

To: **South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership**
Date: **17 January 2010**
From: **Val Thomas, Assistant Director of Public Health (Health Improvement)**
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Report: **Draft Strategy to Tackle Health Inequalities in Cambridgeshire**

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to outline the draft Strategy to Tackle Health Inequalities in Cambridgeshire to the South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership for comment and discussion following a presentation at the meeting.

An electric copy of the draft Strategy to Tackle Health Inequalities in Cambridgeshire was sent to members of the LSP late last year, if you would like a paper copy for the meeting please contact Gemma Barron.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Tackling Health Inequalities has been a national and local priority for several years. Inequalities in health within the County have been demonstrated through research undertaken for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) as presented to the LSP previously. The priority assigned to this issue is reflected through the inclusion in Cambridgeshire Local Area Agreement of a target to improve all age all cause mortality in the most deprived 20% of small areas in the county.
- 2.2 In 2007, the Audit Commission carried out a review of health inequalities in Cambridgeshire, and the processes being used to address them. The Review made a number of recommendations, including the need for a county-wide strategic approach to health inequalities to complement the good work going on at local level through a variety of agencies and individual projects. Health inequalities in the context of wider inequalities, has been an area of focus in this year's Comprehensive Area Assessment Process.
- 2.3 This Strategy has been developed by the Cambridgeshire Health and Wellbeing Officer Group (HWBG), which sits within Cambridgeshire Together structures as a supporting group for the Community Wellbeing Thematic Partnership. The HWBG has senior representation from NHS Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire County Council, all District/City Councils, Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the voluntary sector. It links closely with district level health partnerships (in this district - the joint Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire Improving Health Partnership), which report into the relevant LSPs. The HWBG has played a lead role in responding at county level to the Audit Commission's recommendations.
- 2.4 The Strategy has built on two underlying exercises:
- a mapping of existing plans and strategies of partner LSPs and agencies which already include actions to address health inequalities
 - a gap analysis of this mapping against health needs and inequalities demonstrated in the JSNA.

- 2.5 Drafts of the Strategy have been discussed at the July and September 2009 meetings of the Health and Well Being Officer Group, and district health partnerships have made a full contribution to identifying priorities for the Strategy.

3. CONTENT OF THE STRATEGY

The Strategy document is laid out as follows:

3.1 Section One – Context and Evidence

- A description of the policy and wider strategic context of the Cambridgeshire Health Inequalities Strategy. It details the key national and local drivers to reduce health inequalities.
- Includes intelligence from Cambridgeshire's Joint Needs Assessment produced in 2008 and later studies that have addressed the needs of particular population groups. This rich information and evidence is not fully reported here but links can be found to the full documents.

3.2 Section Two – The Core Health Inequalities Strategy

3.21 Strategic Aims

Describes the strategic direction through the identification of four strategic aims:

- To decrease the health inequalities found in the most socio-economically deprived areas in Cambridgeshire
- To decrease access inequalities that impact on health and well being
- To decrease the health inequalities experienced by vulnerable groups that exist within the Cambridgeshire population
- To prevent the creation of new health inequalities

3.22 Framework for Action

This sets out strategic objectives to take forward the strategic aims in 2009 -2011. It identifies key actions/interventions, partners and timelines for implementation. It represents a countywide collaborative approach to reducing health inequalities.

The key actions/interventions are divided into three categories to reflect their varying stages of development:

- Proposed new collaborative interventions that are at early stage of discussion and development have an **orange** timeline.
- Priority interventions that have been agreed and implementation has commenced have a **yellow** timeline.
- Agreed priority interventions that are well established have a **green** timeline.

This is essentially a framework and beneath the aims and objectives there are (or are in development) more detailed progress indicators and measurable outcomes.

3.23 Section Three – Existing Partner Strategies and Plans

This section has been compiled using existing plans and strategies that support and provide a rich context to take forward the overarching Health Inequalities Strategy and Framework for Action. It is recognised that these are currently being updated in some areas and this section will be amended to reflect this when the refreshed plans are available. As some of the data may not now be current, the plans should be viewed for illustrative purposes only.

4. RECOMMENDATION

South Cambridgeshire Local Strategic Partnership is asked to consider and comment on the draft Strategy to Tackle Health Inequalities in Cambridgeshire.

Key areas for comment include the following:

- The overall direction of the Strategy reflected in the key strategic aims
- The strategic objectives and actions found in the Framework for Action
- The colour coded stages of development of the actions
- Any omissions

The feedback from your comments and subsequent discussions will then be used to help shape the final version of the Strategy.

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