

Health and Wellbeing Board

7 September 2022

Levelling Up and Health & Wellbeing in Warwickshire

Recommendations

That Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. Notes the newly published countywide approach to levelling up in Warwickshire, and
2. considers the opportunity for greater alignment and synergy between Levelling Up, health inequalities and the wider work of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 On 2 February 2022 the Government published the Levelling Up White Paper, followed by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill in May 2022.
- 1.2 The White Paper outlines the Government's strategy to "spread opportunity and prosperity to all parts of the country" by 2030 through twelve national missions. This will also include stronger oversight of local government on performance against these missions.
- 1.3 Together with related national policy change for Education, Integrated Health and Social Care, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Sustainability, as well as anticipated changes in rural policy, this constituted a significant shift in national policy direction.
- 1.4 This agenda is relevant to all Health & Wellbeing Board partners as it aligns with the Board's priority of reducing inequalities in health and the wider determinants of health. The NHS Integrated Care System (ICS) for Coventry and Warwickshire has also produced a five year Health Inequalities Strategic Plan, which has adopted the CORE20+5 framework, whereby focus will be given to the 20% most deprived populations, plus other locally identified vulnerable groups including inclusion health groups; and on five specific clinical areas.
- 1.5 As such, there have been a range of responses from local health and wellbeing partners around Levelling Up. For example, South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust (SWFT) have engaged the Purpose Coalition and Coventry City Council has produced its own Levelling up approach. A number of reports on Levelling Up to have also been published within District & Borough Councils on Levelling Up.

- 1.6 Additional work has been underway to develop a countywide Levelling Up approach for Warwickshire with significant engagement with, and input from, key partners and stakeholders from across the county which we have called our '*Team Warwickshire*' approach.
- 1.7 Subsequently, on 14th July Warwickshire County Council's Cabinet approved the Countywide approach to Levelling up in Warwickshire and shared with all Team Warwickshire partners, Council Leaders and Members of Parliament.
- 1.8 The approach provides an overarching framework for Warwickshire to deliver against the twelve national missions, as well as informing and framing ongoing work to develop proposals for a devolution deal for Warwickshire to enable delivery against countywide and national levelling up priorities.
- 1.9 The final document has been shared with all key stakeholders and time is now dedicated during August and September to facilitating follow up discussion with key groups and bodies to maximise awareness and connections between Levelling Up and existing work
- 1.10 This report presents the final document to the Health & Wellbeing Board both for information and seeks to highlight the key synergies between Levelling Up and the broader Health & Wellbeing agenda.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 There are no direct financial implications associated with this report, but significant indirect ones that have long-term implications for the county.
- 2.2 There is significant funding available from Government via the Levelling Up Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Towns Fund and Community Renewal Fund, among others to support the Levelling up agenda. The Levelling Up and Team Warwickshire Approach will provide opportunities to coordinate activity and bids for funding to deliver the most effective inward investment into Warwickshire.
- 2.3 The Levelling Up approach will help with prioritising resource allocations (both revenue and capital) and in particular regeneration activity. Moving forward Levelling Up will be a key consideration in developing and prioritising any future pipeline of projects.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 Sustainable Futures is one of the four agreed elements of our definition and both a cornerstone of what Levelling Up means in Warwickshire and a key part of any future devolution deal for the county.

4. Supporting Information

4.1 Key elements of the Levelling Up approach in Warwickshire include:

- **Evidence base** – covering national Levelling Up headline metrics and using Index of Multiple Deprivation to show countywide performance and local profiles including Lower Super Output Areas. (This can be found on our [Levelling Up webpage](#)).
- **Voice of Warwickshire** – results from asking just under 500 members of our residents' panel for their views on the Levelling Up agenda.
- **Local Definition of Levelling Up** – comprised of four elements: *fairness, reducing disparities, building community power and creating sustainable futures*.
- **Communities of Place** – 22 Lower Super Output Areas in Warwickshire that are in the most deprived 20% nationally, against the Index of Multiple Deprivation.
- **Communities of Interest** – using the evidence base we have identified communities and groups that need to be prioritised in the Levelling Up agenda for Warwickshire.
- A framework for complementary activity at countywide, place and community levels.
- Development of place plans at District & Borough level that will interface with ICS Place Partnership priorities.

4.2 Looking at the new approach together with the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the Integrated Care System, some of the key synergies and opportunities for greater alignment are:

- Alignment of data set and intelligence around health inequalities and wider determinants at a county, place and community level.
- Links between Levelling Up and the Health & Wellbeing strategy priorities, as well as associated key strategies such as the Coventry & Warwickshire health inequalities strategy and Warwickshire Social Inequalities strategy.
- Related countywide strategies such as social inequalities, health inequalities and others that come under the direction of the Health & Wellbeing Board and contribute to the Levelling Up agenda.
- Strengthening of the concept of place-based working across the wider determinants of health. This could be an extension of earlier work on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the existing local profiles.
- Strong links to the adopted Kings Fund model for population health in terms of maximising opportunities for Community Power in support of better health outcomes.

- Links between local Place Partnerships and the development of Levelling Up place plans for each District or Borough.
- Opportunities to work with specific communities and groups, targeting effort and resource where it is most needed.
- Opportunity to use levelling up to strengthen links and work on the wider determinants of health and vice versa.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 6.1 Presentation to the Health & Wellbeing Board today is seen as the beginning of an ongoing dialogue on Levelling Up.
- 6.2 Place plans will now be developed within each District & Borough between now and March 2023.
- 6.3 A series of short-term actions will also be mobilised over the next 6 months to embed the Levelling Up approach. This will include engagement with some of the agreed communities of place and interest.
- 6.4 Health & wellbeing is an anticipated theme for an emerging Devolution Deal for Warwickshire. Early thinking in this is underway, but the timescale for this is at least 6-12 months.

Appendices

1. [Levelling Up approach for Warwickshire](#)

Background Papers

1. WCC Cabinet July 14th, 2022, A Countywide approach to Levelling Up in Warwickshire

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

Local Member(s): None.

Other members: Councillors Bell, Drew, Golby, Holland and Rolfe.