

12th September 2013	ITEM: 11
Thurrock Health and Well-Being Board	
BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
Report of: Ceri Armstrong, Strategy Officer, Thurrock Council	
Accountable Director: Carmel Littleton, Director of Children’s Services	
This report is Public	
Purpose of Report: To recommend that the Board signed up to the national ‘improving health outcomes for children and young people pledge’.	

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A number of national organisations have come together to develop an ‘improving health outcomes for children and young people pledge’. Health and wellbeing Board as system leaders have been asked to sign up to the Pledge.

Signing up to the pledge will signify the Board’s commitment to meeting a number of shared ambitions and outcomes. There are strong consistencies with Thurrock’s Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the aim of giving ‘every child the best possible start in life’.

The report recommends that the Board signs up to the pledge.

1. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1.1 For the Health and Wellbeing Board to sign up to the ‘Better health outcomes for children and young people pledge’.**

2. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 A number of national organisations have come together to develop the ‘Better health outcomes for children and young people pledge’.
- 2.2 The pledge has been developed in response to childhood mortality in this country being amongst the worst in Europe and poor outcomes being achieved for children and young people with long-term physical and mental conditions as well as those who are acutely sick.
- 2.3 Improving health outcomes for children and young people requires a system-wide response. The Health and Wellbeing Board is therefore ideally placed to tackle this issue – and is doing so through the Health and Wellbeing Strategy with its aim of giving ‘every child the best possible start in life’.

2.4 Signing up to the Pledge will signal the Board’s commitment to improving health outcomes for children and young people against the following shared ambitions and outcomes:

Ambitions:

- Children, young people and their families will be at the heart of decision-making, with the health outcomes that matter most to them taking priority;
- Services, from pregnancy through to adolescence and beyond, will be high quality, evidence based and safe, delivered at the right time, in the right place, by a properly planned, educated and trained workforce;
- Good mental and physical health and early interventions, including for children and young people with long term conditions, will be of equal importance to caring for those who become acutely unwell;
- Services will be integrated and care will be co-ordinated around the individual, with an optimal experience of transition to adult services for those young people who require ongoing health and care in adult life; and
- There will be clear leadership, accountability and assurance and organisations will work in partnership for the benefit of children and young people.

Outcomes:

- **Reduce child deaths** – through evidence based public health measures and by providing the right care at the right time;
- **Prevent ill health for children and young people and improve their opportunities for better long-term health** – by supporting families to look after their children, when they need it, and helping children and young people and their families to prioritise healthy behaviour;
- **Improve the mental health of our children and young people** – by promoting resilience and mental wellbeing and providing early and effective evidence based treatment for those who need it;
- **Support and protect the most vulnerable** – by focusing on the social determinants of health and providing better support to the groups that have the worst health outcomes; and
- **Provide better care for children and young people with long term conditions and disability** – and increase life expectancy of those with life limiting conditions.

2.5 This report recommends that the Board signs up to the ‘Better health outcomes for children and young people pledge’. The Executive Committee endorsed this recommendation at its August meeting.

3. ISSUES, OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS:

3.1 The Board can agree with the recommendation or choose not to sign up to the Pledge. It is recommended that the Board signs up to the Pledge.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy embodies the focus of the Pledge, therefore the Board signing up to the Pledge would reinforce its desire to improve health outcomes for children and young people and give every child the best possible start in life.

5. CONSULTATION (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)

5.1 The Executive Committee considered the Pledge at its August meeting.

6. IMPACT ON CORPORATE POLICIES, PRIORITIES, PERFORMANCE AND COMMUNITY IMPACT

6.1 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is very clear about the aim of giving 'every child the best possible start in life'. Part two of the Strategy clearly focuses on improving health outcomes of children and young people – including the most vulnerable groups.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Mike Jones**
Telephone and email: **01375 652772**
Mxjones@thurrock.gov.uk

None identified – actions to improve the health outcomes of children and young people are being delivered within existing budgets.

7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Chris Pickering – Principal Solicitor**
Telephone and email: **0208 227 3774**
chris.pickering@bdtlegal.org.uk

None identified – signing up to the Pledge is a voluntary and not a statutory requirement. The priorities as identified will help to ensure that the Council are meeting their legal obligations to residents and demonstrate the Council's commitment to their wellbeing.

7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Samson DeAlyn**
Telephone and email: **01375 652472**
[**SDeAlyn@thurrock.gov.uk**](mailto:SDeAlyn@thurrock.gov.uk)

There are no diversity and equality implications to signing up to the Pledge.

7.4 **Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Section 17, Risk Assessment, Health Impact Assessment, Sustainability, IT, Environmental**

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT (include their location and identify whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

- Thurrock Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013 - 2016

APPENDICES TO THIS REPORT:

- Appendix 1 - Better health outcomes for children and young people – pledge and covering letter.

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