

Cllr Bob Lanzer

Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing

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FAO: Cllr Garry Wall,
Chairman of the Health and Adult
Social Care Scrutiny Committee

Via Email

18 November 2021

Dear Cllr Garry Wall,

Thank you for your letter of 28 September about the recommendations from the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee on 15 September in relation to the End of June 2021 (Quarter 1) Quarterly Performance and Resources Report.

I am pleased to provide the response below to the Committee's recommendations.

1. For a briefing to be provided to all members on public health (as part of 12 November session, or at a separate session)

Led by Alison Challenger, Director of Public Health, a two-hour Member Development Session on Public Health will take place on Wednesday, 8 December 2021 via Microsoft Teams. This session will be a great opportunity for members to meet some of the team, and become more familiar with the role of local authority Public Health and our whole systems approach for West Sussex focused on improving health outcomes and reducing inequalities throughout our local population.

The event will explain public health statutory duties and functions, outline the context of the Public Health ring-fenced Grant, describe how the grant is spent in West Sussex, and highlight how the Public Health team work with national level organisations including the newly formed UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), and key partners across the local health and social care system.

This session is encouraged for all members.

2. For the Committee to be provided information on what is being done to address the disparity in the flu vaccine uptake

Local authority Public Health has an assurance role regarding all vaccination programmes.

The Sussex Health and Care Partnership (SHCP) continues to deliver the annual flu vaccination programme this year. West Sussex Public Health provide support by promoting the uptake among all eligible cohorts, supporting the NHS winter vaccination campaign locally, via social media, press releases/articles, and in partnership with district and borough council communication teams. Furthermore, they work collaboratively with internal and external partners across the county, such as libraries, meals on wheels, and the West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service. The Council are also offering and promoting free flu vaccination via a voucher scheme to all WSCC staff who are not eligible for the free NHS flu vaccine, including school staff, teachers, Capita staff, and foster carers.

The SHCP have identified a number of areas of focus for activity to address the disparity in the flu vaccine uptake. This comprises extensive vaccine access across the area, including via GP's and pharmacies with some sites offering co-administration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccination, delivery in care homes and schools, roving services for those housebound, and localised data to show where targeting is needed. A coordinated communications plan is in place to ensure vaccine equity and increase uptake. This includes focus on specific eligible cohorts including clinical at-risk groups, pregnant people, and people aged 50-64, using a wide range of communication channels. Activity will also take place at West Sussex population level and at local community level to provide place based information to specific communities. Data will be monitored to ensure the plan is responding to need and directed in the right areas.

3. For the Cabinet Member to consider changing the target for the healthy life expectancy KPI, to bring men and women into alignment

It is my understanding that the Committee agreed for the Cabinet Member to keep the target under review rather than to consider changing it.

For both measures (ref. 31 and 32) the values shown for the target are the latest available data published for the period 2017-2019 for Healthy Life Expectancy for men and women. It's important to emphasise that this data does not take into account any impact from COVID-19 on health, which may have worsened the position. The Council and local partners work hard to focus on reducing inequalities in the wider health system, however some drivers cannot be controlled, different elements impact on male and female life expectancy, and targets need to be realistic. As such, because this latest data shows a difference in healthy life expectancy for men and women, it would not be realistic to set a single target for all residents. The Healthy Life Expectancy figures for the final year of the Council's Plan (2024/25) will relate to published data for 2021-2023; the target is to reverse the decline.

I hope this information is a helpful update for the Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing