

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	28 January 2008
Subject:	Scrutiny Review of Obesity in Harrow - Final Report of the Obesity Review Group
Key Decision: (Executive-side only)	N/a
Responsible Officer:	Tom Whiting, Interim Divisional Director Strategy and Improvement
Portfolio Holder:	Councillor Eric Silver, Adults Services Portfolio Holder
Exempt:	No
Enclosures:	Final report of the Obesity Review Group including appendices

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review of obesity in Harrow. The Review Group conducted its enquiries between May and November 2007.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

1. Endorse the report and its recommendations;
2. Refer the report to Cabinet and the Harrow Primary Care Trust Board for consideration and agreement; and
3. Place the monitoring of progress against the report's recommendations on the scrutiny work programme.

Reason: (For recommendation)

The completion of the scrutiny review of obesity addresses the needs of the scrutiny work programme for 2007/08.

Section 2 – Report

Background

Obesity is one of the biggest public health challenges within the UK today. It is a major contributing cause of diabetes and heart disease, and also increases the likelihood of developing cancer. Preventing childhood obesity also features prominently in local actions and has particularly hit the national news recently. The issue of tackling obesity locally was first brought to scrutiny's attention by colleagues at Harrow Primary Care Trust. As tackling obesity is a cross-cutting issue, this review was commissioned in late 2006 by the old Adult Health and Social Care and Children and Young People Scrutiny Sub-Committees. These sub-committees agreed the review's scope in December 2006 and February 2007 respectively.

The Scrutiny Review Group carried out its investigations between May and November 2007 and talked to a wide range of people. Enquiries were conducted through a number of methodologies – desktop research, meetings, challenge sessions and visits in and out of the borough. Recognising the need to narrow the focus of the review, the Review Group focused on two areas of obesity that are particularly pertinent locally: children's opportunities for physical activity and adulthood obesity links to diabetes.

The Review Group's report contains 18 recommendations for the Council and Harrow Primary Care Trust (PCT). These are set out in the recommendations matrix (Appendix A of the report), which also establishes expected timescales and measures of success for each recommendation. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to endorse these recommendations and to refer these to Cabinet and the PCT Board and ask them to make a decision on their implementation. If implementation is agreed, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to monitor the progress of implementation through updates on the recommendations matrix.

Current situation

Not appropriate to this report.

Why a change is needed

Not appropriate to this report.

Main options

Not appropriate to this report.

Other options considered

Not appropriate to this report.

Recommendations

The Review Group's report contains recommendations which, if and when accepted by Cabinet and the PCT Board, may incur additional costs and risks and have resource implications. However, care has been taken to ensure that the recommendations made allow more effective use of resources across the organisations and services concerned.

Other considerations

Staffing/workforce

There are no staffing or workforce considerations specific to this report.

Equalities impact

The provision of services that meet high standards in terms of equality of provision and that recognise diversity within the borough was central to this review.

Community safety (s17 Crime & Disorder Act 1998)

There are no specific community safety considerations specific to this report.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

Performance Issues

Recommendations matrix attached as appropriate



Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sheela Thakrar	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 15 January 2008		
Name: Sharon Clarke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 14 January 2008		

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

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Background Papers:

All documents used in the formulation of the report are referenced in the footnotes in the body of the final report, as attached.