

# North Somerset Council

## REPORT TO THE ADULT SERVICES AND HOUSING POLICY AND SCRUTINY PANEL

**DATE OF MEETING: 21ST NOVEMBER 2014**

**SUBJECT OF REPORT: NORTH SOMERSET PARTNERSHIP PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES BOARD STRATEGY**

**TOWN OR PARISH: ALL**

**OFFICER/MEMBER PRESENTING: SHEILA SMITH DIRECTOR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**

**KEY DECISION: NO**

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The board is asked to note the strategy and update on the board's work.

#### **1. SUMMARY OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report informs the panel on the development of the People and Communities board strategy and the work of the board during 2014-15.

#### **2. POLICY**

- 2.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires each local authority with adult social care responsibilities to work with its partners to develop a joint Health and Wellbeing strategy. This strategy must be agreed by the statutory Health and Wellbeing board which is also required to be a council committee under the act.
- 2.2 The People and Community strategy fulfil the requirement for the joint health and wellbeing strategy and community safety statutory requirements. The People and Communities Health and Wellbeing Board is the statutory health and Wellbeing board for North Somerset Council.

### **3. DETAILS**

- 3.1 In 2011 the North Somerset Partnership reviewed and revised its structures. It established two delivery boards under the partnership itself. One of these brought together the areas of children, community safety, fire and rescue, health, housing, probation, social care, stronger communities and young people. This board was named the People and Communities Board. Its membership ensured that it could meet the statutory requirements for a Safer Stronger Partnership and for a Health and Wellbeing board when the latter was required.
- 3.2 At its inaugural meeting in October 2011 the board agreed to develop an interim strategy for 2012-13. It would be a interim strategy as from April 2014 there would be a statutory requirement for a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and guidance was expected as to what would be needed to meet this requirement. The interim strategy was agreed by the board in May 2013.
- 3.3 The People and Communities Strategy 2013 onwards was considered and agreed by the People and Communities board in its Health and Wellbeing board mode in July 2013.
- 3.4 The strategy set out a number of key outcomes which would form the core of the board's on-going work. These outcomes help shape the boards work programme and the strategy summarises the work being undertaken for each of these outcomes.

The outcomes are:

- \* Improve health outcomes and reducing inequalities, with an initial focus on health inequalities.
  - \* Improve outcomes for adults by promoting independence and more choice and control over services.
  - \* Improve outcomes for children by enabling early intervention and prevention.
  - \* Enable schools and academies to raise attainment levels.
  - \* Strengthen safeguarding for children and vulnerable adults.
  - \* Make our streets and communities safer.
  - \* Work with communities to better meet local housing need.
- 3.5 In July 2012 the board also agreed three key priorities. It chose these areas due to their significance in assisting the board and the partnership to achieve its outcomes, and as crosscutting issues which require a whole-partnership approach to address. These priorities are:
- \* Reducing Alcohol Related Harm.
  - \* Supporting communities to meet their own needs including self-care and customer access to services.

\* Delivering the High Impact families programme.

- 3.6 Each of these work areas has their own chapter within the strategy. Progress on delivering the work programmes is monitored quarterly.
- 3.7 In July 2012 the interim strategy was updated and revised to become the board's strategy from 2014 onwards. It was agreed by the board to review the strategy on an annual basis. The outcomes referred to in paragraph 3.4 above were unchanged.
- 3.8 To ensure that the partnership is making a difference in these areas, key indicators were selected which are monitored on an annual basis. The most recent annual monitoring report was made to the People and Communities board in June 2014. The overall position for the board's priorities and outcomes as measured by the Key Performance Indicators as at 31 March 2014 is as follows. Of the 46 quarterly indicators:
- \* 21 are currently better than target, or on target.
  - \* 5 are currently within tolerance.
  - \* 15 indicators are not on target.
  - \* 5 indicators were unavailable for reporting.
- 3.9 Overall there was no disagreement from the engagement process with the three priorities and the seven outcomes. There was a query however as to why the high impact families issue was a key area of focus as it was a clear requirement for agencies to deliver it. Several respondents also felt that there should be an additional area of focus on tackling poverty to respond to the impact of welfare benefit reforms and that tackling poverty is a broad theme that could be said to be an umbrella for many areas and aspects of the board's work. The board considered both these issues. It agreed that high impact families should remain a priority, and that further evidence was required before a decision could be made to consider including a priority on the impact of welfare reform.
- 3.10 The June meeting of the board also agreed to a development session in September 2014. This was in recognition at the meeting of significant changes in the landscape in the issues covered by the board since its creation in 2011 and the development of the strategy.
- 3.11 The development session heard from all the members of the board the particular challenges they face, and proposals for priorities for the board in 2014-15 and 2015-16. From these discussions the board agreed to explore new priorities focusing on high impact individuals and various aspects of prevention. The session also agreed to review its structure to ensure the board was meeting its statutory functions and could effectively deliver its work programme.
- 3.12 A report is being taken to the People and Communities board meeting on 24th November for the board to consider how to take the outcomes of the development session forward.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 From October 2013 to January 2014 there was a focus engagement process to review the strategy. The engagement targeted existing engagement groups, council scrutiny panels and used the e-consult mechanism. Meetings attended included three scrutiny panels, Senior Community Link, a voluntary sector forum and a supported housing forum. A detailed report of the engagement is available on request.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications to the on-going implementation of the strategy. All work is contained within existing budgets and funding programmes.

## **6. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 The failure to adopt and review a People and Communities strategy would not meet statutory obligations.

## **7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The People and Communities Strategy assists the council and its partners to meet requirements under Equality legislation through its identification of issues impacting on equality and diversity issues.

## **8. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

None.[Click here to enter Corporate Implications]

## **9. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

As contained within the report.

## **AUTHOR**

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.