

**REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 23 JUNE 2008**  
**REPORT ON: HEALTH IMPROVEMENT STRATEGY**  
**REPORT BY: ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE (COMMUNITY PLANNING)**  
**REPORT NO: 315-2008**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To advise the Council of progress regarding the development of a new health improvement strategy.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Council:

- i) supports the review of the Dundee Partnership Health and Care Strategic Theme Group
- ii) approves a revised timescale for the development of a new health improvement strategy by the end of the year
- iii) remits the Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) to produce a new health improvement strategy and report to Committee by December 2008

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**4. BACKGROUND**

4.1 The Council Plan for the period 2007-2011 has identified improving the health and fitness of the population as one of its key strategic objectives. Within this context, the development of a new Health Improvement Plan is a priority for the Council.

4.2 In the course of 2007/2008, the Scottish Government indicated a new strategic direction around health improvement and health inequalities. Within this context, it is recognised there is still a need to help people improve and sustain their health especially in disadvantaged communities. The following have been highlighted as areas of proposed key health improvement developments.

- 'Better Health, Better Care'. This White Paper, the result of a national consultation in 2007, sets out the strategic direction for the NHS in Scotland. Some of the key health improvement issues are smoking, alcohol, drugs, tackling obesity and sexual health. A national Action Plan was published early in 2008 with guidance on local implementation expected after the Summer.
- As part of this process, a Ministerial Task Group on Health Inequalities was set up in 2007. The group's remit is to recommend practical actions, both nationally and locally, that will specifically address health inequalities. The group is expected to report in July 2008.
- 'Towards a Mentally Flourishing Scotland' - This document was the focus of a national consultation on approaches to mental health improvement/mental

wellbeing that took place at the beginning of the year. The consultation paper highlighted potentially key target groups e.g. people in institutional settings, homeless people, those with alcohol/drugs problems, 'looked after and accommodated' children and children with drug/alcohol using or mentally-ill patients. A National Action Plan is expected later in 2008.

- 4.3 Following agreement at the Dundee Partnership Forum, the Single Outcome Agreement for Dundee was submitted to the Scottish Government on 1 April 2008. Within the Dundee Partnership, it has been agreed the ongoing development of the Single Outcome Agreement will require a significant change in the organisation and performance of the strategic theme groups. Within this context, the Health and Care Theme Group has responsibility for joint health improvement/health inequalities. It has been agreed there will be a review of the Partnership's groups. The review process will take place during the Summer and report to the Dundee Partnership towards the end of the year.
- 4.4 In view of the forthcoming national guidance and the agreed review of the Dundee Partnership Health and Care Theme Group it is recommended the timescale for developing a new health improvement strategy is revised. Within this context, the new strategy will be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval before the end of the year.

## 5. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

There is a close relationship between the Council's anti-poverty targets and joint health improvement. The focus of joint health improvement is targeted specifically towards disadvantaged communities where there are strong associations with poorer health and outcomes.

## 6. **CONSULTATIONS**

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted regarding the report. The Director of Social Work, the Director of Leisure and Communities and the Director of Education have also been consulted.

## 7. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- Dundee City Council Plan 2007-2011
- Better Health, Better Care Action Plan, Scottish Government 2008
- Health Inequalities Task Force, Executive Group Item No 14, COSLA
- Towards a Mentally Flourishing Scotland - Consultation, Scottish Government 2008
- Dundee Partnership Single Outcome Agreement, Progress Report, May 2008

Chris Ward  
Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning)..... 17/06/2008