

Report to Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Update on All Age Obesity/ Oral health and Obesity in Secondary Schools

Portfolio Holder:

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**Purpose
of the
Report**

The report is an update on activity related to all age obesity, and oral and obesity in secondary schools as requested by the Sub-Committee.

All Age Obesity/Oral Health and Obesity in Secondary Schools

1 Background

- 1.1 At the November 2018 meeting of the Scrutiny Sub-Committee a report was presented on overweight and obesity, the scale of these issues in Oldham and the recent activities undertaken to prevent and address the problem.

The subcommittee RESOLVED that:

1. The content of the report be noted;
2. A template be developed to outline existing and future plans to tackle overweight and obesity in adults and children in Oldham. The following information be included in the template:
 - a. Current barriers to progress;
 - b. Legal framework;
 - c. Prevention;
 - d. Joined-up approach with partners, including schools and the community, voluntary and third sector;
 - e. Comparative work of neighbouring authorities;
 - f. Publicity and promotion;
3. Links be developed with the Mayor's Healthy Living Campaign 2019/20 to promote existing and future programmes to tackle overweight and obesity in adults and children in Oldham;
4. A presentation/workshop on this theme be delivered to the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Board by 26th March 2018 and offered to all Councillors.

The intention was that the outcomes of these combined actions would identify further opportunities to address obesity and enable a paper to be submitted to Oldham Council and to Oldham Clinical Commissioning Group.

- 1.2 At the Health Scrutiny Meeting in December 2018 members discussed the increased challenge around oral health and obesity in secondary schools. The committee considered that there are opportunities to promote healthy living messages via the Mayor's Healthy Living Campaign and the Oldham Learning Festival, due to take place in July 2019.

2 Current Position

- 2.1 A report on the causes and consequences of overweight and obesity, the scale of these issues in Oldham using latest statistics and information on recent activities undertaken in the public sector and in the voluntary and community sector to prevent and address the problem, along with the key barriers and challenges had been developed.

The research undertaken to develop the report lead to the recommendation of the need for a whole systems approach with a multiagency strategy/plan and clear governance arrangements. This work will be taken forward as a priority in 2019/20.

Work on developing an appropriate format for concise but thorough reporting and sharing of activity and outcomes in this complex area of health is ongoing. One recommendation is to establish a network as part of the obesity strategy which would enable this sharing of information.

- 2.2 An initial meeting has taken place between the Mayor, and Council officers from youth services, education and public health to discuss oral health and obesity in secondary schools.

The group discussed the intention to link the Mayor's Healthy Living Campaign 2019/20 with existing and future programmes to tackle overweight and obesity in adults and children in Oldham and possible ways forward. The group considered that the appropriate first step would be to carry out an exploration on what schools were already doing on health, diet, oral health and obesity and what the interest there is to take part in a health-related project, and on the views of young people themselves on how they think the issue can be best addressed.

The group recognized that the research would require staff time and expertise, particularly for the direct work with young people, and to progress this work additional resources are likely to be required. It is therefore recommended that this work is further considered in the context of the development of the Oldham obesity strategy/plan.

- 2.3 A workshop on the causes, consequences and opportunities for addressing all age obesity was planned to be held on 31st January 2019 and was offered to all Councillors. This was cancelled due to lack of applications to attend. Alternative mechanisms for delivering this workshop are now being explored.