

To: Cabinet

Date: 23 August 2023

Report/Comments of: Scrutiny Committee

Title: Scrutiny Feedback to Cabinet – Community Health and Wellbeing Plan

| <b>SUMMARY OF REPORT CONSIDERED</b>   |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Report Title:</b>                  | Developing a Community Health and Wellbeing Plan (Melton Borough)   |
| <b>Purpose/Description of Report:</b> | To present the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan for Melton Borough and to seek feedback from the Scrutiny Committee as part of the consultation process. |
| <b>Key Decision:</b>                  | No  |
| <b>Scrutiny Lead Member:</b>          | Cllr Mike Brown, Scrutiny Committee Chairman  |
| <b>Relevant Portfolio Holder:</b>     | Cllr Pat Cumbers, Portfolio Holder for Customers, Communities and Neighbourhoods  |

## 1. Introduction and Overview

The Scrutiny Committee met on 25 July 2023 to consider a report on the draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan. The report and draft plan can be found [here](#).

The Committee were informed that the Plan is evidence led and has been developed through collaboration with partners and seeks to bring together a range of partners with the common purpose to improve the health and well-being of residents across the Borough. The committee were asked, as part of their consultative remit, to review and provide feedback on the draft plan for consideration by a multi-agency working group as part of a wider consultation process. The final draft of the plan will be presented to cabinet for consideration. An update will be provided to the Scrutiny Committee to show how their comments have shaped the final draft of the plan.

## 2. Summary of Feedback/Recommendations for Cabinet Consideration

- The challenges and the ripple effect of wider issues on people's health and well-being, e.g., cost-of-living pressures, access to education and quality of environment was recognised. Linked to this is the importance of healthy food choices and risk that cost-of-living pressures force people to access unhealthier choices (the example given was that foodbanks are a crisis offer and don't provide fresh food).
- The Committee noted the importance of understanding underlying issues of behaviour such as trauma leading to drug use/unhealthy choices.
- Members raised the theme of access to health services, e.g., GP access, mental health service access, urgent care and hospital access. There was a sense that local residents have to travel a long way to access health services that they feel could be provided closer to home. It was felt that the healthcare offer in Melton is unclear and disjointed and that a community hub model could be a solution and better utilise current facilities such as the hospital.
- The Committee mentioned the need for good housing that can support independence in keeping people healthy, particularly with an ageing population, e.g., aids and adaptations, good quality homes.
- Members felt that there needs to be proactive and meaningful communication with the public and with Members. The example given was performance figures for the GP surgery and how can healthy choices be supported
- Cross border collaboration and making the plan relevant to those communities who living within the Melton Borough but access health care services in Lincolnshire was mentioned. In particular, how does cross border integration work in practice with Lincolnshire health services and how can confidence be given to residents that the plan recognises their needs and has an ability to influence cross border health provision.
- Members commented that there is low public confidence in health care services due to issues residents have in not being able to get an appointment or having to wait a long time for a GP appointment. The committee felt that any health and wellbeing plan would not be well received by the public if it did not provide confidence that that GP access and provision would improve in the borough.

**Written by: Scrutiny Committee Chairman in consultation with Members of the Scrutiny Committee.**