



Committee and date

Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board

23 January 2013

9.30am

Item

7

Public

Inequalities Strategy

Responsible Officer Caron Morton

Email: cmorton@nhs.net

Tel: 01743 277581

1. Summary

- 1.1 Shropshire's Health and Wellbeing Board is being asked to consider the development of an overarching **Inequalities Strategy** for Shropshire that is adopted by the wider partnership and stakeholders.
- 1.2 The Health and Social Care Act (2011) changed the focus and responsibility for addressing health and wellbeing solely from the NHS to joint responsibility and accountability between local authorities and health. The legislation more importantly put patients at the centre of decision making and empowered them to become involved in informing their local health service provision. The focus has begun to shift from addressing illness to achieving health and wellbeing in our populations
- 1.3 We recognise that it is our responsibility, as leaders, together with our citizens, to address the growing inequality amongst our population, which range from economic factors, health determinants and individual lifestyle choices. We are, therefore, committed to building stronger communities in our county that will benefit future generations through addressing the inequality challenge in a way that goes beyond legislation and creates robust sustainable communities.
- 1.4 Building our communities and addressing inequalities is not solely about health. Inequalities must be addressed across numerous organisations, across geographical areas and in partnership with our citizens. This report is accompanied by '**An Inequalities Strategy for Shropshire**', that outlines in more detail why and how it is so important to reach beyond the Health and Wellbeing Board to address Inequalities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board:
 - a) Endorse the further development of 'An Inequalities Strategy for Shropshire' and provide commitment from Health and Wellbeing Board Partners; and

- b) Work with other partners from the public, private and voluntary sectors, through the Shropshire Partnership Leaders Board, to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that ensures the commitment of the wider partnership in the development and delivery of the Inequalities Strategy across Shropshire.

REPORT

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

- 3.1 There are numerous opportunities and risks that arise from partnership working; below are a few highlights that will need to be considered as organisations work together.

Risks	Impact	Mitigation
Developing an inequalities strategy without all strategic partners and stakeholders could reduce effectiveness	To truly reduce inequalities all statutory partners and stakeholders must be engaged. Without such the impact on effectiveness of the strategy would be high	Ensure that all partners are engaged with the Inequalities Strategy through the Leaders Board, the wider partnership; and stakeholder engagement
Opportunities	Impact	Action
Collaborative development (across all strategic partners and stakeholders) of an inequalities strategy will give it the best possible chance of the biggest impact for citizens	Potential high positive impact for citizens of Shropshire, with a long term vision of reducing dependence on statutory agencies	Joint working and collaboration across the wider partnership and with stakeholders to determine deliver the strategy.

- 3.2 It is anticipated that all Human Rights, Equalities, Community and Environmental consequences are the responsibility of individual organisation, and no issues are anticipated to arise from directly from this report.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no immediate direct financial implications, however committing to deliver on an Inequalities Strategy will have resource implications for partners

in assisting to develop and deliver the strategy. However, addressing inequalities should reduce the burden on the public sector in the long run.

5. Background

5.1 The Marmot Report published in 2010 outlined an evidence based strategy to address the wider determinants of ill health. Evidence suggests an exponential relationship between deprivation and ill health – therefore, the focus needs to be on the entire population, and not solely on the most deprived, remaining mindful that the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived populations across England is substantial. The Marmot Report identified that inequalities starts before birth and mostly continues throughout life. The six policy objectives, therefore, encompass:

1. Every child having the best start in life.
2. Enabling all citizens to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.
3. Creating fair employment and good work for all.
4. Developing sustainable local communities and amenities.
5. Reducing the impact of ill health and long-term conditions.

5.2 Deprivation is influenced by two factors in each family home – the income of that family and employment status. The evidence, therefore, suggests that if we are to effectively tackle inequalities we need to focus on working together as a health, social and economic community.

5.3 Shropshire is a large county in the West Midlands, with a population of around 300,000 of mainly white British ethnicity and a high proportion of people aged over 50 years old. Like many rural areas, Shropshire is expecting an increase in the future population of people aged 65 years and over.

5.4 Overall the county is fairly affluent – however there are areas of deprivation and factors of rural sparsity which create issues with access to services. Much of the deprivation in Shropshire is centred in specific areas, with the largest concentrations in North Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Market Drayton. The south of the County has some of the most rurally sparse areas in the country.

6. Additional Information

6.1 This report is accompanied by **An Inequalities Strategy for Shropshire and Responding to the inequalities Challenge 2013-2015**. The document **Poverty in Perspective January 2013** is available on the website.

7. Conclusions

7.1 To fully address Inequalities in Shropshire a ‘whole system’ approach must be adopted, agreed and actioned. This strategy will cross boundaries, organisations and stakeholder groups to tackle the inequality gap in Shropshire.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

An Inequalities Strategy for Shropshire
Poverty in Perspective January 2013.

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Ann Hartley

Local Member

N/A

Appendices

Appendix A: An Inequalities Strategy for Shropshire
Appendix B: Responding to the Inequalities Challenge 2013-2015
Appendix C: Poverty in Perspective January 2013 – available on the website.