

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW 2009/10: DRAFT REPORT**

**LINK TO WORK PROGRAMME: POLICY DEVELOPMENT & REVIEW**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP4, SP8**

**CORPORATE PRIORITIES: CIO1, CIO4**

**1. Why has this report come to committee?**

- 1.1 The report provides Members of the committee with the first draft report from the evidence gathered in relation to this year's policy review on health inequalities.
- 1.2 The review report presents in detail the evidence, research and conclusions drawn throughout the review process and members are asked to comment on this for relevance, clarity and accuracy.
- 1.3 The review into health inequalities has clear links to the Councils Strategic Priorities in particular 'Improving Health and Social Care' and 'Creating Inclusive Communities.' The review also has links to Corporate Priorities on delivering customer focused services and improving partnership working.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 17th June, 2009 following discussions regarding the work programme the Committee consider the possibility of a study into the issue of health inequalities in Sunderland.
- 2.2 The review came at an important time in light of the work being undertaken at both regional and national levels. The Committee used its skills and expertise to stimulate community engagement and develop themes presented during their evidence gathering procedures. Health and social care feature heavily in the Sunderland Strategy with an aim that 'everyone in Sunderland is able to enjoy a healthy life with access to excellent health and social care facilities when needed'.

**3. The Draft Report**

- 3.1 The draft report on Tackling Health Inequalities in Sunderland is attached as an appendix to this report and presents members with the facts and evidence that have been gathered throughout the review process. As part of the review process evidence was obtained from a variety of national, regional and local key witnesses and stakeholders.

- 3.2 The report is divided into a number of sections which provide the background information to the review, how the review was carried out and the findings and conclusions from the review process. The findings from the review reflect the themes set out in the Marmot Review: Fair Society, Healthy Lives as follows:
- Health Inequalities – The National and Local Picture
  - The Early Years of Life
  - Employment and Income
  - Places and Communities
  - The Prevention Agenda.
- 3.3 Members are asked to read the report and comment on the content with particular reference to the findings of the review and the conclusions that have been drawn from these findings. Members may wish to amend the report for purposes of accuracy, clarity or relevance to ensure the report is a true reflection of the review work undertaken.
- 3.4 Members should also begin to consider themes and issues for recommendations. The draft report has no recommendations attached at present and it is for members to consider the direction and content of the recommendations for this policy review work.

#### **4. Conclusion**

- 4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee are presented with a draft copy of the policy review document for comment and amendment with the aim of producing a final draft report with recommendations for approval by the committee.

#### **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee provide comments on the draft report and that any agreed amendments are made.
- 5.2 That consideration is given to themes and issues for recommendations to be included in the policy review report by the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.3 That a final review report is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee at its April 2009 meeting.

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