

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**19 MAY 2016**

**REPORT OF PEOPLE  
SELECT COMMITTEE**

### **CABINET DECISION**

**Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health – Councillor Jim Beall**  
**Cabinet Member for Children and Young People – Councillor Ann McCoy**

#### **SCRUTINY REVIEW OF FOETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)**

##### 1. Summary

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a term given for a range of permanent disabilities that can be caused when a developing baby in the womb is exposed to alcohol; this can include physical disabilities, learning difficulties and behavioural problems. FASD is caused solely by drinking alcohol during pregnancy and is therefore completely preventable.

The attached report summarises the outcomes of a review that has focussed on what preventative measures have been taken and what more could be done. The review was undertaken by People Select Committee.

##### 2. Recommendations

1. Stockton Council should welcome and support the new UK Chief Medical Officers' guidelines on drinking on pregnancy;
2. The Council should build on previous work and undertake to raise awareness of FASD in Stockton utilising all relevant methods, including:
  - a) a dedicated public information campaign, using all effective media including Stockton News;
  - b) further engagement with licensed premises;
  - c) continuing to offer multi-agency training (including promotion to schools)
  - d) promoting and monitoring use of the FASD Animation;
3. Promotional material should be reviewed to ensure the most effective and appropriate key messages are used;
4. The Council should circulate the Committee's report to local MPs, Department of Health, and the regional Public Health Network, to increase national and regional awareness of FASD and promote the use of public information campaigns;
5. Committee supports participation in the Regional FASD Research Project, and Public Health should consider the results in due course;

6. Ensure FASD is reflected in the development of the revised Alcohol Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees;
7. The work of FASD Network UK be commended.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2015-16.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

**Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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**CABINET DECISION**

**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF FOETAL ALCOHOL SPECTRUM DISORDER (FASD)**

**SUMMARY**

The attached report summarises the outcomes of a review that has focussed on what preventative measures have been taken in relation to FASD and what more could be done. The review was undertaken by People Select Committee.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Stockton Council should welcome and support the new UK Chief Medical Officers' guidelines on drinking on pregnancy;
2. The Council should build on previous work and undertake to raise awareness of FASD in Stockton utilising all relevant methods, including:
  - a) a dedicated public information campaign, using all effective media including Stockton News;
  - b) further engagement with licensed premises;
  - c) continuing to offer multi-agency training (including promotion to schools)
  - d) promoting and monitoring use of the FASD Animation
3. Promotional material should be reviewed to ensure the most effective and appropriate key messages are used;
4. The Council should circulate the Committee's report to local MPs, Department of Health, and the regional Public Health Network, to increase national and regional awareness of FASD and promote the use of public information campaigns;
5. Committee supports participation in the Regional FASD Research Project, and Public Health should consider the results in due course;
6. Ensure FASD is reflected in the development of the revised Alcohol Strategy for Stockton-on-Tees;
7. The work of FASD Network UK be commended.

## **DETAIL**

1. The attached report outlines the findings of the review of FASD. The review was undertaken by People Select Committee.
2. Following consideration by Cabinet an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations will be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

3. The review does not propose new policies or services, but further improvements to the delivery of existing local public services.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4. There are no significant financial implications. Ongoing preventative work will be met within existing budgets.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5. There are no legal implications.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

6. This report on FASD is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

## **COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES**

7. The review impacts on the following principles:
  - Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention
  - Developing strong and healthy communities

The review report will build on existing preventative public health work to address the harm caused by alcohol, including targeted work for example through the training of agencies working with the Local Safeguarding Childrens Board.

## **CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS**

8. There are no direct implications in the report. Support would need to be provided to children and young people in care who may have FASD.

## CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

9. The Committee has met with representatives of North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust, FASD Network UK, Licensing, Early Years, a Commissioned Children's Centre (Big Life), Education Improvement Service, and Youth Services (Preventions).
10. The review has been supported by Public Health, and a written submission was made by local GP.
11. The Director of Adults and Health, and Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health, and Children and Young People, were consulted on the findings and recommendations.

**Name of Contact Officer:** Peter Mennear

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Education related? Yes

Background Papers None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: N/a

Property None