

**STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS**

**PROFORMA**

Cabinet Meeting .....25th June 2015

1. Title of Item/Report

LOCAL IMPACT OF ANNOUNCED REDUCTIONS TO PUBLIC HEALTH BUDGETS

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the local impact of announced budget reductions to Public Health budgets.

The Government had announced that £200 million nationally was to be reduced in year (2015/16) from the Public Health budget for Local Authorities. The report outlined some possible impacts of the budget reductions on health and wellbeing budgets in Stockton-on-Tees Borough and asked Cabinet to consider making representations to minimise the impact of this funding reduction with our local MPs, The Chief Executive of Public Health England and representative bodies.

Males living in Stockton Town Centre ward had the lowest life expectancy of any ward in the country, at 67 years. Females in this ward also had a significantly lower life expectancy than England, of 74.8 years. Life expectancy as a whole across the Borough was increasing, however this masks a picture of increasing inequality in life expectancy: the gap between life expectancy in wards such as Stockton Town Centre and other more affluent wards in the Borough had increased over time. Indeed, Stockton-on-Tees Borough was the Local Authority area with the greatest inequality in male life expectancy nationally. Attached to the report were details of the latest life expectancy data for the Tees Valley Authorities.

Many people living in Stockton-on-Tees Borough experience poor health and wellbeing outcomes, across a range of indicators including cancer, COPD and mental ill health. The particularly low life expectancy in some wards in the Borough and the increasing inequality in life expectancy across the Borough are due to a complex range of factors, rooted in socio-economic deprivation and socio-economic inequality<sup>3</sup>. Data and evidence show that deprivation impacts on a broad range of health and wellbeing outcomes - many outcomes decline as deprivation increases.

It was estimated by the Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) that the budget reduction was 7.4% of the total allocation of the ring fenced public health grant to local authorities in England. This implied an in-year estimated reduction of around £960,000 to the £13.0 million grant that Stockton receives. The ADPH also believed that this was a recurring budget reduction of £200 million to the public health budget for local authorities in England.

This estimate of the financial impact for Stockton was based on the assumption that the reductions to funding would be apportioned equally across all Authorities. However, should the budget reductions be apportioned in such a way as to reduce weighting for deprivation (as proposed regarding the changes to the ACRA formula), the impact on SBC would be even more significant.

The announced budget reductions were against a backdrop of existing unprecedented reductions to overall Local Authority budgets, which would also impact on the ability of SBC to deliver preventative services across the wider determinants of health and wellbeing, driving an increased focus on reactive services. The impact of the budget reductions taken together would therefore be multiplicative, with the inevitable long-term consequences of increasing pressure upon both social services and NHS services.

The Chief Executive of Public Health England had stated that the Department of Health would be consulting on the implementation of this reduction in funding. It was important the Authority responded to this, reminding the Department of Health of the major health inequalities in the Borough, with a view to minimising the impact on local public health services.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council was seriously concerned that the announced reductions to Public Health budgets would have a significant detrimental impact on health and wellbeing and on inequality in the Borough. The budget reductions were also likely to have a disproportionate impact in a local authority area such as Stockton-on-Tees, where there were already significant challenges in terms of poor health and wellbeing and great inequality.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough experienced the widest inequality in life expectancy in the country. Robust, evidence - based programmes were being implemented to address this challenge and to improve overall health and wellbeing in the Borough. The announced budget reductions would have a serious impact on the ability of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council to undertake this work and may mean a focus of resources on increasingly reactive rather than preventative work. The consequences

of this would be a widening in health inequalities and a worsening of overall health and wellbeing, with resulting increased costs to the health and social care system through increased need for more intensive support and increased demand expressed through measures such as admissions to hospital.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The current position be noted.
2. A response being made on Cabinet's behalf to the consultation by:-
  - a. The DPH, to be signed off by Leader and Cabinet Member for Health.
  - b. Requesting ANEC, SIGOMA and LGA to highlight and support our lobby to minimise impact on areas with greatest health inequalities and poorest health.
  - c. The Leader of the Council to write seeking support from both MPs to ensure any national reduction in public health grant is minimised for areas such as Stockton where health inequalities and poorest health are starkest.
3. Reasons for the Decision  
  
To inform Members of the Local Impact of Announced Budget Reductions to Public Health Budgets
4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected  
  
None
5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest  
  
None
6. Details of any Dispensations  
  
N/A
7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

3rd July 2015

Proper Officer  
29 June 2015