

AGENDA ITEM

4TH JUNE 2008

REVIEW OF OBESITY

Summary

The first review of the Children and Young People Select Committee in 2008 is a review of obesity. The Committee will be working to its wider remit in that it will consider the issue for both children and adults. This briefing paper is to provide information for the Committee which will be meeting Sandra Brown, Obesity Lead Officer, North Tees Primary Care Trust and Rachel Fawcett, Public Health Practitioner (Obesity lead), North Tees PCT.

Recommendation

The Committee gather information and evidence for the obesity review.

Detail

1. As the Government Office for Science report (see appendix 1) about tackling obesity and what options are likely to work it points out that futility lies in isolated initiatives suggesting instead that community-based initiatives supported by multiple stakeholders are most likely to be effective.
2. Nationally, a cross-government strategy (see appendix 2) has been produced as the first step in a sustained programme to support people to maintain a healthy weight. It will be followed by a public annual report that assesses progress, looks at the latest evidence and trends, and makes recommendations for further action.
3. In Stockton Borough there exist strong working relationships between the various parties that form the Health and Well-being Partnership. An obesity sub-group, led by Elizabeth Shassere, Acting Locality Director of Public Health is giving particular focus on this issue. The Children and Young People Select Committee in its review of obesity has an opportunity to assist the existing partnership and its sub-group and will be meeting Sandra Brown, Obesity Lead Officer, North Tees Primary Care Trust and Rachel Fawcett, Public Health Practitioner (Obesity lead), North Tees PCT.
4. Two main documents that provide a focus for the work undertaken to tackle obesity by the PCT lead officers have been produced by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). The NICE reference guides give guidance on the prevention, identification, assessment and management of overweight and obesity in adults and children. Reference guide 1 (see appendix 3) is aimed at providing key priorities for implementation by local authorities and their partners in the community whilst reference guide 2 (see appendix 4) gives the NHS its focus.
5. Read together, the Committee should have an improved understanding of the impact of obesity initiatives in order that it begins to lead to a more coordinated strategy across services in the borough to address the issue.

Conclusion

The Committee is asked to consider the information attached to assist the understanding of the issues surrounding tackling obesity and to provide background for the discussions with health professionals.

Name of Contact Officer: Graham Birtle
Post Title: Scrutiny Officer
Telephone No. 01642 526187
Email Address: graham.birtle@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers :

Appendix 1 – Government Office for Science (2007) *Foresight: Tackling Obesities: Future Choices – Project Report Executive Summary*

Appendix 2 – Cross-Government Obesity Unit (2008) *Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A Cross-Government Strategy for England*

Appendix 3 – NICE (2006) *Obesity Quick Reference Guide 1: For local authorities, schools and early years providers, workplaces and the public*

Appendix 4 - NICE (2006) *Obesity Quick Reference Guide 2: For the NHS*

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not ward specific.