

## **WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **HOUSING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**27 NOVEMBER 2018**

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**Title:**

**HEALTH INEQUALITIES REVIEW – HOUSING BRIEFING**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Jenny Else (Community Wellbeing) and  
Cllr Carole King (Housing)  
Wards Affected: All]**

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**Summary and purpose:**

The purpose of this report is to summarise the findings relating to housing from the Health Inequalities Scrutiny review that was carried out by a task and finish group of the Community Wellbeing O&S Committee. The review report was presented to the Community Wellbeing O&S Committee in June 2018.

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**How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:**

This report relates to the People priority – housing impacts on the health and wellbeing of our residents which is an important priority contained within the corporate strategy.

**Equality and Diversity Implications:**

The original 'Factors Affecting Health Inequalities' review report considered in detail the discrepancy in life expectancy across different groups in the Borough and the potential reasons for this. The equality and diversity implications were considered in the report and in particular the life chances of those residents within different areas of the Borough.

**Financial Implications:**

The Council's responsibilities for public health are provided by many services therefore budget provision is difficult to identify. By ensuring the health of residents, the public sector can benefit from reduced need for health services provided by the NHS, social care needs from County Council amongst many other benefits. Prevention of health issues and promotion of general public wellbeing can help ensure a more cost effective public health service provision. A small corporate revenue budget of £5,000 has been approved for 2018/19 to enable the health & wellbeing agenda to be pushed forward.

Waverley has received over £600,000 of Better Care funding in 2018/19. This funding has been used to enable a number of public health related projects such as the Warm Homes Project and Home Renovation Grants. These projects help enable Waverley residents to stay in their own homes safely with reduced intervention. Currently, no further funding is received by Waverley to support public health services.

## **Legal Implications:**

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (HSCA 2012) provides the legal framework for the council's duties in respect of its public health functions. The council has a duty to take such steps, as it considers appropriate to improve the health of people in its area. In addition, there is a duty to reduce health inequalities in the council's area through the discharge of the Director of Public Health's duties (protective and preventative work on public health matters which require a national overview).

The Secretary of State has the power to publish guidance to which the council must have regard when exercising its public health functions. Those guidance documents include the Department of Health's Public Health Outcomes framework (Public Health England). The Public Health Outcomes Framework 2016-2019 with focus on the respective roles of local government, the NHS and their delivery of improved well-being outcomes for the people and communities they serve.

The council also has the power under the Local Government Act 2000 and the Localism Act 2011 to do whatever is required to improve the well-being of the inhabitants of its area.

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## **1. Background**

The Community Wellbeing O&S Committee set up a scrutiny review to look at factors affecting health inequalities in the borough, the final report of which was published on the Community Wellbeing O&S Committee agenda in June 2018.

The link between housing and health and wellbeing is well established and someone's housing arrangements can have a major impact on their health, both mental and physical.

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## **Recommendation**

The recommendation is for the Committee to note the report and the important link between health, wellbeing and housing.

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## **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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