

Meeting:

Date:

Classification: Part 1

Key Decision: Yes / No

Title of Report: HWB Strategy development & HDRC proposals (MOU and JSNA/Research Collaboration Steering Group)

Executive Director: Mark Harvey

Report Author: Krishna Ramkhelawon

Executive Councillor: Cllr Sadza

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. **Health and Wellbeing Strategy** – The Southend Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy – JLHWS - (2021-24) will need to be refreshed during 2025. We have timed this to coincide with the completion of the Mid and South Essex Integrated Care Partnership's (ICP) delivery plan.
- 1.2. We will engage with the Southend communities and wider partners to collate the refreshed JLHWS from January 2025 with a view to have the HWB Board approval in June 2025. A summary of identified priorities will be presented to the March 2025 HWB Board, with a broad aim to increase healthy life expectancy and reducing health inequalities.
- 1.3. We aim to cover the following key areas which have already been highlighted in our JSNA products:
 - 1.3.1. Providing the best start in life
 - 1.3.2. Reducing premature mortality and preventable morbidity
 - 1.3.3. Improving health literacy and reducing digital exclusion
 - 1.3.4. Addressing key wider environmental and economic determinants (including housing and ill-health related unemployment)
- 1.4. The new strategy will have a five year lifespan - 2025-2029 – with regular updates to the HWB Board and we will ensure that any emerging issues, not reflected in the finalised strategy, are addressed through the annual Public Health report.
- 1.5. Following the development of the Greater Essex's **Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC)**, the National Institute for Health and Care

Research (the HDRC funder) has indicated that a **memorandum of understanding (MOU)** will need to be agreed between the lead organisation (Essex County Council) and Southend City Council and Thurrock Council.

- 1.6. The HDRC is a five year research programme with £5m invested across Greater Essex, initiated in January 2024. The MOU is intended to ensure that the population of all LAs will benefit from this investment and will govern the intellectual property rights generated from local research.
- 1.7. There is no financial consequence for Southend City Council or the HWB Board in signing up to this expected MOU.
- 1.8. Following the successful creation of the Health Determinants Research Collaboration, we are proposing to relaunch the JSNA Steering Group (a sub-Committee of this Board) as the new **JSNA and Research Collaboration Steering Group**.
- 1.9. This will ensure that our refreshed JSNA products as well as new JSNAs can be better informed by local research that will be undertaken through the HDRC.
- 1.10. A new Terms of Reference for this group will be circulated at a later date.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the HWB Board:

- 2.1. Approves the proposal to initiate the development of a refreshed Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS).
- 2.2. Delegate the authority to the Chair of the HWB Board to sign off the HDRC's memorandum of understanding with Essex County Council.
- 2.3. Approves the proposal to designate the JSNA Steering Committee as the JSNA and Research Collaboration Steering Group.

3. Background

- 3.1. **Health and Wellbeing Strategy** - Health and Wellbeing Board publishing a joint local health and wellbeing strategy (JLHWS), which sets out the priorities for improving the health and wellbeing of its local population and how the identified needs will be addressed, including addressing health inequalities, and which reflects the evidence of the JSNA products.
- 3.2. The JLHWS should directly inform the development of joint commissioning arrangements (see section 75 of the National Health Service Act 2006) in the place and the co-ordination of NHS and local authority commissioning, including Better Care Fund plans.
- 3.3. **Health Determinants Research Collaboration** - This is a Partnership between Essex County Council, Southend City Council and Thurrock Council, University of Essex and Anglia Ruskin University.

- 3.4. Funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to build research capacity and capability between local government and the academic sector - £1m per year for five years, from January 2024.
- 3.5. Part of a new network of nationally recognised centres of 'research excellence,' based in and led by local authorities. It is focused on exploring 'what works' in influencing the wider determinants of health - enabling local authorities and partners to use research to inform decisions.
- 3.6. The Southend Health and Wellbeing Board is the part of the collaborative governance for Southend.

4. Reasons for Decisions

- 4.1. The HWB is responsible for publishing a joint **Health and Wellbeing Strategy**. We have aligned the development of this strategy with the development of the ICP's delivery plan to further embed our collaboration within the Integrated Care System.
- 4.2. **Memorandum of Understanding for HDRC** – this is a new requirement from the National Institute for Health and Care Research.
- 4.3. **JSNA and Research Collaboration Steering Group** – This is a sub-Committee of the Southend's HWB Board and requires their authority to redesignate the group and amend their terms of reference.

5. Other Options

- 5.1. n/a

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. n/a

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. The Health and Care Act 2022 also amends section 116A of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, renames 'joint health and wellbeing strategies' to 'joint local health and wellbeing strategies' and replaces references to 'clinical commissioning groups' with 'integrated care boards'.
- 7.2. Health and wellbeing boards continue to be responsible for the development of joint strategic needs assessments and joint local health and wellbeing strategies. However, they must now have regard to the integrated care strategy when preparing their joint local health and wellbeing strategies in addition to having regard to the NHS Mandate and this guidance, as previously.

7.3. The guidance from NIHR (funding body for HDRC) has decreed that Essex CC will need to hold a joint agreement Southend City Council through a memorandum of understand.

7.4. The steer received from the funding body (the NIHR) is that the agreement needs to be in place to cover issues around (but not restricted to):

- 7.4.1. The ownership of intellectual property (IP) rights
- 7.4.2. Need to seek NIHR consent on commercialisation of any IP
- 7.4.3. Public liabilities
- 7.4.4. Need for confidentiality
- 7.4.5. Publications in line with NIHR policies
- 7.4.6. Termination of our partnership

8. Policy Context

8.1 n/a – decision is about processes

9. Carbon Impact

9.1. n/a

10. Equalities

10.1. Not required for this paper – An Equality Impact Assessment will be required in completing the JLHWS

11. Consultation

11.1. n/a

12. Report Authorisation

This report has been approved for publication by:		
	Name:	Date:
Executive Director(s)	Mark Harvey	
S151 Officer	n/a	
Monitoring Officer	Susan Zeiss	28/11/2024
Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Cllr Sadza	28/22/2024