

Report of the Strategic Director of Strategic Director of Health and Well-being to the meeting of the Keighley Area Committee to be held on 16th February 2017

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Subject:

The purpose of the following is to update Keighley Area Committee regarding the progress of the Warm Homes Healthy People (WHHP) winter warmth programme.

Summary statement:

In October 2016 a report introducing WHHP was presented to all the Area Committees in Bradford District. The purpose was twofold; to raise awareness of the programme and to ask members to support WHHP activities during 2016-17 winter

The report was considered by the Keighley Area Committee at their meeting on the 20th October 2016 where the contents were welcomed and officers were asked to return to a future meeting in February 2017 to update members on local WHHP activities. This report also includes specific information on the efforts made to foster greater sustainability for the programme in the future.

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Overview and Scrutiny Area:-
Health and Social Care

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The Warm Homes Healthy People (WHHP) programme is a short term multi-faceted programme designed to mitigate the effect of cold winter weather on vulnerable households. WHHP starts in late autumn (September/October) each year and continues until the likelihood of inclement weather recedes; after March 31st 2017 (up to six months on average).

1.2 In 2015/6/7 key elements of the programme were funded for a longer period than the 6 months which has been the norm in the past. The 18 month grant agreements gave service providers more time to prepare and develop their services and introduced a level of stability for the group. This also allowed work to be developed to help the programme become less reliant on council funding. In particular a lead partner was funded to create a 'crowd funding' project in partnership with the workstreams leads whose purpose was to raise funds for WHHP through personal and business donation.

1.3 The Keighley Area Committee's decision on hearing the report re-confirmed their support for the programme and requested that a second report be taken to the committee in the New Year. They asked that this include the details of WHHP's winter work and service outturns in Keighley, as well as hearing more about the sustainability aspect of the programme funded in 2016/17; the crowd funding project.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 WHHP started locally in 2010 when the Department of Health (DH) made funding available for Local Authorities to develop services which could operate during winter months offering short term interventions to reduce the impact of cold, damp, freezing and generally inclement weather. It remains Bradford's response to the Cold Weather plan for England, as published by the DH annually.

2.2 Public Health and Bradford City and District Clinical Commissioning group (CCG) funding is now used to deliver four separate work streams through a multi-agency partnership which has expanded and developed innovative approaches to reducing the risk of exacerbated illness and early mortality during winter months.

2.3 The four work streams in WHHP are;

1. Active Communities;
2. Connecting People;
3. Keeping Warm;
4. Healthy Eating,

2.4 In the current programme there are 9 organisations grant aided to provide services:

- Age UK
- BEAT
- Leeds Community Foundation (Bradford Community Fund)
- Community Advice Network (CAN)
- Bradford and District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)
- Carer's Resource
- HALE
- Inspire Neighbourhoods
- Innchurches

2.5 WHHP is a well-established programme that has had continuous success in reducing the numbers of people needing to access emergency services. At its heart, it aims to reduce 'excess winter death' figures in the District using early intervention and prevention to help households maintain their homes and health. Whilst offering direct cold weather services a part of the programme it also engages with neighbourhoods and people at street level to identify and build on existing community assets; supporting neighbourliness and community responsibility. For this reason the Stronger Communities Officer is part of the workstreams leads group.

2.6 WHHP uses a web based 'portal' – First4Contact as the main access route into services. This has the capacity to direct referrals into a range of support services which can respond rapidly. It accepts self and professional referrals and also accommodates telephone and paper referrals. See link here [First4Contact](#) for more information.

2.7 Officers have taken the opportunity to attend all the Area Committees with a WHHP report. This had two purposes;

1. To raise awareness of the programme
2. To ask elected members to actively support the programme; especially in relation to identifying vulnerable households who may benefit from WHHP's services.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 Referrals: This year the programme has received a much greater number of referrals (both third party and self) than in recent years. A composite report prepared by Carers Resource outlining the use so far (up to end-January 2017) is attached as **Appendix 1**.

The take up of the programme from Airedale post codes is in **Appendix 2**. The statistics show that the greatest call on services has been for the Warm Homes Discount and the Home energy efficiency checks.

3.2 What has WHHP delivered in Keighley? The following paragraphs outline the services offered in Keighley and Airedale through the programme.

3.2.1 Road shows: The Shipley based project HALE are currently running 'Cough Cold' roadshow providing informal education on reducing colds and flu in the winter months. This incorporates basic personal hygiene (hand washing techniques), how to sneeze and cough to avoid the spray affect; where to go for health advice; GP and/or local pharmacist; when it is okay to send children to school and measures to look after the common cough and cold through Self Care approaches. The sessions also include fuel poverty information, how to use energy more efficiently and also save money; where to get help with energy bills, debts and other top tips to staying safe warm and well during the winter months. In the Keighley area they have offered these roadshows in the following venues:

- Low Folds children's centre
- Highfield CC
- Rainbow CC
- Tree tops
- Daisy chain parent groups
- Plus St Joseph's Eastwood Primary
- Park Lane Primary

3.2.2 Healthy Weight programme: HALE offer a range of healthy eating roadshows across Keighley and Shipley which include:

- Reaching families that are 'hardly reached' and provide practical education increase knowledge around caring for family's health over winter.
- Improve self-care skills and increase activity such as visiting a eating well and using Healthy Living Pharmacies.

3.2.3 Small grants programme: Each year WHHP offers a small grants programme; administered by the Leeds Community Fund. Grants of up to £2000 are offered for small community based activities, these fund food provision; community lunches; extra food parcels; coffee mornings, tools and snow clearing equipment; small scale community transport and funding for community spaces and credit union events.

Between 2013-15- a total of 20 projects were funded via the community fund that benefitted Keighley and the wider Airedale end of the district. Total funding granted was £19082.50. See **Appendix 3**

This year 2 projects have been funded via the small grants programme in the Keighley area at a cost of £1755.00. They are listed at the end of **Appendix 3**

3.2.4 Tool Library: Funding for tools for community use was increased this year. The range of equipment purchased included gardening and cultivation tools as well as snow clearance materials and salt supplies. The Area Co-ordinators office has helped co-ordinate and locate some of the tool banks at their offices as is at the Keighley Area Office. A small amount of grant aid was set aside for the voluntary groups managing these 'libraries' in recognition of administration costs. Tool bank details are listed in **Appendix 4**

3.2.5 Fuel Poverty interventions: There are a number of interventions taking place across Keighley to alleviate those in Fuel poverty.

Age UK – if required warm packs are provided, the packs include a hot water bottle, flask, thermostat, thermal gloves/socks/hat, blanket and scarfs. If an individual's heating is unable to be fixed a small oil/fan heater will be provided and also if an appliance can be repaired at a minimum cost.

BEAT – Provide practical advice to householders to help them save energy, save money, keep warm and healthy through the winter months.

- Help build the capacity of local organisations, staff, volunteers and members of the public through training, talks and working with and alongside organisations at relevant community events and roadshows.
- Refer vulnerable residents to other relevant support available through WHHP partners and other local providers.

Groundworks – partnering with the WHHP partners, through the Green Doctors scheme individuals are able to take control of their energy bills through speaking to an expert or introductions to special initiatives.

3.3 Programme Outcomes:

In Appendix 5 there are a number of case studies which outline some of the impacts WHHP can have for vulnerable householders. The key is the holistic approach taken and the capacity of the referral 'portal' to support access to multiple services at the same time. See **Appendix 5**

3.4 Crowd funding/Sustainability

One of the work stream lead organisations was funded in 2016/17 to explore and develop a new approach to fund raising in the hope that there could be less future reliance on the Council and City CCG. It was felt that a 'crowd funding' website could be designed that would attract support and/or financial donations from both individuals and businesses to the programme. Inspire Neighbourhoods was the organisation chosen to lead this work with direction from the wider workstreams leads group.

The site development; including the parameters under which it would operate and fund raise was difficult to negotiate and challenging to manage. The site was opened however links circulated to it did not always work and there was some confusion on the terms under which donations could be made. This was a first attempt and the wider provider groups are keen to understand what lessons can be learnt. As a result the Council has implemented a review of the service and outcomes which is expected to be completed in 4 weeks. A part of this review will identify lessons learnt and help inform similar plans and approached in the future

4. OPTIONS

4.1 That the Keighley Area Committee notes the report contents and accepts the recommendations made.

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

The funding for the WHHP programme is managed through Public Health which has been able to maintain the programme until March 2017. Proposals in the current budget consultation would see this funding reduced on a tapered basis until investment ceases in 2019.

As noted in the report delivered in October 2016 the group has been asked to explore funding options and ways to sustain the programme. Crowd-funding has been sought as the most viable option.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The responsibility for the WHHP rests with the Council's Public Health department and operates within Council policy and procedure. The programme works with a wide range of agencies annually to set out its priorities for the forthcoming year. This is characterised by a programme planning day held in the summer which helps focus and refine the needs for the coming year.

There is a multi-agency workstreams lead group who are responsible for the daily management of the programme and act as the main providers of core services.

The Community Grants funding programme is administered by the Leeds Community Funding organisation. Funding decisions are taken by the workstreams leads group, excluding those who have applied to the fund, and is ratified by the Council.

7. LEGAL APPRAISAL

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

WHHP is specifically aimed at vulnerable households and as such supports many communities from those listed as having protected characteristics;

- People with disabilities
- Older people
- Younger people
- Refugees
- Lone parents

8.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

WHHP works to develop permanent solutions for hundreds of vulnerable people.

8.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

A large amount of the work of WHHP is working with individuals and households to tackle fuel poverty and affordable warmth. These interventions reduce wasted fuel and heat loss so contributing to reducing greenhouse gases.

8.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Reducing loneliness and isolation and encouraging and supporting communities to come together reduces crime and the fear of crime in particular. Interventions such as the home starter packs aim to help individuals to settle and maintain their homes, some of whom will have had past histories of offending and detrimental; drug and alcohol use

8.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Right to life/right to a home etc

8.6 TRADE UNION

The core funding for WHHP supports staff in work across a range of agencies

8.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

Much of the work of WHHP is delivered on a ward basis.

8.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS

(for reports to Area Committees only)

Warm Homes Healthy People project work is conducted in collaboration with area officers. Tool libraries have been allocated in each of the area office, with an aim to encourage community cohesion and create active neighbourhoods. The WHHP projects tie in well with the ethos of the People Can campaign and the promotion of the WHHP activity through their networks.

9. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

N/A

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Members to note and continue to support the WHHP programme.

11. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Overall use of WHHP up to Oct -Jan 2017

Appendix 2: Details of WHHP delivery in Airedale up to Oct -Jan 2017

Appendix 3: Details of small grants in Airedale 2013-17

Appendix 4: Tool bank List

Appendix 5: Case Studies