

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

CABINET – 13 MARCH 2014

**REFERENCE FROM THE HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE:
18 FEBRUARY 2014**

NHS Health Checks – Report of the Divisional Director of Strategic Commissioning

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Divisional Director of Strategic Commissioning which set out the key findings and recommendations of the Joint NHS Health Checks Scrutiny Review.

The Chair advised that:

- NHS Health Checks were a mandatory service which local authority public health functions have been required to deliver since 1 April 2013;
- last year the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) had launched a programme of support for local authority scrutiny functions to review their local approach to NHS Health Checks and improve take up rates;
- the boroughs of Barnet and Harrow, which shared Public Health functions had made a successful funding bid to the CfPS to carry out the review;
- the review had shown that uptake of Health Checks in both boroughs had been lower than expected. The findings and recommendations of the review, which were made to Public Health England, were intended to inform the future commissioning and management of the NHS Health Check Programmes in Barnet and Harrow.

The Programme Director of HealthWatch Harrow stated that a 'Healthy Harrow Day' was planned for 2 April 2014 and this would be an ideal opportunity to further promote NHS Health Checks to residents.

A Member stated that she was disappointed by the lack of GPs engagement with Health Checks particularly since GPs were usually the first port of call for most people when accessing healthcare. The Chair added that there should be some incentivisation of GPs in Harrow to undertake Health Checks.

The Director of Public Health stated that Health Checks were an evolving area of health provision and there was an ongoing national debate regarding the value and cost-effectiveness of these. Although Health Checks were a statutory requirement, no targets had been set for them and no additional funding had been identified to implement any necessary medical interventions arising out of these. Harrow had set its own target in that every individual between the ages of 18-44 should undergo a health check every 5 years. However, this would require a targeted programme in order to be effective. He added that, the Council had recently undertaken an open procurement exercise and a provider had been awarded the contract to carry out Health Checks.

Resolved to RECOMMEND: (to Cabinet)

That officers be instructed to secure updates from the Centre for Public Scrutiny with regard to recommendations in the report made directed to Public Health England.

FOR CONSIDERATION

Background Documents:

Minutes of the Health & Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee - 11 February 2014

Contact Officer:

Manize Talukdar, Democratic and Electoral Services Officer

Tel: 020 8424 1323

Email: manize.talukdar@harrow.gov.uk