HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

A Task and Finish Group set up by the HOSC looking at obesity issues in Essex presented its final scrutiny report to the HOSC on 14 April 2016. The Group focussed on preventative measures for pre-birth through to aged 11 and made a total of twenty one recommendations which were directed at one of three separate Cabinet portfolios. The Committee endorsed the report. This report is the initial formal response from the Cabinet Member for Health, as Lead Cabinet Member for this issue, to each recommendation. A further implementation review will be scheduled into the Committee's work programme as indicated against each recommendation.

Recommendation	Owner	Agree Disagree Neutral	Initial Response	Update as at 3.3.17
	EARLY YEAR	S		
Recommendation 1: That a breastfeeding support service should continue to be resourced to promote the benefits of breastfeeding either as a standalone service or as part of a more integrated 0-19 service offer.	Owner: Cabinet Member for Health/ Director of Public Health Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation. We are committed, through our current and future commissioned children's contracts, to supporting breastfeeding activities, very much as a service integrated within our overall commissioned children's contracts. This is a core part of their activities and there are performance measures in place in current and future contracts on breastfeeding rates. The new pre-birth to 19 contract from 1/4/17 will include work to further build community resilience, which could include, for example, peer support on issues such as	Virgin care, the procured provider for Essex from 1.4.17 will deliver against breastfeeding targets in the specification from 1.4.17.

			breast feeding where this is needed.	
Health Visitors should maximise their influence over behaviours and environment by taking every opportunity to signpost to other related prevention services. (see Page 12)	Owner: Cabinet Member for Health/ Director of Public Health Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation. The new pre-birth to 19 contract from 1/4/17 will put health visitors in a better position to signpost and grow their influence as part of a more integrated workforce through currently separately contracted children's centres, 0-5 and 5-19 services being combined into a single contract. It is important to note that health visitors are one part of the total early years workforce, and we will expect our new prebirth to 19 provider to work with the entire workforce, including nursery nurses, children's centre staff, as well as other new parents as peer supporters, in maximising influence to promote healthy weight behaviours.	The delivery model procured from Virgin Care sets health visitors much more in an integrated multi-professional family team identify, which also includes use of members of the community. Signposting, and more importantly, better manged handovers to relevant support should therefore be strengthened. Use of the recently developed Parent talk app, which uses mobile technology to connect new mothers to each other, will also assist with links to sources of social/peer support as well as professional support
and continual promotion of the Healthy Start programme should be established using supermarkets, pharmacists and other relevant retail outlets.	Owner: Cabinet Member for Health/ Director of Public Health Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date:	Agree	We support this recommendation and promotion of healthy start is explicitly mentioned in the PB-19 specification. Growing the range of outlets through which Healthy Start	No update beyond restating that healthy start is explicitly mentioned in the PB-19 specification from 1.4.17.

	October 2017		and other weight management interventions are promoted is a specific aim of the whole systems approach to obesity currently being piloted in Braintree/Mid Essex. A radical new, place based and environmental approach which looks at how the whole population could be supported for healthy weight behaviour, rather than just resource intensive focus on a few, is essential to tackle population obesity levels.	
Recommendation 4: The focus by Children's Centres to increasingly target their services and use Outreach services to improve access to traditionally hard to reach groups should be encouraged and supported and that appropriate metrics assessing its success should be reported back to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee in a years' time.	Owner: Cabinet Member for Health/ Director of Public Health Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation. A core principle of the PB-19 contract from 1/4/17 is to better engage with particular groups at greatest overall risk of not achieving outcomes, including good health and healthy weight. An example of this differentiation is a specific key performance indicator relating to the number of children in the most deprived quintile in Essex who are overweight in reception year who return to a healthy weight at year 6, (as measured through the National	Virgin care model for PB19 delivery focuses on outreach model using digital technology with multiple staff touchdown points, ensuring work is les confined to children's centre building delivery than is currently the case.

	Child Measurement	
	Programme).	

	Update as at 3.3.17			
Recommendation 5: (i) That efforts should continue to increase Universal Infant Free School Meals uptake and that the HOSC should receive an update on progress made in a year's time; (ii) Schools should be encouraged to positively market Universal Infant Free School Meals all year round and not just at census time; (iii) Any new pilots to improve uptake, promotion and/or delivery of Universal Infant Free School Meals should start in the most deprived areas which have the lowest uptake.	Owner: Cabinet Member Education and Lifelong Learning/ School Meals Service Advisor Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation. (i) There is no longer a statutory requirement for schools to report their % uptake of FSM. However, we will be looking at interventions for schools with the lowest uptake in the most deprived areas and putting in place measures to encourage all eligible pupils to take up the lunch offer. We recognise that UIFSM has given us / schools a 5 year opportunity to develop pupils eating habits at an early stage with the intention to reduce consumption of unhealthier foods found in packed lunches (government research). The development of this has already had a positive impact on uptake in ks2 and should therefore	(i) National uptake continues to trend under the governments targets. Studies have shown that uptake rests at 78-79% nationally. Uptake of UIFSM across the county varies by month but essex reports figures between 79% and 83% although census figures indicate a higher level of uptake at 88%. Targeted support is ongoing with school leaders and schools. (ii) Schools through he school meals support service are encouraged to maximise uptake throughout the year there are a number of key interventions that are put to schools to ensure this. (iii) There have been no pilots to support the development of initiative for uptake in the most deprived areas – uptake is still lower in the most deprived areas of the county and we continue to explore best practice modelling with schools to support. A successful schools

continue into ks3 if

managed/supported

conference event was held with attendance of over 70 people.

appropriately. Details of interventions and successes will be included within the update to the HOSC as per the recommendation. (ii) The school meals support and advice service continues to work on initiatives that monitor uptake and provide interventions to support the development and growth of uptake. Current funding mechanisms/criteria are a barrier to schools developing uptake year round – managing the change of this is sensitive and we would suggest collaboration with EPHA (Essex primary heads association) and links with Healthy schools to establish ways to encourage participation evenly across the year and not just at census points. (iii) Work has already begun
with the school meals support team on this –

			this forms part of the support team core performance objectives and progress will be monitored monthly and appropriate intervention/discussion with schools to offer support.	
Recommendation 6: The County Council's Schools Meals Support Service should encourage Local Education Authority maintained schools to further publicise the need for parents to still apply for Free School Meals so that the school receives Pupil Premium Funding for that child.	Owner: Cabinet Member Education and Lifelong Learning/ School Meals Service Advisor Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation. The responsibility for provision is delegated to schools. The school meals support service will continue to work at both individual school level and strategically to support the development of the recommendation. We agree that the application process for FSM has been affected nationally by the UIFSM programme and has proven to be a barrier for pupil premium. We will look at ways to overcome this. We also recognise that stigma can be a reason why pupils/parents don't apply for FSM, even when they are entitled to. To overcome this, schools have, from Key Stage 3, introduced cashless payment systems to remove	This work is ongoing and continues through the network of support managers. Various methods are used to communicate to schools through parent lunches, newsletters, parent meetings and new pupils tours/intake meetings. Schools are made aware that ECC offers a checking/processing service.

			stigmatisation at the point of sale. The School Meals Department has also developed a toolkit to help schools identify where improvements can be made. However, there is still more work required with all key stakeholders to focus on those not using the service and why.	
Recommendation 7: That further influence needs to be exerted by schools and through the Healthy Schools Programme to encourage parents to include healthier choices in packed lunches.	Owner: Cabinet Member Education and Lifelong Learning/ School Meals Service Advisor Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation. This is already a component part of the healthy schools criteria to which we are committed. However, we recognise that further collaboration between the healthy schools team and school meals support team on targeted strategy in areas/schools where performance is not consistent is needed and would enhance the programme and improve overall outcomes.	Virgin care are reviewing the outcomes required under the PB19 contract, and how the healthy schools initiative helps achieve these outcomes. A specific key performance indicator relating to the number of children in the most deprived quintile in Essex who are overweight in reception year who return to a healthy weight at year 6 gives a clear outcome measure to support process measures around healthy packed lunches
Recommendation 8: That Universal School Food Standards should apply to academies and free schools in addition to local authority controlled schools.	Owner: Cabinet Member Education and Lifelong Learning/ School Meals Service Advisor Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation. The government have made this a requirement. Ensuring compliance in academies proves to be more of a challenge – particularly with those schools that have opted out of school meals support. Work to develop this further with	All new academies are required to meet the standards the requirement forms part of the healthy schools status evaluation and moderately though ofsted inspections but there is little other policing in place to support this. We encourage academies to

			the healthy schools team and validation process will be key to supporting the development of this.	buy into support as this offers a means to support / manage / develop this with schools. Circa 80% of academies supported by ECC school meals service operate to the standards.
Recommendation 9: That the School Meals Service Advisor should speak at local/regional School Governor conference(s) (i) to raise the profile of Universal Infant Free School Meals, (ii) encourage further improvement in uptake and (iii) encourage eligible parents still to formally register for entitlement to free school meals so that schools do not lose pupil premium funding.	Owner: Cabinet Member Education and Lifelong Learning/ School Meals Service Advisor Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation. We will make contact with the executive officer for EPHA and governors services to review programmes and establish mechanisms for collaboration.	Although we have not attended recent meetings we have been in contact with the EPHA executive and have produced papers to support school meals. Contact has not yet been made with governors services regarding this. The Schools Meal Advisory team attended a County-Wide Schools Conference to promote their offer (see above).
Recommendation 10: That leverage should be exerted over those schools applying for, or maintaining, Healthy Schools' status to get them to promote Universal Infant Free School Meals and school meals in Key Stage 2 and beyond.	Owner: Cabinet Member Education and Lifelong Learning/ School Meals Service Advisor Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation. This is already a component part of the healthy schools criteria to which we are committed. However, we recognise that further collaboration between the healthy schools team and	This is ongoing and forms part of the evaluation process. We use the process to inform other stakeholders of where there are queries/works to be achieved but also with school the service does not work with – this has a varied impact.

school meals support team on
targeted strategy in
areas/schools where
performance is not consistent is
needed and would enhance the
programme and improve overall
outcomes.

				Update as at 3.3.17
	SPORT AND PHYSICAL	ACTIVITY		
Recommendation 11: There should be a stronger link between the activities supported in schools by Active Essex and the activities promoted under the Healthy Schools Programme.	Owner: Cabinet Member Education and Lifelong Learning/Head of Active Essex Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation and links with Active Essex have been strengthened over this last year. This is evidenced by Active Essex being a core part of the Healthy Schools accreditation/reaccreditation process. There is also Healthy Schools representation on the Active Essex led PE & School Sports stakeholder group. The considerable school sport offer, supported by Active Essex, makes an important contribution to obesity prevention, and a co-ordinated school sport offer, supported by the School Sport Premium and Active Essex's role in guiding schools on how this could best be used, is critical.	Attendance from Healthy Schools at the past two PE Strategy group meetings. Active Essex participated in the accreditation process leading to the March award presentations. Active Essex supporting the Healthy Schools Conference being planned by Healthy Schools and supported the Hylands House conference with a presentation. Website updated providing guidance and support. Health focussed Small Grants planned for the next quarter. Daily Mile programme and film developed, shared with all partners and being used to drive increasing momentum for the take up.

Recommendation 12: That the role and expertise of Active Essex as an in-house resource for the County Council should be valued and protected as it provides the foundation for leading co-ordinated working with local partners.

Owner: Cabinet Member Education and Lifelong Learning Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017

Agree

We support this recommendation and use Active Essex and its links with schools as a primary route for communicating public health messages on obesity. This is evidenced through using Active Essex schools liaison officers as a route by which to disseminate information on healthy weight initiatives, such as the Daily Mile, where school children run a mile a day.

REG	Update as at 3.3.17			
Recommendation 13: Further efforts to drive and expand the Tuck-in scheme should be encouraged with local Environmental Health Officers further incentivised to increase take-up.	Owner: Cabinet Member for Health/Environmental Health Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation subject to the following specific criteria: i) That there is robust ongoing evaluation of the Tuck In scheme; ii) Clear outcome data shows that a change has been made to healthier cooking practices and that this is sustained over time through regular external inspection/validation; iii) That the scheme is supported by District, Borough and City Councils	All Essex districts are now signed up to Tuck In. In Braintree no less than 16 establishments have signed the healthy eating Tuck In pledge (which requires validation of changed cooking practice). This shows the benefits of a whole system approach to obesity where specific interventions are set within an overall environment which supports the efforts of each individual programme.

			who support the scheme with required resource following the start up investment made from the Essex Public Health budget; and iv) That the explicit <i>Tuck In</i> criterion of reduced portion sizes is promoted,	
Recommendation 14: That all planning areas and Public Health departments across Essex should promote low fat, sugar and salt in all takeaways.	Owner: Cabinet Member for Health/Environmental Health Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	The Tuck In project described above is the vehicle by which this recommendation, which we support, can be established.	As above
Recommendation 15: That Public Health should be a material planning consideration for all business/commercial planning applications for food outlets lodged at each planning authority.	Owner: Cabinet Member for Health/Environmental Health Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation, but need to recognise that planning applications are a District, Borough and City Authority function not a County Council one. However, there is considerable scope for ECC to work with other Essex LAs in support of this agenda, as evidenced in the Braintree whole system approach. There is an absence of a useful precedent where the outcome of a food outlet's planning applications has been	Discussion between planning officers across Essex District, Borough and City Councils has taken place in recent weeks to highlight specific joint action between the ECC public health team and these planning officers, in support of delivering of the emerging ECC and wider partner public health strategy. Live Well Child work in Braintree has been a success as evidenced by planning restrictions in Braintree which prompted correspondence between Kentucky Fried

	nificantly influenced on public	Chicken and Braintree DC in
	alth grounds. However, this is	recognition of the intended
	key part of the place based	greater application of public
app	proach which the emerging	health criteria to planning
Ess	sex Public Health Strategy,	decisions.
and	d the Braintree whole	The need to address the
syst	stems approach to obesity, is	obesogenic environment and
tryir	ing to address. Agreeing a	increase physical activity levels
co-c	-ordinated, systemic approach	has been highlighted to districts
to o	obesity creates greater	via Public Health responses to
pote	tential for future planning	Local Plans. Officers from both
outo	tcomes to be more supportive	Planning and Public Health
of e	efforts to reduce obesity	have presented at the EPHO
		meeting and engagement with
		DC/BC/C planning policy teams
		continues. Essex County
		Council are currently developing
		County-Wide guidance using
		national evidence to further
		support planners to utilise their
		powers to address obesity.

	Update as at 3.3.17			
Recommendation 16: The outcomes from the Live Well Child Whole Community Approach pilot in Braintree need to be monitored and, if there is improvement, then it must be extended elsewhere, concentrating initially on those areas that have the highest	Owner: Cabinet Member for Health/Director of Public Health Implementation Review: October 2016 Impact Review Date: April 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation. Evidence is clear that a whole system approach to obesity, such as that being piloted in Braintree, is critical to addressing the population obesity problem. Robust evaluation of the Braintree pilot outcomes,	Clear delivery programme against specific domains is already underway with target schools in Braintree which service relatively deprived communities at greater relative risk of obesity. Workshop to define overall evaluation structure for Live Well Child

rates of childhood obesity –	process measures and	whole system approach took
namely Basildon, Castle Point,	replicability to other areas	place 2.3.17.
Harlow and Tendring.	must be a core part of this	Work continues to engage
	project if it is to succeed in	stakeholders and wider
	demonstrating reduced obesity	community partners to address
	level in Braintree and thereby	obesity. Successful engagement
	roll out to other areas. This	with commercial partners
	programme will feature a	including sponsorship has
	number of themed sub	already occurred for Livewell
	programmes on specific risk	Child. We are working directly
	factors for obesity, including	with PHE on this project.
	reducing screen time/sedentary	
	time as an important risk factor	
	for obesity.	

INTEGRATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING ation 17: That the Group | Owner: Cabinet | Agree | W

Recommendation 17: That the Group are encouraged by the potential of social prescriptions and request that its establishment pan Essex, albeit using different models, continues to be supported.

Owner: Cabinet
Member for
Corporate,
Communities and
Customers/Director
of Public Health
Implementation
Review: April 2017
Impact Review Date:
October 2017

We support this recommendation. Social prescription programmes are part of a wider programme of effort in which all obesity stakeholders need to invest to build community resilience in health promoting behaviours. This is a core principle of the emerging Essex Public Health Strategy; future commissioning of obesity related services will need to support more of a population based approach, harnessing the considerable

No update as at 3.3.17. Social prescription is still relatively embryonic and future results of wider social prescription programme evaluation will inform contribution to weight management.

			resource within communities and rely less on intensive face to face weight management programmes directly commissioned by ECC, which service only a small proportion of the population who are overweight or have multiple obesity risk factors.	
Recommendation 18: That any commissioned projects to reduce or prevent obesity should make use of local social prescribing programmes, and that those local social prescribing programmes should support signposting and referral to local sources of help with obesity reducing behaviours - such as local walking, exercise, cooking, environmental and commercial weight loss groups.	Owner: Cabinet Member for Corporate, Communities and Customers/Director of Public Health Implementation Review: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	We support this recommendation and again highlight the role of social prescribing programmes in signposting and referring to a range of community options which support healthy weight management. The real potential of social prescribing programmes lies as much, if not more, in developing local social networks to support healthy weight behaviours, as in referral to current structured health promotion programmes. Weight management must become a daily routine activity supported by social networks, not one or two hours out of a week in the face of an obesity promoting environment.	Emerging commissioning/enabling weight management model, codesigned by ECC public health team with current weight management provider and wider stakeholders, will focus on building community asset and better use of extensive existing community offer of weight management initiatives. Subject to ECC governance, and agreement from service provider, we envisage this new community asset based weight management model will be operational towards the end of 2017/18.

Recommendation 19: Owner: Cabinet We must focus and National Change 4 Life brand Neutral (i) (i) That common branding be Member for build on the existing and associated interventions developed to link all healthy living Health/Director of trusted national continue to be used and initiatives and related prevention Public Health Change 4 Life brand promoted by provider programmes to make them highly organisations across Essex. **Implementation** and the extensive visible and easily identifiable: Review: April 2017 insight work which Local Essex Live Well brand (ii) That learning from the Live Well Impact Review Date: informed its original (originally designed in Child Whole Community Approach October 2017 development. Braintree) is achieving greater pilot in Braintree (see When sufficient results coverage across other Essex Recommendation 16) be used to on outcomes and CCGs and District and Borough inform the convening of a multi-Councils than the date of this process are available. agency Obesity Summit for Essex these should be widely initial report. as part of a co-ordinated and shared and used as a integrated drive to tackle obesity. catalyst to stimulate (iii) That, as part of (ii) above, the wider application of the County Council reasserts its whole system approach commitment to tackling obesity to obesity, which could through a vision statement to be via an obesity which every council service and all summit. public sector partners commit; (iii) Any vision statement (iv) That, as part of (iii) above, this must be supported by report and recommendations a robust programme herein be included as part of a of implementation. County Council Childhood Obesity This programme of Strategy to be developed by the implementation needs Cabinet Member for Health. to be driven by the outcomes and process of the Braintree whole system approach pilot. (iv) We will await the national childhood

obesity strategy, which will undoubtedly inform

undertaken by ECC and

the activities

				partners to support	
				healthy weight.	
Recommendation 20: (i) That Public Health explores opportunities for joint working with local celebrities to provide a high profile focal point for the promotion of future obesity campaigns and (ii) That Public Health explores the local opportunities for investing the proceeds from a Sugar Tax to encourage greater participation in sport and physical exercise.	Owner: Cabinet Member for Health/Director of Public Health Implementation Review Date: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	(ii)	We support this recommendation and should make use of appropriate local celebrities who are able to commit to supporting the specific programmes of work to which the County Council and partners are committed. We support the government's commitment to introducing a sugar tax and to investing the revenue raised from it on increasing the funding for sport in primary schools. However, ECC will need to be guided by national policy, which will determine the role that Local Authorities have relative to national government in implementing this policy. Obesity is a societal problem with a society wide cost. Investment should not be confined to the County Council, which has primary	Efforts to contact Jamie Oliver to support local Essex weight management efforts continue. Some faith is placed in the increasingly high profile of Braintree Live Well Child to engage Mr. Oliver's interest. The Livewell project team has presented to PHE on the project and been asked to present at a National Conference on how Essex is working to address obesity.

THE ROL	Update as at 3.3.17				
Recommendation 21: (i) Public Health programmes to encourage healthy lifestyles can save the NHS and Essex County Council significant sums of money by reducing avoidable health and social care costs and the Group requests that the Public Health Team continues to receive the resources necessary to further develop and expand their prevention programmes. (ii) The County Council should	Owner: Cabinet Member for Health/Director of Public Health Implementation Review Date: April 2017 Impact Review Date: October 2017	Agree	(i)	We support this recommendation. Overweight and obesity a will remain a public health priority in Essex and plans to make most efficient use of limited existing resources, and grow the total resource available, will be maximised. We support this recommendation, and	The ECC public health team continues to dedicate significant resource to weight management programmes. Work on a new community asset based approach to weight management, which includes resources and sources of support already operating in the community, such as commercial weight loss groups, ensures that available resource goes

maximise the opportunity to fully utilise the potential of the in-house Public Health expertise and resource, increase its profile internally with employees encouraging them, for example, to become health champions, and transform the culture of the organisation so that the prevention agenda is incorporated into everyday considerations and decision-making.

current innovative work on supporting work place health, including the ECC workforce, such as development of healthy lifestyle apps, which include weight management, are a part of existing ECC workplace health plans. further and we are able to increase the reach and coverage of weight management programmes, beyond the influence of formal specific weight management services currently commissioned. **Essex County Council Public** Health will work to ensure that a 'Health In All Policies' approach is taken to ensure that the profile of our work is raised. This is further supported by the newly developed Strategic Approach to Public Health document and the work of the Local Authority Public Health Network group that uses the County Health leads in DC/BC/C to take a collaborative approach to addressing health needs.

Essex County Council is currently working with internal ECC partners to address health in the workforce and this includes reviewing how we support the prevention agenda. Policies will be developed to support this agenda.