

Report to Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee

Council Motions

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Purpose of the Report

To provide the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee with a summary of the health-related motions that were discussed and agreed by Council on 12 December 2019 and an update on the actions to date.

Recommendations

Health Scrutiny Sub-committee is requested to note the update.

Council Motions

1 Background

1.1 The following health-related motion was discussed and approved at the Council meeting on Wednesday 12 December 2018:

- Sustainable Public Health Funding

2 Current Position

2.1 Sustainable Public Health Funding

Council notes that:

- Around four in ten cancers are preventable, largely through avoidable risk factors, such as stopping smoking, keeping a healthy weight and cutting back on alcohol. Smoking accounts for 80,000 early deaths every year and remains the largest preventable cause of cancer in the world. Additionally, obesity and alcohol account for 30,000 and 7,000 early deaths each year respectively. All three increase the risk of: cancer, diabetes, lung and heart conditions poor mental health and create a subsequent burden on health and social care.
- The public health grant funds vital services and functions largely delivered by local authorities to prevent ill health and reduce the burden placed upon the NHS and local authorities; for example, social care for smoking-related illnesses is estimated to cost local authorities £760 million per annum.
- In 2018/19 and 2019/20 every local authority will have less to spend on public health than the year before.
- The Government is looking to phase out the Public Health Grant by 2020/21 and to replace this with funding via business rates retention.

Council believes that:

- The impact of cuts to public health on our communities is becoming difficult to ignore.
 - It is vital that local authorities have enough funding to deliver the functions and services they need to provide. Deprived areas, like Oldham, suffer the worst health outcomes, so it is also vital that areas with the greatest need receive sufficient funding to meet their local challenges.
 - Taking funds away from prevention is a false economy. Without proper investment in public health services, people suffer, demand on local health services increases and the economy suffers. Poor public health cost local businesses heavily through sick days and lost productivity.
 - We must restore public health funding or our health and care system will remain locked in a 'treatment' approach, which is neither economically viable nor protects the health of residents.
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Council resolves to:

- Continue to support and fund public health initiatives to the best of our abilities – to prevent ill-health, reduce inequalities and support a health and social care system that is fit for the future.
- Ask the Chief Executive to:
 - Cancer Research UK setting out this Council's support for their call for increased and sustainable public health funding.
 - The Secretary of State for Health calling on the Government to deliver increased investment in public health and to support a sustainable health and social care system by taking a 'prevention first' approach.

Update

Following the Council meeting, the motion was referred to Public Health who will work with Finance to consider the support and funding of public health initiatives as part of the Council's business planning and budget setting process. An update will be provided to Full Council on 20 March 2019.

Letters were sent to Cancer Research UK and the Secretary of State on 19 December 2019.
