

<b>29 February 2024</b>		<b>ITEM: 7</b>
<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>		
<b>Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-26 – Overview and annual progress report for Domain 2, Building Strong and Cohesive Communities.</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> None	
<b>Report of:</b> Natalie Smith, Head of Community Development, Adult Social Care and Community Development.		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Les Billingham, Assistant Director Adult Social Care and Community Development Jo Broadbent, Director of Public Health Ian Wake, Executive Director of Adults, Housing and Health		

## Executive Summary

This paper provides an overview of Thurrock Health & Wellbeing Strategy (HWBS) 2022-26 and provides a specific update on progress made with implementing domain 2 of the Strategy, Building Strong and Cohesive Communities.

### 1. Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 The Board is asked to:
- Note the overview provided on the complete Health and Wellbeing Strategy.
  - Review, comment on and approve progress made against domain two commitments for year one, as previously approved by Board and commitments for year two.

### 2. Introduction and Background

- 2.1 The Health & Wellbeing Board (HWBB) has a statutory duty to produce a HWBS. The HWBS is a whole system plan for health & wellbeing and a means to engage all partners in the wellbeing agenda, co-ordinating strategic thinking of all elements of the council and all system partners to deliver quantifiable gains in health and wellbeing of residents.
- 2.2 Thurrock agreed its first HWBS in 2013. The current HWBS was launched in July 2022 and can be accessed here: <https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/strategies/health-and-well-being-strategy>
- 2.3 Proposals for the current HWBS were developed by multi-agency stakeholders including Thurrock Council ADs and Subject Matter Experts from across the system. The HWBB considered the proposals for the HWBS at its meeting in July 2021, including the Vision, the 6 Domain structure, and plans to engage with the wider

public. A twelve week consultation exercise took place October-December 2021 and the attached Strategy document has been further developed to reflect engagement outcomes.

### **3. Overview of the Refreshed HWBS 2022-26**

- 3.1. Preparatory work with system partners and HWBB Chair identified key influences on Health & Wellbeing and suggested that the HWBS needs to:
- Be high level and strategic
  - Be highly ambitious and set out genuinely new plans rather than just describe what has already been done
  - Provide a clear narrative that drives the work of all aspects of the local authority, NHS and third sector
  - Address resident priorities and be co-designed with residents
  - Be place and locality based and take a strengths and assets approach, not focused only on deficits or services
- 3.2. The HWBB agreed that the Strategy would have a Vision of *Levelling the Playing Field* and tackling inequalities is reflected throughout the Strategy. Proposals to level the playing field have been developed based around six areas of people's lives, which we refer to as Domains, that cover the wider determinants of health and impact on people's health and wellbeing. These are:
1. Staying Healthier for Longer
  2. Building Strong & Cohesive Communities
  3. Person-Led Health & Care
  4. Opportunity for All
  5. Housing & the Environment
  6. Community Safety
- 3.3. Through engagement with residents and stakeholders, 3-4 priority Goals have been identified for each Domain, with public feedback leading refinements of these Goals in the attached final draft. These set out specific actions to improve outcomes and specifically level the playing field and address inequalities.
- 3.4. Delivery of the ambitions within the Goals is underpinned by a number of key topic-specific strategies (such as the Housing Strategy, Better Care Together Thurrock Strategy etc), plus the Local Plan and the Backing Thurrock Economic Growth Strategy. Content proposals in the HWBS have been agreed with leads for these other strategic plans.

### **4. Consultation outcomes**

- 4.1 A summary of the consultation exercise is provided below and a full Consultation Report was produced. The refreshed HWBS proposals were refined to reflect consultation outcomes, and the changes made in response to community feedback are detailed in the full Consultation Report.
- 4.2 Over 750 comments were received through a short 'user friendly' questionnaire developed in conjunction with the CVS and Healthwatch, which sought the public's views on the six Domains that have been proposed for the refreshed Strategy. In excess of 300 residents or professionals involved in the planning, commissioning or delivery of health and care services provided feedback on strategy consultation proposals through

community and professional forums and meetings. This resulted in over 1,300 individual comments on the proposals.

4.3 Officers attended Scrutiny Committees, Group meetings and a range of stakeholder meetings to seek feedback. Direct face to face engagement was impacted by COVID-19 but Thurrock CVS and Healthwatch engaged directly with residents and also ran two workshops comprising representatives from several CVS organisations operating in Thurrock.

4.4 The Strategy reflects and addresses key themes arising in feedback which comprised accessibility through IT digital exclusion geographical locations and capacity of services; informing residents by effectively communicating using range of methods, the role of residents and support available to improve their own health and wellbeing; The Environment and managing the impact of housing and commercial developments, providing access to green, open spaces and opportunities for people to remain active and socialise in a safe environment; and Mental Health and the impact of COVID on social isolation and loneliness as well as the link between wider mental ill health and wider determinants.

## **5. Governance**

5.1. The duty to produce the HWBS statutorily falls to the HWBB. Three versions of the Strategy were produced to ensure broad accessibility to the report. These are available on the Council website at [Health and well-being strategy 2022-2026 | Health and well-being strategy | Thurrock Council](#):

- The main Strategy document
- An Accessible version to comply with website publication guidance attached
- An Easy Read version.

5.2. Subsequent to the Strategy being agreed, further work was undertaken to establish appropriate ways of monitoring and reporting progress to the Board. During year one the board was presented with each of the domains which included priorities and commitments for year one. Year two reports will provide Board members with a progress report against those commitments and set out priorities for year two.

## **6. Domain 2 – Build Strong and Cohesive Communities**

6.1. Appendix A provide the Board with a detailed overview of Domain 2, Build Strong and Cohesive Communities.

## **7. Reasons for Recommendation**

7.1. The HWBB has a collective statutory duty to produce a HWBS. It is one of two highest level statutory strategic documents for the Local Authority and system partners, the other being the Local Plan. The statutory status of the document means that the new Integrated Care Board (ICB) must have regard to it when planning their own strategy.

### **7. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

7.1. The proposals in this paper reflect substantial consultation with professionals and the public as detailed above and in the full Consultation Report.

## **8. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

- 8.1. The HWBS is one of three highest Place Shaping strategic documents for the Local Authority and system partners, the other being the Local Plan and Backing Thurrock Economic Development plan, with specific synergies between the three strategies being highlighted. It is a whole system plan for health & wellbeing and a means to engage all partners in the wellbeing agenda, co-ordinating strategic thinking of all elements of the council and all system partners to deliver quantifiable gains in health and wellbeing of residents.
- 8.2. In order to support delivery of the Council's Vision, the 6 Domains of the HWBS Strategy each relate to one of the Council's key priorities of People, Place and Prosperity, as outlined in the attached Strategy.

## **9. Implications**

### **9.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: Not sought as provides paper provides an overview of existing strategy, previously provided with implication approval.

The cost associated with the strategy refresh will be delivered within existing budgets or agreed through existing Council and partner agencies governance finance arrangements.

### **9.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: Not sought as provides paper provides an overview of existing strategy, previously provided with implication approval.

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 established a responsibility for Councils and CCGs to jointly prepare Health and Wellbeing Strategies for the local area as defined by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

### **9.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: Not sought as provides paper provides an overview of existing strategy, previously provided with implication approval.

Implications have not changed since previous approval provided in July 2021. The aim of the strategy is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population of Thurrock and reduce health and wellbeing inequalities. A community equality impact assessment (CEIA) will underpin the strategy and mitigate the risk of disproportionate negative impact for protected groups. This approach will ensure the strategy itself and implementation supports delivery of the council's equality objectives while maintaining compliance with the Equality Act 2010 and Public Sector Equality Duty.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder, or Impact on Looked After Children)

The refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy will facilitate crime and disorder priorities that relate specifically to health and wellbeing, further strengthening the relationship between the Health and Wellbeing Board and Community Safety Partnership. The focus of the strategy is to broadly focus on addressing inequalities in Thurrock.

8. **Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1. Domain 2, Building Strong and Cohesive Communities. Overview, progress report and commitments for year two.

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