health Inequalities – A Programme for Action" the Government clearly sets out what is expected of the NHS and local government. Because of the breadth of their activity, Councils are well placed to deliver these objectives by utilising not only direct action but also existing networks.
- 2.6 In order to make the best use of available resources and achieve maximum impact on national, regional and local targets for Health Improvement, SDC and WDC joined forces to develop a comprehensive Health Improvement Partnership The formal Service Level Agreement which forms the basis of the Partnership commenced on 1 April 2003. It runs for a period of two years until 31 March 2005, subject to satisfactory outcomes from the monitoring and review process agreed by both partner agencies. Performance is monitored quarterly by Directors

representing the partnership and a full annual review is scheduled to coincide with the budget process and review of the Health Action Plan. A copy of the completed action plan for 2003/04 forms an appendix to this report.

2.7 The objectives of the partnership, identified in the formal Service Level Agreement, are:

- *To develop effective relationships with key players in the health, local government, voluntary and business sectors at strategic and delivery level.*

Recognising that District Councils have a statutory duty to address the "Our Healthier Nation" priorities, but that success can only be achieved by working in partnership, the Health Improvement Unit has assigned specific time to building existing relationships and developing new contacts.

- *To formulate and develop a health improvement strategy which will address the needs and aspirations of both partners.*

The Joint Health Improvement and Wellbeing Strategy adopted by both Councils recognises common themes across the Partnership and informs priorities for delivery. The Strategy has now been translated into a Joint Health Improvement and Well Being Action Plan for the next three years which forms an appendix to this report.

- *To co-ordinate the delivery of a health improvement service which recognises the corporate objectives and policies of both partners.*

The unit is committed to the delivery of actions which make a real impact on the health and Wellbeing of the people of South Warwickshire. An interim action plan was implemented for the first year of the Partnership. This also forms an Appendix to this report. Key projects that have added value for both partners by sharing good practice/expertise and raising the joint profile include the successful delivery of established initiatives such as No Smoking Day, Food Safety Week Theatre in Education and SWOOP across the partnership, and the reconfiguration and re-launch of PATCHES. The work of the Unit was included as an example of good practice for the SDC Corporate Performance Assessment submission.

3. **POLICY AND BUDGET FRAMEWORK**

3.1 The partnership fully supports the WDC Corporate Strategy. In particular corporate objective 3 'Promote and contribute to a safer and healthier community' and the priority attached to it 'To promote healthier lifestyles'. A key target under this corporate objective is 'To actively support 1000 new smoking cessation attempts per year in the district'

3.2 The partnership fully supports the SDC Corporate Strategy Key priorities 1, 2, 3 and 4. In particular, Key Priority 4: Strategic Objective 4 relates to partnership in the context of health promotion and cross boundary partnerships are a significant element of Key Priority 7: Strategic Objective 2.

- 3.3 The role of the joint Warwick and Stratford unit in actively promoting Health and Wellbeing is recognised by other health professionals and the value placed on the partnership is reflected by recent consultation responses.
- 3.4 The service is being delivered within the resources currently available to the two authorities and is subject to a formal service level agreement. The future delivery, on a permanent basis, could be contained within existing budgets. The potential for added value in terms of shared expertise and more efficient delivery of priorities, identified as one of the key elements of the partnership, is being exploited.
4. **OUTCOME(S) REQUIRED**
- 4.1 Members decide if they wish to recommend to the Executive if the partnership should be established on a permanent basis

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Stratford District Council

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Community Resources Director
Warwick District Council

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Areas in District Affected: None specific

Executive Portfolio Area and Holder: Environmental Services, Councillor Margaret Begg.

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