

Health and Wellbeing Board

Health in All Policies

12 January 2022

Recommendation(s)

1. For the Health and Wellbeing Board to note the work to implement Health in All Policies in Warwickshire; including the Warwickshire County Council workshop.
2. For the Health and Wellbeing Board to note the progress and approach for preparation for the 3 place workshops.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The aim of the Health in All Policies Approach (HiAP) is to embed health and wellbeing into all decision making, and to support people to understand the impact that their policies and programmes of work can have on health and wellbeing. The approach focusses on areas within the wider determinants of health including climate and sustainability, transport, education, and employment.
- 1.2 HiAP is a collaborative, evidence-based approach to improving the health of people in Warwickshire by incorporating health considerations into all decision-making and policy areas. The approach ideally starts with a policy area (e.g., transport) not a public health issue (e.g., obesity). This encourages thinking about the range of potential direct and indirect benefits/risks to health and wellbeing and inequalities in health that can be created from a policy area.
- 1.3 The Director of Public Health (DPH) Annual Report 2020/21 and Covid-19 Health Impact Assessment highlighted that to improve the health and wellbeing of our residents, we need to tackle inequalities in health.
- 1.4 The DPH Annual Report 2020/2021 recommended the adoption of a HiAP approach to tackle these inequalities and improve health and wellbeing outcomes. The recommendation was endorsed at the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2021.
- 1.5 Warwickshire County Council Public Health Team are working with the Local Government Association to support the implementation of Health in all Policies in Warwickshire. Dr Susan Milner and Liam Hughes are two LGA Associates who have been commissioned to facilitate 4 workshops: 1 for Warwickshire County Council and then rolling out to the 3 place-based Health

and Wellbeing Partnerships (Warwickshire North, Rugby and South Warwickshire).

- 1.6 Following on from approval by Corporate Board in July 2021, Phase 1 implementation of a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach for Warwickshire County Council was to hold facilitated workshop for senior leaders.
- 1.7 Preparation meetings have taken place between the place-based leads, the LGA facilitators and the Public Health leads for all three place-based workshops.
- 1.8 The Warwickshire County Council HiAP workshop was held on the 15th November and over 50 delegates, including a broad spectrum of senior managers, attended from a range of policy areas. The aim of the workshop was to help Warwickshire County Council senior leaders to begin to embed a HiAP approach within their work, and lead to improvements in the health and wellbeing of the population, reductions in health inequalities and strengthen the re-set from Covid-19 (see Appendix 1 for the Health in All Policies WCC Workshop 15.11.21 Report).
- 1.9 Health Equity and Assessment Tool (HEAT) is a tool to support HiAP implementation. It supports the user to identify practical action in their work/policy programme or service to address health equity and consequently improve health outcomes. Advice and support has also been provided in completion of the community beds review, adult weigh management service review and the initial sexual health services review. A full-scale HEAT process has been carried out on the WCC Integrated Sexual Health Service. Plans are also in progress to offer HEAT training to WCC staff – e-learning and online workshops. HEAT questions have been adapted and incorporated into the WCC Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) so that Health Inequalities are considered in every EIA as from November 2021, when the process was updated.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 None

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 A new Health in All Policies webpage with key resources has been developed: <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/healthinallpolicies>. This webpage has key documents including the LGA Manual to a HiAP approach, The Health Equity Assessment Tool, and the Power BI Inequalities Dashboard.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 Further workshops to support the three Places to take a Health in all Policies approach are scheduled to be completed by end of March 2022.
- 5.2 The Phase 2 of the HiAP project will focus on a toolkit of approaches to embed Health in all Policies. This will be developed through analysis of the themes emerging in the workshops and their evaluation. Several policy areas where the approach can be accelerated have also been identified and scoping work underway.

Appendices

1. Appendix 1 Health in All Policies WCC Workshop 15.11.21 Report

Background Papers

1. None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Members consulted: None

Other Members consulted: Councillors Bell, Drew, Golby, Holland and Rolfe

Appendix 1: Health in All Policies WCC Workshop 15.11.2021

Report

Summary

- There was strong agreement that the workshop has given space for participants to consider the 'bigger picture' and the timing will enable considerations of health in the development of the new council plan and allow 'health proofing' of future decisions to progress the plan's aims.
- There was overwhelming agreement that working together in a systematic way across the council will help identification of synergies between areas to achieve health benefits.
- The workshop was successful in drawing out the links between health with other themes such as climate, transport, education, the economy, and community power even when they were not always explicitly made. This shows the value of adopting a Health in all Policies approach.

Introduction

- Following on from approval by Corporate Board in July 2021, Phase 1 implementation of a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach for Warwickshire County Council was to hold facilitated workshop for senior leaders.
- The workshop was supported by the LGA and facilitated by Dr Sue Milner and Liam Hughes, who are LGA Associates.
- Over 50 delegates from a broad spectrum of the Council were represented by senior managers.

Aim

- The aim of the workshop was to help Warwickshire County Council senior leaders to begin to identify how the embedding of a HiAP approach across the County could lead to improvements in the health and wellbeing of the population, reduce health inequalities and strengthen recovery and recuperation from Covid-19.

Key Points

- Strong links were identified between the strategic priorities in the council plan - with substantial opportunities for mutual benefit, reducing inequalities and collaborative working i.e., what's good for climate can be good for health too - green spaces and exercise were one example
- Cross cutting themes such as Community Power, Start with Strengths, Child-Friendly Warwickshire, Place-based working all offer opportunities to embed HiAP and can therefore ensure coherent and joined-up strategy and policy.
- There are opportunities to take an organisation development approach to HiAP as part of the Council Plan roll out, with the long-term objective of creating a culture that considers health impacts in all decisions and staff who feel enabled to do so.

- The Senior Leadership Forum (SLF) are a key group to take a HiAP approach forward - coordinated by Public Health and integrated planning teams but owned by everyone.
- Planning and development decisions could include considerations of access to public transport, reducing isolation, consider green spaces and consequently impact positively on health and well-being. There will be the need to work with District and Borough colleagues on implementing a HiAP approach.
- The Local Transport Plan provides an early opportunity to take a Health in all Policies approach.
- Flood planning has links between areas at risk of flooding and inequalities. These links can be considered in a more conscious and explicit way. Other issues such as fuel poverty also connect health with climate change, as well as the local economy.
- Improved use of data, tools e.g., EIA and Health Equality Assessment Tool (HEAT) could result in better commissioning and provision of more targeted services for most vulnerable residents.

Examples of Good Practice

- Highways and transport: road gritting and streetlights decisions based on proximity to hospitals or care homes but not explicitly linked to HiAP but could be made explicit in business planning.
- Further opportunity for Highways and Transport to link with Fire and Rescue to promote community safety.

Specific Recommendations

- Develop new WCC webpages on what can be done by residents on climate change or for action within local community projects.
- Explicitly link climate change measures to being better for health e.g., in the Active Travel - promotion of walking better for physical health.
- Involve residents more in policy making.
- Promote use of HEAT in all decision making and explore how this tool can be used this across the core strategies and opportunities.
- Monitor policy documents with a HiAP lens.
- Establish how EIA's are currently monitored.
- Include 'Health impact' in Project Initiation Process so it is considered from day 1, allowing space for partners to come together and understand the connections between the project and wider council plan objectives.
- Upskill the frontline workforce on wider determinants of health - for example by expanding Making Every Contact Count (MECC) training and ensuring a good understanding of services to signpost to.
- Internal project boards to have a 'health voice'.

Emerging Themes for Phase 2

- OD and cultural change required to embed HiAP approach
- Develop communications - internal and external to facilitate cross pollination of ideas
- Establish stronger links with Public Health and explore role of Public Health as a Business Partner, offering skills in HiAP, HEAT, intelligence etc.
- Need to upskill next tier of management in HiAP
- Climate Change agenda provides opportunities to improve inequalities and well being

Next Steps

- Monica Fogarty to update SLF on workshop feedback.
- Further workshops to develop HiAP at Place Health and Wellbeing Partnerships (Rugby, South Warwickshire, and Warwickshire North) are scheduled in the next month. Again, the focus is in identifying commonalities between partners in reducing the impact of inequalities in our communities.
- Develop Phase 2 of HiAP roll-out by HiAP Project Team.