BRIEFING TO OLDHAM HEALTH SCRUTINITY SUB-COMMITTEE

Report Title: Council Motions - Sudden Cardiac Arrest in Young People and First Aid

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Date: 6th October 2015

What the issue is: The Overview & Scrutiny Committee asked the Health & Wellbeing Board to action the motion of business that was tabled at Full Council on 4th February 2015. This report outlines the activity of the Health & Wellbeing Board

Requirement from Health & Wellbeing Board: The Health & Wellbeing Board are asked to note the activity undertaken to action the motion

Background / Introduction:

At the meeting of Oldham Council on the 4th February 2015, a motion of opposition business was tabled in respect to the topic of sudden cardiac arrest within young people.

Main body of report:

The motion of opposition business was worded as follows

This Council notes that:

Nationally, over 600 young people die every year from sudden cardiac arrest - twelve young people each week - and 270 of these deaths happen in schools. British Red Cross research shows nearly 90 per cent of 11 to 16-year-olds have been confronted with a medical emergency.

This Council commends:

• The excellent work carried out by Heartstart Oldham and SADs, with support from the British Heart Foundation, Rotary Club, North West Ambulance Service, the Healthy Schools Project, fund-raisers and sponsors to provide first aid training to school staff and pupils and to supply Automated External Defibrillators to schools across the borough.

• New guidance published by the Department for Education encouraging schools to buy an Automated External Defibrillator.

• The British Heart Foundation’s Nation of Lifesavers Initiative.
Council believes that:

• School children should be taught First Aid as part of the national curriculum
• It should be a local public health priority to teach children and school staff First Aid and to provide defibrillators in schools

Council therefore resolves to:

• Ask the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Health, The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP and the Secretary of State for Education, The Rt. Hon. Nicola Morgan, urging them to introduce First Aid as part of the national Curriculum

• Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to establish a plan to ensure that First Aid teaching is introduced into every Oldham school in the interim, and to bring a report back to full Council

• Ask the Director of Public Health to fund the phased introduction of Automated External Defibrillators, supported by appropriate training, into every school across the borough, and to bring a report on his proposals back to full Council

• Mark World First Aid Day 12th September 2015 with a public awareness campaign outlining the importance of acquiring emergency First Aid knowledge.

The motion was RESOLVED that under Council Procedure Rule 8.4 (d) the motion be referred to Overview and Scrutiny Board.

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee have since tasked the Health & Wellbeing Board to look at taking the actions, highlighted in bold above, to develop a plan for taking these actions forward and to report back to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as and when appropriate.

Activity undertaken:

• Ask the relevant Cabinet Member to establish a plan to ensure that First Aid teaching is introduced into every Oldham school in the interim, and to bring a report back to full Council

There is support to introduce First Aid teaching into every school in Oldham but there are some substantial barriers to delivering it. First Aid is not currently part of the National Curriculum so there is no imperative for schools to include it in their curriculum offer. Schools have a great deal of autonomy and it is not within the local authority’s powers to instruct them to deliver something that is not part of the national curriculum.

It is possible that if some teaching resources were made available to schools, and if these were underpinned by some training, it should be possible to encourage schools to make use of them as part of the PSHE curriculum (although this does not have statutory status). This would require an initial dialogue with the Oldham Schools
Alliance (Primary schools) and the Oldham Association of Secondary Heads and Principals (OASHP).

- **Ask the Director of Public Health to fund the phased introduction of Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs), supported by appropriate training, into every school across the borough, and to bring a report on his proposals back to full Council.**

See Appendix 1 for response from the Director of Public Health.

- **Mark World First Aid Day 12th September 2015 with a public awareness campaign outlining the importance of acquiring emergency First Aid knowledge.**

Oldham’s Health partners were made aware of this date and all agreed to promote World First Aid day through their own websites and social media channels with relevant links and information.

**Next Steps / Recommendations:**

The Health Scrutiny Sub-committee are asked to note the activity and report it back to Council.
Appendix 1 – Response from the Director of Public Health on the phased introduction of Automated External Defibrillators

Question: Ask the Director of Public Health to fund the phased introduction of Automated External Defibrillators, supported by appropriate training, into every school across the borough, and to bring a report on his proposals back to full Council

Response:

1.0 Background Information
- A defibrillator is a medical device used to deliver an electric shock to the heart of someone having a cardiac arrest, the delivery of electrical energy to the heart helps restore natural rhythm. Defibrillation used within the community is referred to as Automated External Defibrillator (AED).
- Over recent years AEDs placed within communities provide early defibrillation in order to help resuscitate lives of those having sudden cardiac arrest.
- There is evidence to suggest that AED have been used successfully in many cases, with the ability to save lives (Resuscitation Council UK, 2013).
- However, most out of hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) occur at home (NHS, 2013), where the community placed AED would be of no benefit. There has been some benefit to placements of AED in places where large numbers of people gather, such as football grounds and airports.
- The evidence suggests the effectiveness of public access defibrillators to increase sudden cardiac arrest survival in some settings, however fewer cardiac arrests occur in public places than at home.
- Alternatively basic skill in relation to Cardo Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) has proven to be effective in all settings, and investment in a wider programme of skills building amongst all community members regarding resuscitation skills is likely to benefit many more individuals at substantially less cost.

2.0 Position in Oldham
- There are a number of defibrillators already in place across Oldham, a location map can be found at: http://www.nwas-responders.info/map.php
- The number of defibrillators will increase over the next few months following joint work with districts and NWAS, based on areas where there are large foot falls, and more remote locations.
There are also provisions of defibrillators from a range of private organisation (Asda) as well as via TFGM.

Housing 21 has made a commitment to place defibrillators within its schemes.

Additionally Heartstart and Heartstart Oldham have placed devices within Oldham schools.

Alongside the defibrillators there are numerous programmes to upskill members of the public to deliver first aid and CPR training, including amongst others heart start who provide training within the community and schools, lifelong learning who deliver a programme of courses, OCL and local CCG dragons den funding which sought to develop the skill and the will relating to first aid and CPR.

3.0 Conclusion

As detailed above a substantial number of machines are already in place across Oldham. This is supported by investment in CPR and first aid training.

Given the evidence of effectiveness about community AEDs Oldham is reaching saturation in terms of cost benefit.

Faced with the financial pressures there is a need to further prioritise areas of investment to those where there is stronger evidence of effectiveness. Hence Oldham council and its partners will continue to assess need and review a range of approaches to tackle the causes of premature mortality.

4.0 Going Forward

Continue to ensure premature mortality is addressed within public health plans.

Together with partners, continue to commission a range of services that help prevent cardiovascular disease.
References
Limmer et al 2009, Emergency Care: cardiac emergency. (11th Ed). Pearson Education. Available at: https://www.albemarle.org/upload/images/Forms_Center/Departments/Fire_and_Rescue/Forms/training/Powerpoints/CHAPTER%2017-%20CARDIAC%20EMERGENCIES/CHAPTER%2017-%20CARDIAC%20EMERGENCIES.swf