

# COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR BARROW

Meeting date: 18 January 2021

From: Executive Director – Corporate Customer and Community Services

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING UPDATE

### **1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**1.1** *This report updates Local Committee on the work of the Public Health Locality Manager (PHLM) to improve health and wellbeing outcomes in Barrow.*

### **2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

**2.1** *The Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Cumbria sets as its vision as everyone in Cumbria will have improved health and wellbeing and inequalities in health and wellbeing across the county will be reduced.*

**2.2** *The strategy proposes to achieve this vision by building a population health system which consists of integrated health and care provision, operating within a new set of system drivers/behaviours; and communities mobilised at scale for health and wellbeing.*

**2.3** *The new Corporate Plan 2018-2022 seeks to put systems in place to enhance the direct work that the Council undertakes with residents, communities, businesses, and other organisations to ensure that the best services possible are delivered within the available resources. The proposed outcomes for the people of Cumbria are around being healthy and safe, they are well connected and thriving and the economy grows and benefits all.*

**2.4** *As area-based production and delivery of services gathers momentum across the Council, the work of the PHLM place public health expertise at the heart of this area-based approach and ensures that health and wellbeing is embedded across the council's activities at a local level.*

**2.5** *Elected Members have a significant opportunity to help shape local communities and to improve their resilience. To this end, this report updates Members on the activity of the Barrow PHLM, together with the wider population health activity across South Cumbria.*

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

**3.1** *Members are invited to comment on the report and note its contents.*

### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

#### **COVID19**

- 4.1 2020 was dominated by COVID19. In terms of public health, it has been all hands to the pumps to minimise harm and transmission rates across Cumbria. The Public Health Locality Managers have all been immersed in this work and continue to be so.
- 4.2 At the time of writing, the broad summary is that Barrow is seeing an improved position, with the number of tests returning a positive result dropping back down to 5% and new cases now broadly in line with the National average. Obviously, this is at time of writing and this information should be treated with caution as these numbers can change quickly.
- 4.3 All ages groups in Barrow have seen a fall in case numbers. Barrow is the only district in Cumbria which is in this positions, which is quite a change from Barrow having the highest numbers which resulted in the Borough being placed in a higher tier than the rest of the Districts across Cumbria.
- 4.4 Close monitoring of the data continues, both at a district and county level.
- 4.5 Currently there no change to the existing public health advice; if the number of positive cases in an area continues to increase the advice may change. Any new information can be found here: <https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/publichealth/covid19outbreakcontrol.asp>
- 4.6 In terms of vaccinations, there has been some additional good news in Barrow as on 14<sup>th</sup> December the vaccination programme began to roll out. The first vaccinations were administered from Alfred Barrow Health Centre over a 3 day period to people who fall into the first cohort of frail elderly and vulnerable.
- 4.7 The process behind the scenes has been all hands to the pumps, from preparing the Health Centre to receive an additional 50 people per hour onsite, in a socially distanced way. It has meant taking over all the rooms on the ground floor and relocating health colleagues upstairs until the programme has finished.
- 4.8 The PHLM has worked alongside Barrow Borough Council colleagues and engaged highways colleagues to ensure that there are no programmed road works around the vaccination site, Cumbria Police in terms of additional security if required, redesignated parking around the site, mobilised volunteer marshals, together with volunteer drivers to support anyone without transport, Cumbria Fire and Rescue Service in terms of accident reduction. It has been a huge amount of work in a very short space of time.
- 4.9 The first week was delivered successfully, with over 900 people receiving the vaccine over a three day period and will return week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> January for their second dose.

- 4.10 The programme will continue well into the coming months until everyone who wants the vaccination will have been able to access it. Evidence suggests that a small number of people have refused the vaccine, as is their right to do so. However the vast majority of people so far who have been offered it, have been pleased and excited to receive it.
- 4.11 At this stage, there is no evidence to suggest that the emerging new variant of COVID will be resistant to the vaccine.
- 4.12 As Members will appreciate the landscape moves extremely quickly, and things can change in a heartbeat. Members will be updated as things progress.
- 4.13 **Barrow Health and Wellbeing Partnership**
- 4.14 The wider partnership had its first meeting in November 2020. Discussions took around 'new normal' and how HWBP can support COVID recovery.
- 4.15 This 'new normal' is shaping up to look quite different going forward. The HWBP will be one of the key policy setting partnerships across the Borough, which is a very exciting position and provides an opportunity to embed health and wellbeing in everything partners do.
- 4.16 The HWBP will focus very strongly on the causes of poor health that are linked to social and economic inequalities. It will also pay attention in living with COVID19 and the wider recovery from it.
- 4.17 The HWBP agreed a revised Terms of Reference with one vision and a common aim. There is an agreement to use shared resources from all organisations used to shape, influence, identify and develop system wide programmes which reduce health inequalities.
- 4.18 Going forward, the partnership will be accountable to Morecambe Bay Population Health Strategic Group and also report to Cumbria Public Health Alliance, Barrow Local Committee of CCC and Barrow Borough Council Executive Committee.
- 4.19 **Morecambe Bay Population Health Investment fund 2020-2021**
- 4.20 The population health investment fund was created in September 2020 with the aim of encouraging community led responses to helping to address the inequalities in health we face across Morecambe Bay.
- 4.21 The total fund available across Morecambe Bay for 2020-21 is £250k and there is an annual commitment of £500k for 2021-22 and thereafter. This fund is the Morecambe Bay Clinical Commissioning Group's response to the request for investment into grass roots and community led interventions by the Population Health Strategic Group and it is envisaged that a larger Population Health investment fund may be available in the future should other partners invest in the approach.
- 4.22 The values that underpin the use of the funds are those of asset based development and working with communities on solutions that work locally for them to help improve health and wellbeing. Whilst true co-production is something that the Population Health Strategic Group aspires to for use of the investment fund, it is recognised that use of the 2020/21 fund is time pressured and the current situation puts additional pressures on local services and our communities.

- 4.23 Given the extremely short timescale to allocate and spend the funding, this year the investment fund will focus on what will keep people as well as possible, effectively managing any long term conditions, feel supported and empowered to access preventative care when needed and to make behaviour changes that would help improve health outcomes over winter and in the longer term.
- 4.24 There are a number of interventions and initiatives that could support population health and a narrowing of the gap in health inequalities, but we are mindful of the landscape we are operating in and the restrictions in place.
- 4.25 Evidence shows us that the risk of excess deaths through this winter is very high. This year's investment fund will be targeted towards helping our communities get through what it is set to be a very difficult winter. There will be a high impact from Covid 19, Flu and respiratory illness and there will be impact from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, mental health, suicide and frailty. The impact will no doubt be higher in the more economically deprived areas of Morecambe Bay.
- 4.26 Colleagues in primary and secondary care alongside colleagues within mental health services and social care will be stretched this winter. The investment fund presents an opportunity to invest in Community, Voluntary and Faith sector organisations and other local organisations to enable provision of further support to communities most at risk of harm this winter.
- 4.27 To this end the PHLM representing the HWBP was invited to prepare a bid to the Morecambe Bay Investment Fund to support our most vulnerable residents throughout the winter months, and beyond.
- 4.28 The Barrow HWBP bid aims to support multi agency approach to supporting our most vulnerable residents, as identified through Aristotle, to enable them to live well across the winter months and beyond. This will enhance their quality of life and also help to prevent and delay the use of unnecessary and expensive services provided by statutory partners.
- 4.29 Barrow PHLM prepared a bid for over £80k which will support and enhance the existing good practice undertaken by Third Sector organisation in supporting our local communities, particularly during the COVID19 response.
- 4.30 This enhances that approach, by bringing key third sector partners together, to work in a collaborative way under the umbrella of Barrow Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
- 4.31 This enhancement will provide a coordinated approach to access and support for our most vulnerable people and families, which will enable them to become more well and resilient, whilst empowering them to self support and manage.
- 4.32 The identified cohort above are likely to have:
- higher rates of existing conditions and premature mortality
  - multi-morbidities including heart disease, diabetes and obesity, and preventable cancers
  - respiratory risks, including prevalence of smoking, environmental hazards eg air pollution and high levels of chronic respiratory disease

- 10 -15 years lower life expectancy that those living in wealthier areas
- 4.33 This are often exacerbated by poor living conditions, poor diet, poor mental health together with limited opportunities to improve lifestyle, accompanied by little knowledge and understanding of the behaviours and lifestyle changes that can prevent poor health.
- 4.34 This coordinated way of working will ensure non-medical support, which is critical to good health and wellbeing, is available to people at their time of most need and vulnerability. It is underpinned by the social determinants of health and builds the capacity of the individual, not only to support them short term, but equips them with skills, knowledge and connections for longer term improvement.
- 4.35 Another key element in embedding long term solutions is the development of a Poverty Truth Commission for Barrow locality.
- 4.36 This is a new approach, which helps people experiencing poverty to have their voices heard. The ethos is understanding the truth about the barriers and difficulties faced by people living in poverty and developing lasting solutions based on their powerful narrative and evidence.
- 4.37 A central theme is likely to be the impact of COVID19 on people who were already struggling financially and the steps needed for long-term economic recovery.
- 4.38 Members will be pleased to learn that the bid for £81600 was successful. This will allow BHWP to embark upon a huge piece of transformational work, which will help our most vulnerable individuals and families through empowerment, positive action and access to adequate support to improve their quality of life going forward.
- 4.39 Members will be updated on outcomes as the programme progresses.

## **5.0 OPTIONS**

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the report.

## **6.0 RESOURCE AND VALUE FOR MONEY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from the recommendation to note this report.

## 7.0 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 This report provides Barrow Local Committee Members with an update on the some of the work of the Public Health Locality Manager. It seeks to assure Members that the work is being undertaken in a holistic way, through embedding health and wellbeing across all processes and that it is underpinned by a robust partnership approach and asset based community development practice.
- 7.2 This is strong evidence to support a whole systems approach to health and wellbeing. The role and key networks of the Public Health Locality Manager is an integral mechanism to improve health and wellbeing, together with quality of life and life chances of our communities.

**Dawn Roberts**

**Executive Director – Corporate, Customer and Community Services**

**21 December 2020**

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## APPENDICES

***No appendices***

Electoral Divisions: All

Executive Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny? If so, give details below.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	No
Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A
Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	N/A

***N.B. If an executive decision is made, then a decision cannot be implemented until the expiry of the eighth working day after the date of the meeting – unless the decision is urgent and exempt from call-in and necessary approvals have been obtained.***

**PREVIOUS RELEVANT COUNCIL OR EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**  
*[including Local Committees]*

*No previous relevant decisions*

**CONSIDERATION BY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

*Not considered by Overview and Scrutiny*

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

*No background papers*

**REPORT AUTHOR**

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