

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
16th February 2015

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. The attached report gives feedback and progress made on the action plan agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board following the Committee's scrutiny of tobacco control.

BACKGROUND

2. Smoking is a major problem for public services both nationally and locally. Within Dudley it is estimated to be the cause of over 480 deaths per year; and is the single biggest determinant of inequality in life expectancy across communities.
3. Members investigated how the prevalence of smoking in the borough might be tackled and made practical recommendations for developing and strengthening the work of the Council and health improvement partners in the area of tobacco control.
3. The report of the Lead Officer was presented to the Committee in March 2014.
4. The recommendations from the report formed the attached action plan that was approved by Overview and Scrutiny Management Board in July 2014.

KEY ISSUES

5. The attached report outlines progress made against the actions.
6. Much of this programme of work is ongoing and will be included in the annual Tobacco Control Action Plan and the updated Dudley Tobacco Strategy.
7. Impact and outcomes of the tobacco control programme will continue to be monitored through national stop smoking service reports, JSNA and local data systems and surveys.

Finance

8. This report considers the committee's findings in relation to tobacco reduction within the context of the agreed terms of reference and further options for accelerating this reduction.

8. Changes to services provided by the authority resulting from the committee's review would require further explanation and distinct financial implications scrutinised further; particularly in the light of the Authority's on-going efficiency programme and strategic budget planning.

Law

- 9.. Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972 authorises the Council to do anything which is calculated to facilitate or is conducive or incidental to the exercise of any of its functions.
10. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 places oversight and scrutiny relating to the planning, development and delivery of health, care and well-being services, by elected members onto a statutory footing.

Equality Impact

11. The work of the Committee can be seen as contributing to the equality agenda in the pursuit of improving health and wellbeing for all. This implies a challenge to ensure that services meet the needs of all sectors of the community to make this an even greater reality in Dudley.

RECOMMENDATION

12. It is recommended that the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the progress made on the action plan and continue to support tobacco control activities.

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