



<u>Committee and Date</u>	<u>Item</u>
Cabinet	
13 February 2019	
	<u>Public</u>

Changes to Public Health Budgets – Smoking Cessation Services

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Summary

This report presents Cabinet with the concerns of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee about the changes to the Public Health budget, in particular in relation to the closure or reduction of smoking cessation services.

Recommendation

- A. Cabinet are asked to consider and ensure that all alternative means of delivering smoking cessation services are explored.

Opportunity Risk Assessment

The loss of the smoking cessation service would have a significant adverse impact on population health, with the risk that it could increase the number of people living with disabling illness and adding to social care costs. It would also increase the risk of harm to babies born to mothers who smoke.

Financial Assessment

Although there are no financial costs associated with this paper there could be an impact on proposed savings should the decision be to retain funding for the smoking cessation service, or there could be costs to the Council in future years in terms of adult social care costs for providing care to people with a disabling illness.

Report

1. Through the autumn 2018 the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee identified questions about the effectiveness of smoking cessation services and were made aware of the rate of smoking in pregnancy in Shropshire and how this did not compare favourably with other areas of the country. As a result, a report was requested. This was presented to the Committee at their meeting on the 21 January 2019. The annual budget for the service is £232,000.
2. The report on smoking cessation services also included a Health Impact Assessment which highlighted the risks associated with a reduction of this service.
3. With a focus on smoking in pregnancy, Shropshire's rates are worse than the England average. Members were also informed that smoking in pregnancy is the largest risk factor for poor birth outcomes, including stillbirth and learning difficulties. If the smoking cessation services stopped, there is an increased risk of poor birth outcomes with lifelong impacts on health.
4. The Committee were very concerned that the reduction in funding from Government and the inequity in the level of Public Health Grant Shropshire receives has placed the Council in the position where it is having to consider reducing funding for services aimed at preventing ill health and disability.
5. The Committee were keen that funding should be sought from other commissioning organisations who are using Public Health services, but to date have not been contributing to the costs

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

- Public Health Budget and Service Provision – Report to Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 24.9.2018
- Public Health Budget and Service Provision - Report to Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 12.11.2018
- Public Health Outcomes for Shropshire
- Stop Smoking Services - Report to Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee 21.1.2019

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Cllr Lee Chapman

Local Member

All

Appendices

