

**CABINET – 18 FEBRUARY 2016**

**MINUTE FROM HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD – 7 JANUARY 2016**

**118. INFORMATION REPORT - Draft Revenue Budget 2016/17 & Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2019/20**

The Director of Adult Social Services introduced the report which detailed Harrow's Draft Revenue Budget 2016/17 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2016/17 to 2019/20, as reported to the Council's Cabinet on 10 December 2015. It was noted that the budget and MTFS would return to Cabinet in February 2016 for final approval and recommendation to Council.

The Board's attention was drawn to the Council's Commercialisation Strategy which was expected to deliver significant benefits and to innovate partnership working. The report summarised on going activities and the Board noted the aim for further potential commercialisation in conjunction with the community and partners. As a result of the joint working on commercialisation, the officers considered that achievements had been made that would not have been feasible previously and they had been advised that the Council was better at listening.

The Chair stated that substantial thinking and planning had gone into the budget exercise, not just cutting and saving but the production of a commercial product to address the challenge.

A CCG clinical representative welcomed the submission of the report to the Board. The CCG was also experiencing a substantial financial challenge, innovation was positive and assistance was available with regard to the adult services directorate proposals. Harrow CCG had a few concerns regarding the draft budget and would be responding formally to the consultation. Specific concerns were around how Children's Services would be aligned to the 'starting well' HWB priority, the challenge as how early intervention would develop, and the proposal to take finance from public health. The CCG also raised a concern around the BCF assumptions made in the draft budget report.

The Healthwatch representative stated that, whilst he appreciated the Council's position, the incremental stripping off approach undermined the economic benefit of preventive measures. Healthwatch welcomed some of the commercialisation projects. The in-year grant reduction for public health and the possibility of ongoing grant reductions, together with consultation on its funding from retained business rates receipts, was of concern as prevention was cheap and good quality and more economic than remedial measures. The CCG concerns were shared and any support CCG could give to wider discussions would be welcomed.

The Board was informed that projects on early intervention, children's centres and early years were being launched. Minute 299 of the Cabinet meeting resolved to delete health visiting provision from the Public Health budget

reduction proposals. Consideration as to the integration of health visitors was being undertaken.

In response to a question, an officer reported that the ring fencing for public health was expected to continue for 2 years until 31 March 2018. The grant allocation for 2016/17 would be reduced but the grant funding had not yet been confirmed. The Public Health England response to the spending review indicated average reductions of 3.9% per year to 2020/21. Consultation was expected on the removal of the ring fence from April 2018 and future model funded by business rates. The Vice-Chairman stated that some consultation was required and suggested a joint response as the centre needed to be able to consider the implications. The Chair welcomed the suggestion of a joint response, noting that the reduction would not have been expected if Public Health had remained the responsibility of the CCG.

A CCG representative drew attention to need for further discussion with the Council concerning the 'Protecting Social Care' funding proposed to be drawn from the Better Care Fund. It was agreed that this would be discussed outside the meeting once the formal BCF guidance had been published.

**RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

Background documents:

Minutes of the Health and Wellbeing Board – 7 January 2016

Contact Officer:

Miriam Wearing, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Tel: 020 8424 1542  
Email: [Miriam.wearing@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:Miriam.wearing@harrow.gov.uk)