

# Health and Wellbeing Board

15 January 2025

## Update on the Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach across Warwickshire

### Recommendations

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- 1) Notes and comments the progress made with implementing a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach across Warwickshire; and
- 2) Considers the formal adoption of the HiAP approach as a core component in the refresh of the Warwickshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### 1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board has a statutory duty to develop a Health and Wellbeing Strategy under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The Strategy should translate findings from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment into priorities to help determine actions by local authorities, NHS and other partners to address the wider determinants that impact on health and wellbeing.
- 1.2 Warwickshire's Health and Wellbeing Strategy is built around the population health framework. The framework highlights that to improve health outcomes, activity needs to take place across all four quadrants of the framework, with true collaboration being delivered in the overlaps between the four quadrants.
- 1.3 The Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach directly supports this vision by embedding health considerations into every stage of policy and decision-making, with the aim of enhancing health outcomes.
- 1.4 HiAP is a collaborative, evidence-based approach to improving the health of people 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.
- 1.5 Since the Health and Wellbeing Board endorsed the HiAP approach in March 2021 substantial progress has been made in its implementation in Warwickshire.

- 1.6 The first two phases focused on raising awareness of HiAP and securing buy-in from stakeholders across Warwickshire. Working with the Local Government Association (LGA), the Council hosted a series of workshops, both internally and with external partners, and developed a [HiAP toolkit](#) containing resources to support its application across projects, programmes, and strategies.
- 1.7 The current stage involves embedding HiAP across Council and partners' service areas.
- 1.8 An evaluation conducted by the Council's Public Health's Wider Determinants of Health Team (Appendix I) highlights the practical benefits of HiAP, including reducing public health burdens by proactively addressing health inequalities. The evaluation outlines HiAP's journey to date, presents case studies that demonstrate its impact, and shares lessons learned from other local authorities.
- 1.9 The evaluation reaffirms HiAP's role and effectiveness, identifying areas where it has achieved meaningful change. However, it also highlights opportunities for improvement, including maintaining engagement from partners, enhancing accessibility, and strengthening governance and monitoring processes.
- 1.10 In response to these findings, the Council's HiAP partnership group has developed a forward work programme for advancing HiAP across Warwickshire. This programme is organised around the following key work areas:
  - **Strategic Integration:** Embedding HiAP as a whole-system approach to tackling health inequalities and improving health and wellbeing.
  - **Place-Based Approach:** Strengthening external partnerships with districts and borough councils, and community partners to promote local buy-in and shared ownership of health goals.
  - **Intra-Service Collaboration:** Increasing collaboration across service areas to ensure a coordinated approach to health objectives.
  - **Monitoring and Reporting:** Establishing robust monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track the ongoing impact of HiAP and ensure accountability.
  - **Communications:** Improving visibility and understanding of HiAP among both internal and external stakeholders to build continued support and awareness.
  - **Mental Health and Wellbeing Integration:** Elevating mental health to achieve parity with physical health in health impact considerations.
- 1.11 The Council now aims to build on this foundation by developing a HiAP Partnership Network that will include both internal service areas and external partners.

- 1.12 This Network will aid learning of best practice, organisational progress and successes. This in turn will ensure greater potential for collaboration across organisations, supporting efforts to act collectively on policy changes to improve health outcomes and address health inequalities more effectively across Warwickshire.

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1 There are no specific financial implications as the work described in this report has been completed within existing resources.

## **3. Environmental Implications**

- 3.1 None.

## **4. Supporting Information**

### **Integration in Warwickshire County Council**

- 4.1 The restructuring of the Council's HiAP project team into an internal partnership group has been a crucial development, bringing together colleagues from across several Council service areas, and creating a collaborative environment for addressing cross-cutting health objectives.
- 4.2 By regularly reviewing HiAP focus areas, the Council demonstrates its commitment to promoting equitable health outcomes and integrating HiAP principles into daily operations and practices and ensuring strategic alignment.
- 4.3 HiAP has been embedded as a core element in the Council's refreshed Strategy Development Framework, which the Council's Corporate Board endorsed in May 2024. This integration ensures that health considerations are included at the earliest stage of strategy development and are central to setting priorities and deliverables.
- 4.4 Across the Council, several service areas have adopted a Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach. These include the Strategic Infrastructure and Regeneration team, the Green Spaces and Country Parks team, Transport (encompassing the Local Transport Plan, Active Travel, and the Road Safety Partnership), Education, the Corporate Policy and Strategy team, and Public Health.

### **Service level integration: case study "Planning".**

- 4.5 Taking a HiAP approach, a range of initiatives have been implemented in Warwickshire to enhance health outcomes through improvements in the built environment.

- 4.6 Among these is the development of the Promoting Health & Wellbeing Through Spatial Planning document. This resource provides advice and guidance on the intrinsic link between the built environment and health, setting out planning and design principles that foster health and wellbeing.
- 4.7 Aimed at policy and strategy makers across disciplines—including local planning authorities, public health teams, regeneration specialists, transport planners, and infrastructure providers—the document supports the Council’s ambition to create environments that encourage healthy living by embedding health considerations into spatial planning.
- 4.8 In addition, the Council’s Public Health team actively reviews consultations and provides responses to major planning applications. This work highlights the potential health implications of proposed developments and advocates for health-positive design choices. A standardised process has also been introduced to ensure that Public Health offers input on smaller-scale planning applications.
- 4.9 To further support Public Health’s involvement in the planning process and to emphasise the value of Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) in improving population health, the Wider Determinants Team successfully secured support from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) for a HIA workshop.
- 4.10 The workshop (held in November 2024) was jointly delivered by OHID and representatives from the Council’s Public Health and Strategic Infrastructure Teams and engaged planning officers from the county’s Districts and Borough Councils.
- 4.11 Building on this success, ongoing efforts aim to enhance engagement in strategic planning discussions at a county and district and borough level to shape local planning policy. By establishing clear and consistent criteria, these initiatives seek to integrate health considerations systematically into planning and decision-making processes.

#### **Organisational integration: case study “Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council”**

- 4.12 Nuneaton and Bedworth Brough Council have implemented the Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach as one of its five health priorities for the Borough.
- 4.13 Over the last 12 months the Borough Council have:
- made it a mandatory requirement within all existing processes and reports to include Health Implications as an independent section;
  - made it a mandatory requirement to include Health within all newly produced policies and strategies;
  - adopted HEAT assessments across the Public Services and Housing & Community Safety Directorate as a phased roll out - these teams are

- now required to complete a HEAT before starting any project, service review or programme of works;
- made Health Implications a mandatory field on every Cabinet, Scrutiny or Council Report.

4.14 Over the next 12 months the Borough Council will be extending the requirement for HEAT assessments to be completed across all directorates and further ownership from each service area to understand the impact their decision making, or services have on the Health of Borough residents.

### **Integration at place: case study “South Warwickshire Place Partnership”**

4.15 South Warwickshire Place has used a HiAP approach to setting its priorities and objectives since 2022. This approach has evolved, beginning with Public Health supported HiAP workshops to develop plans associated with its 2022/2023 objectives, to delivering projects benefiting South Warwickshire Place communities using tools such as HEAT (health equity assessment tool) to embed action on health inequalities into deliverables.

4.16 As part of the 2023/24 South Warwickshire Place programme development, all South Warwickshire Place Delivery Group members received HEAT training, to enable all Place colleagues to systematically identify and address health inequalities and equity in their work programmes or services.

4.17 Partners at South Warwickshire Place, in their role as anchor institutions, integrate health into the wider sphere of public policy. For example:

- Warwick District Council (WDC) have developed a ten-year vision for Leamington Town Centre which places health and wellbeing at the heart of the town’s future.
- Consideration of health in policy and programme planning in Lillington East, where community conversations were used to identify the needs of the local population enabling WDC to develop a Mental and Physical Health Plan to tackle inequalities, e.g. by integrating community activity and volunteering in the Lillington Health Hub.
- The South Warwickshire Place’s “Lillington Respiratory Project” is an initiative to address inequalities in respiratory health within the community. As part of a wider goal to improve population health in the area, a Community Connector role was developed to work with local people and health professionals to deliver targeted support and improve health outcomes.

4.18 The work of the South Warwickshire Place Partnership demonstrates how a Health in All Policies approach can be put into practice. Programmes like the Respiratory Health Project take a preventative approach, while the local Health Hub provides a space where residents can engage in health and

wellbeing initiatives on their doorstep. Strategic, long-term planning at place also puts health and wellbeing at the heart of the community through the Partnerships priorities and outcomes.

- 4.19 By fostering cross-sector collaboration and prioritising health and wellbeing in these ways, South Warwickshire Place partners have played a significant role in reducing health inequalities while improving outcomes for residents, and creating healthier, more connected communities.

### **System level integration: case study “Whole system approach to healthy weight”**

- 4.20 A whole system approach to healthy weight (WSAtHW) is a practical application of HiAP, targeting a key public health issue – increasing rates of child and adult obesity.
- 4.21 During the period June 2024 to November 2024 scoping and engagement took place to prepare initial work towards WSAtHW in Warwickshire. This included but was not limited to:
- Literature and evidence review
  - Engagement with numerous other Local Authorities already adopting a WSAtHW
  - Engagement at Youth Council
  - Targeted Voice of Warwickshire survey
  - Alignment with the Council’s Health in all Policies Partnership.
  - Health and Wellbeing Board developmental session
- 4.22 Aligned with [national guidance](#) (p27), the approach will involve working together through a cyclical 6 phased process. A whole systems approach will cover all ages, however following engagement with other local authorities, the focus of initial action in Warwickshire will be maternity and children and young people. This initial focus aligns with strategic priorities within the Health and Wellbeing strategy and the Corporate Delivery Plan.
- 4.23 In 2025 a series of more targeted engagement activity will take place to support progress through the 6 phased national framework and develop a Warwickshire vision and aims towards using WSAtHW to improve the health of Warwickshire residents.

## **5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps**

- 5.1 The HiAP work programme is ongoing. It is anticipated that the HiAP Partnership Network will be established during the first half of 2025.
- 5.2 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy is due to be refreshed in 2026 and the new strategy will be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board in the spring of 2026.

## Appendices

1. Appendix 1 *Health in All Policies in Warwickshire County Council: A Review of Progress, Impact and Best Practice.*

## Background Papers

N/A

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
Report Author	Hannah Cramp - Public Health Service Manager Chioma Chimezie - Public Health Principle	<a href="mailto:hannahcramp@warwickshire.gov.uk">hannahcramp@warwickshire.gov.uk</a> , <a href="mailto:chiomachimezie@warwickshire.gov.uk">chiomachimezie@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Director	Shade Agboola - Director of Public Health	<a href="mailto:shadeagboola@warwickshire.gov.uk">shadeagboola@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Executive Director	Becky Hale, Executive Director for Social Care and Health	<a href="mailto:beckyhale@warwickshire.gov.uk">beckyhale@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Margaret Bell, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care & Health	<a href="mailto:margaretbell@warwickshire.gov.uk">margaretbell@warwickshire.gov.uk</a>

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

Local Member(s): None – this is a county wide report

Other members: Cllrs Barker, Drew, Holland and Rolfe