

**SCRUTINY POLICY REVIEWS 2014/15:
RESPONSE FROM CABINET – 24 JUNE 2015****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide feedback from the Cabinet meeting held on 24 June 2015, regarding three of the scrutiny policy reviews undertaken by scrutiny in 2014/15.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee is responsible for considering feedback from relevant portfolio holders on Cabinet's consideration of the policy reviews undertaken by the scrutiny panels and how it intends to deliver the recommendations of each panel.
- 2.2 Cabinet considered the Final Reports on 24 June as follows:-

Scrutiny Panel	Policy Review	Responsible Portfolio Holder
Health, Housing and Adult Services	Tackling Loneliness and Social Isolation (Appendix 1)	Cllr Graeme Miller (Health, Housing & Adult Services) & Cllr John Kelly (Public Health, Wellness and Culture)
Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel	Tackling New Psychoactive Substances (Appendix 2)	Cllr Harry Trueman (Deputy Leader) & Cllr John Kelly (Public Health, Wellness and Culture)
Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel	Strategy for the Prevention of Suicide (Appendix 3)	Cllr John Kelly (Public Health, Wellness and Culture)

- 2.3 This report provides feedback from the Portfolio Holders following Cabinet's consideration of, and decisions in relation to, each of the scrutiny panels' recommendations.
- 2.4 Following the Scrutiny Committee's consideration of feedback from Cabinet on each of the Policy Reviews of 2014/15, progress towards completion of the actions contained within each Action Plan will be monitored on an annual basis by the Committee.

3. RESPONSE FROM CABINET TO THE POLICY REVIEW

- 3.1 Following consideration of the Final Reports, Cabinet approved the recommendations in their entirety. Details of the Policy Review recommendations and proposed actions to be taken are provided in the Action Plans attached at **appendices 1 to 3**.
- 3.2 Cabinet thanked the Lead Scrutiny Members, Scrutiny Panels and its officers for undertaking the policy review and additional work.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the Committee:-
- (a) Notes the proposed actions detailed within the Action Plans appended to this report (**Appendices 1 to 3**) and seeks clarification on content where felt appropriate; and
 - (b) Refers each of the action plans to the relevant panels for further consideration.

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 5.1 The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:-
- (i) Cabinet Agenda; 24 June 2015.

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Appendix 1

Health, Housing and Adult Services Scrutiny Panel; Tackling Loneliness and Social Isolation: Policy Review recommendations 2014/15

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
(a)	To ensure that there is an effective launch and continued promotion of the community directory to local people, key stakeholders and providers.	Phase 2 community directory will be tested during June / July 2015. A formal launch date will be established after feedback has been taken account of along with arrangements for on-going promotion and management	Community Directory working group	June / July for testing. Formal launch date tbc. after testing.	
(b)	To explore and understand with key partners how a community connector scheme would operate in the city including issues of promotion, recruitment and training that enables anyone who wishes to take part the opportunity to do so.	<p>Undertake an evaluation of the Community Connectors pilot funded by East Sunderland Area Committee.</p> <p>Understand the role of the Integrated teams once they are established and potential to develop a hub to connect existing roles as part of such a scheme.</p> <p>Align different models in place and associated health networks into one scheme where possible to streamline and maximise the role of the voluntary sector.</p> <p>Establish lead arrangements for different elements of the model Use the above actions as a basis on which to develop a community virtual network to develop the role of community connectors to enable individuals, where appropriate, to be signposted and supported to access and use community resources or services when they</p>	Gillian Gibson/ Ian Holliday (CCG)/Graham King/Charlotte Burnham/	March 2016	

		don't require professional health services			
(c)	To look at how to develop arrangements to ensure that activities / initiatives are co-ordinated in order to minimise the potential for duplication and to provide a forum for sharing, learning and good practice.	Explore current network potential for providing suitable forums for sharing good practice including VCS networks, Area Health Champions Network, Adult Partnership Board and Carers' Implementation Network etc.	Graham King/Charlotte Burnham	March 2016	
(d)	To ensure that a measure of loneliness and/or social isolation is included in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.	<p>Looking at the development of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) that will act as the single vehicle for all strategic intelligence, initially covering health and wellbeing and the wider issues that affect health such as employment, crime and disorder, housing and loneliness.</p> <p>The JSNA will be moved from a static annual publication to a continually evolving on-line resource.</p> <p>In order for the proposal to be progressed a multi-agency steering group (time-limited task and finish group) would need to be established to progress the development and creation of the resource, with practitioner representatives responsible for the ongoing refresh of the resource online.</p>	Graham King / Julie Lynn	Dec 2015	

(e)	To look, through integrated care, at the development of shared intelligence and how to ensure the use of all intelligence to help predict the softer issues within communities such as loneliness etc.	<p>The development of integrated care models which bring people together to work in joined up teams will provide the driver for organisations to look at the information and intelligence sharing and breaking down those barriers that currently exist.</p> <p>People's approach to intelligence has been developed; with an initial programme of work that looks to better understand customer profiles and customer journeys; identifying triggers which result in needs – loneliness to be included in the work.</p>	Ian Holliday (CCG)/Sharon Lowes	March 2016	
(f)	To explore the potential of an employee volunteer scheme within the council to provide opportunities for employees to volunteer their help to a local organisations, communities and projects.	<p>Initial work around volunteering is underway, including looking at suggested approaches. One of the key actions is that of the role that staff volunteers might play.</p> <p>The Directorate is also looking at the specific ask of volunteers in relation to supporting service delivery.</p>	Alan Caddick	March 2016	
(g)	To explore the potential for adoption of the Campaign to End Loneliness evaluation tool on the effectiveness of interventions on loneliness once it is released.	To test out how the Campaign to End Loneliness evaluation tool can be incorporated into future relevant commissioning arrangements with service providers, where appropriate.	Graham King/Ann Dingwall	March 2016	

Appendix 2

Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel; Tackling New Psychoactive Substances: Policy Review recommendations 2014/15

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
(a)	To explore the options for an enforcement strategy including: i) The use of new Anti-Social Behaviour powers and;		Stuart Douglass Alan Caddick		
	ii) The use of existing legislative powers available to the local authority to prevent sales of dangerous goods.	Potential usefulness of current legislation will be reviewed <i>(please see note under Progress column)</i>	Tom Terrett	Qtr 2	Since this recommendation was agreed by the Scrutiny Committee, the Queen's Speech on 27 May 2015 announced that new legislation will ban psychoactive drugs through the introduction of a Psychoactive Substances Bill. The Bill will make it an offence to produce, supply, offer to supply, possess with intent to supply, import or export psychoactive substances. The maximum sentence will be 7 years' imprisonment.
(b)	Join the lobby requesting the Government to draft legislation to outlaw the sale and distribution of legal highs by creating a blanket ban for it to be a criminal offence knowingly to advertise, sell, supply, import or export legal highs.	A letter to be written to Government setting out the views of the council <i>(please see note under Progress column)</i>	Stuart Douglass / Karen Brown	September 2015	Legislation has been proposed since the Scrutiny Committee made this recommendation. The Psychoactive Substances Bill will progress through Parliament over the next year and the council will monitor the progress of the Bill and lobby accordingly for legislation that is fit for purpose.
(c)	As a priority, pursue targeted prevention interventions with children and adults at high risk of use or current users in institutional settings. This will include work in hostels (including targeted activity by the Substance Misuse Service), children in care, and support for schools to	YDAP involvement in institutional settings around legal highs currently includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each of the four Family Group Homes 	Alan Caddick Simone Common/Gary Roberts		

	detect and prevent the use of NPS on their premises.	<p>has its own allocated YDAP worker and sessions have been carried out for staff and residents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Sunderland schools have received a legal highs fact sheet from YDAP along with an offer of training and support for staff and group work for pupils. Several schools have accepted this support, including St. Aidans, Academy 360, City of Sunderland College and Farringdon School. 			
(d)	To investigate the options for maintaining a profile of incidents, intelligence and data on NPS to support decision making.	An overview of the position in Sunderland will be established with the support of partner organisations	Stuart Douglass		

Appendix 3

Public Health, Wellness and Culture Scrutiny Panel; Strategy for the Prevention of Suicide: Policy Review recommendations 2014/15

Ref	Recommendation	Action	Owner	Due Date	Progress Commentary
(a)	The Health and Wellbeing Board <i>should</i> receive a report annually from either the Director of Public Health (representing a suicide prevention group) or a representative of the group on delivery of the suicide prevention action plan.	The Adult Partnership Board currently receives reports from the Suicide Prevention Group.	Gillian Gibson		
(b)	There should be evidence that a Suicide Needs Assessment has informed a suicide prevention action plan in the city.	A Tyne & Wear Suicide Needs assessment is ongoing.	Gillian Gibson		
(c)	There should be evidence that the Suicide Prevention Action Plan is informed by the most relevant up-to-date intelligence specifically in relation to: i) Measures to address self-harm prevention ii) Lessons learned from suicides in Sunderland	i) a needs assessment on self-harm will be developed ii) the Public Health team continue to analyse reports from the Coroner's Office	Lorraine Hughes Jackie Nixon		
(d)	Appoint a Councillor Champion who would have the role of: i) Facilitating communication between the suicide prevention group and other groups and bodies including the Health and Wellbeing Board; ii) Facilitating regular communication about the work of the suicide prevention.		Gillian Gibson		