

# Health and Wellbeing Strategy Review Group Report October 2012

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# Introduction

The Council has a statutory duty to have a properly constituted Health and Wellbeing Board in place by 1 April 2013. As part of their remit Health and Wellbeing Boards must publish both a Strategic Needs Assessment and a Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy was out for public consultation from 24 May to 23 August 2012. During this period 32 responses were received from the online consultation. In addition members of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy Team attended various committee / group meetings to provide background information, a summary of the draft strategy and to request feedback. Meetings attended include:

- Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group Shadow Board;
- Children & Young People Select Committee;
- Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee;
- Milton Keynes Youth Conference;
- Milton Keynes Disabilities Action Group;
- Milton Keynes Youth Cabinet;
- Responsible Authorities Group; and
- Civil Society organisations.

The nature of the responses ranged from unequivocal support to requests for additional specific areas to be included. There were no dissenting responses in respect of the identified priorities and objectives.

The draft Strategy has now been revised following feedback from the consultation process.

The final draft was presented to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board on 27 September 2012 and to the Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group on 2 October 2012.

The Children and Young People Select Committee and the Health and Adult Social Care Select Committee requested the establishment of a Review Group in order to have an opportunity for a final scrutiny of the Strategy before it is presented to Cabinet on 17 October.

The Review Group met on 11 October 2012 and this report is the result of their deliberations.

Councillor Robin Bradburn  
Chair, Health & Wellbeing Strategy Review Group  
October 2012

# Membership and Terms of Reference

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy Review Group was established by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee at its meeting on 9 July 2012 with a membership of 2:2:2 from the main political groups on the Council.

The following councillors were nominated to serve on the Review Group:

- Councillor Robin Bradburn (Chair)
- Councillor Alice Bramall
- Councillor Margaret Burke
- Councillor Gerald Small
- Councillor Elaine Wales
- Councillor Christine Zealley

At its meeting on 11 October the Review Group appointed Councillor Robin Bradburn as Chair and agreed the following terms of reference:

1. To Review and comment upon Health and Wellbeing Strategy prior to its approval by Cabinet on 17 October 2012;
2. To prepare a report on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Cabinet.

# Review Group Summary and Recommendations

Due to the limited timescale associated with the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy the Review Group only had a small window of opportunity to meet and carry out the scrutiny of the strategy.

Following the closure of the consultation period the Strategy Development Group met, considered the received responses and amended the strategy where appropriate.

The revised Strategy was presented to the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board on 27 September 2012 and to the Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group on 2 October 2012.

The Review Group, therefore, met on 11 October 2012 to consider the final draft of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The minutes of the meeting are included as Annexe A of this report.

Following its deliberations, the Review Group agreed that subject to the following amendments being made to the Strategy, the Review Group was happy to recommend the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to Cabinet for approval on 17 October 2012:

- That Strategic Priority 1 be reworded from “Improve Wellbeing” to “Ensuring the best start for children and improving Wellbeing for all”;
- That measures relating to the welfare of children be listed as the first item(s) under each Objective;
- That the measures listed under each objective be checked for clarity and consistency of terminology;
- That the final paragraph of the Strategy be amended from “...but will aim to review progress...” to “...and will review progress...”;
- That the numbering of the sections was not necessary and could be removed. The headings for each section were clear and easily understood.
- That the phrase “Taking Action” before the lists of Objectives under each priority was unnecessary and detracted from, rather than enhanced, the clarity of the document.

The Chair of the Review Group would present its recommendations to Cabinet orally at the meeting of the Cabinet on 17 October 2012.

# Annex A

Minutes of the meeting of the HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY REVIEW GROUP held on THURSDAY 11 OCTOBER 2012 at 6.30 pm

**Present:** Councillor Bradburn, M Burke, Miles (Substituting for Councillor Wales), and Zealley

**Officers:** M Hancock (Assistant Director [Joint Commissioning]), E Richardson (Overview and Scrutiny Officer),

**Also Present:** Mr A Hastings, Milton Keynes LINK

**Apologies:** Councillors Bramall and Wales

## **HWRG01 ELECTION OF CHAIR**

RESOLVED -

That Councillor Robin Bradburn be elected as Chair of the Review Group'

## **HWRG02 TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. To Review and comment upon Health and Wellbeing Strategy prior to its approval by Cabinet on 17 October 2012;
2. To prepare a report on the health and wellbeing strategy for cabinet

## **HWRG03 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY**

The Review Group expressed unanimous concern at the lack of emphasis on children in the draft Strategy. The Council prided itself on the commitment of elected Members to children and felt that this commitment should be emphasised in the Strategy as the welfare of children needed to be at the centre of everything the Council did.

Although it was explained that the term "Improve Wellbeing" used for Priority 1 had been used as a catch-all phrase to include both children and adults, the Review Group felt that the term lacked definition and needed to be more specific. A sample review of Health and Wellbeing Strategies from other local authorities showed that the welfare of children received a priority emphasis which was currently lacking in the Milton Keynes Strategy. The Review Group felt that this could be rephrased to meet the Council's commitment to child welfare.

The Review Group were happy with the measures in the Strategy relating to children but felt they lacked prominence and that the information had to be teased out of the Strategy. Although the lists of measures under each Objective were not in a priority order the Review Group suggested that the measures relating to children be listed as the first bullet point(s). Where there was more than one measure relating to children under the same Objective, it made sense to list them together.

The Review Group noted that there was no mention of Maternity Services as from April 2013 these would come under the remit of the Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and would not be the responsibility of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Only those measures where the Health and Wellbeing would have influence had been included in the strategy.

The Review Group considered some of the items such as the reduction in the number of people living in fuel poverty to be too aspirational as the Council may not be in a position to influence or progress them. However, it was agreed that these could be a useful measure for the public in holding the Health and Wellbeing Board to account in the future. The Health and Wellbeing Board accepted that some of the aspirations in the Strategy may never be met.

The Review noted from the report of the Assistant Director (Joint Commissioning) on the preparation of the draft Strategy that 32 responses to the on-line consultation had been received. Although the responses had all been supportive of the Strategy the Review Group expressed its regret that they had not been included in the circulated paperwork as they felt this would have aided the scrutiny process.

The Review Group noted that the recommendation made by the Children and Young People Select Committee at its meeting on 4 July that specific age ranges be included when referring to the old (over 65) and the young (0-5) had been included in the Strategy.

The Review Group noted some inconsistencies in phraseology in the objectives and suggested that the same terms, such as 'recommended limits of alcohol' be used throughout.

The Review Group considered that the final section 'How do we know we are making a difference?' needed to be more definite about reviewing progress and recommended that it be made clear that although a major review was scheduled to take place after 3 years, this was an ongoing process and that regular reviews would be undertaken annually.

Following some minor suggestions relating to style and presentation, the Review Group commended the Strategy for its conciseness; it was short, clear and easy to read. Starting each section on a new page added to the clarity of the document and gave it definition.

It did what the Council needed in order to have a Strategy in place for the commencement of the Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2013.

Once the Strategy had been approved by Cabinet, the next stage would be to map out which Council departments and other agencies would pick up which measures.

RESOLVED –

1. That subject to the following amendments being made, the Review Group was happy to recommend the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to Cabinet for approval:

- That Strategic Priority 1 be reworded from “Improve Wellbeing” to “Ensuring the best start for children and improving Wellbeing for all”;
  - That measures relating to the welfare of children be listed as the first item(s) under each Objective;
  - That the measures listed under each objective be checked for clarity and consistency of terminology;
  - That the final paragraph of the Strategy be amended from “...but will aim to review progress...” to “...and will review progress...”;
  - That the numbering of the sections was not necessary and could be removed. The headings for each section were clear and easily understood.
  - That the phrase ‘Taking Action’ before the lists of Objectives under each priority was unnecessary and detracted from, rather than enhanced the clarity of the document.
2. That a report be prepared on the work of the Review Group to be presented orally by the Chair at the meeting of the Cabinet on 17 October 2012.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 7.50 PM



# Acknowledgements

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy Review Group would like to thank Mr Alan Hastings from Milton Keynes LINK and Mick Hancock, Assistant Director (Joint Commissioning) for their assistance during this review.

# Background Papers

'Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2012-15':  
Report to the Shadow Health & Wellbeing Board  
Author: Mick Hancock, Assistant Director (Joint Commissioning)  
27 September 2012

'Milton Keynes Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-15':  
Final Draft

## Democratic Services

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### **Overview and Scrutiny**

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