

SUNDERLAND HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

19 September 2014

WHO HEALTHY CITIES

Report of the Executive Director of People Services

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To update the Health and Wellbeing Board on the World Health Organisation (WHO) Healthy Cities Programme.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The WHO Healthy Cities project is a global movement. It engages local governments in health development through a process of political commitment, institutional change, capacity-building, partnership-based planning and innovative projects. About 90 cities are members of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.
- 2.2 The primary goal of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is to put health high on the social, economic and political agenda of city governments. Health is the business of all sectors, and local governments are in a unique leadership position, with power to protect and promote their citizens' health and well-being.
- 2.3 The Healthy Cities movement promotes comprehensive and systematic policy and planning for health and emphasizes:
- the need to address inequality in health and urban poverty
 - the needs of vulnerable groups
 - participatory governance
 - the social, economic and environmental determinants of health.
- 2.4 A city joins the WHO European Healthy Cities Network based on criteria that are renewed every five years. Sunderland was designated a WHO Healthy City in 2004.
- 2.5 Each five-year phase focuses on core priority themes and is launched with a political declaration and a set of strategic goals.

3.0 Phase VI – 2013 – 2018

- 3.1 To address the changing health landscape, countries in the WHO European Region agreed on a new common European policy and strategy for health and well-being – Health 2020 in September 2012. This new policy was

informed by healthy city input and experience and now stands ready for implementation. The WHO European Healthy Cities Network is now being positioned as a strategic vehicle for implementing Health 2020 at the local level. Local action and the decisions of local governments can strongly influence all the public health challenges noted above as well as many of the determinants of health. Healthy city leadership is more relevant than ever.

3.2 Health 2020 puts increased emphasis on and brings new evidence on the right to health, equity, well-being and health in all policies through whole-of-government and whole of society approaches. The following two strategic goals of Health 2020 provide the overarching umbrella of Phase VI of healthy Cities

- improving health for all and reducing health inequities; and
- improving leadership and participatory governance for health.

3.3 The core themes in WHO Healthy Cities Phase VI will be based on a local adaptation of the four priorities for policy action of the Health 2020:

- investing in health through a life-course and empowering people;
- tackling the European Region's major health challenges of infectious and non-communicable diseases;
- strengthening people-centred systems and public health capacity and emergency preparedness and surveillance; and
- creating resilient communities and supportive environments.

3.4 As the aims of Phase VI are clearly closely aligned to the Sunderland Health and Wellbeing Strategy, we have expressed an interest in being designated as a WHO Health City for Phase VI. The deadline for full submission is not until 2015 although applications are being received currently. The HWBB is requested to endorse the application.

4. Healthy Cities National Network

4.1 In addition to the international network, Sunderland is a member of the UK national healthy cities network. The first national network meeting of Phase VI was held in Newcastle in August and was attended by Cllr Speding as the lead member for Healthy Cities and Karen Graham as the policy lead for health.

4.2 The event focussed on logistics for the network and on setting terms of reference and roles for the forthcoming phase. There was also a learning session looking at theories of governance in the context of world health.

- 4.3 The next event is to be held in Autumn in Bristol and will be focussed on spatial planning, health and place and the importance of urban environments.

5. WHO Annual Conference – Athens

- 5.1 One of the conditions of membership of the WHO Healthy Cities network is the attendance at the annual conference. This year the event is being held in Athens in October. Members are invited to submit abstracts for workshops and development sessions and Sunderland has submitted a proposal on a synopsis of our citywide approach to Extra Care under the theme of 'supportive environments for healthy living'.

6. Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

- Endorse the proposal to apply fully for designation as a WHO Healthy City for Phase VI
- Note the upcoming annual conference

