

## MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013/2014

**MEETING TITLE AND DATE**  
**Health and Wellbeing Board**  
**12 December 2013**

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Services

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<b>Agenda - Part: 1</b>	<b>Item: 8</b>
<b>Subject:</b> <b>Better Health Outcomes for Children and Young People Pledge</b>	
<b>Wards: ALL</b>	
<b>Cabinet Member consulted:</b>  Cllr Ayfer Orhan	

### 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Local Authorities are now responsible for delivering and commissioning a range of public health services for five – 19 year olds, with responsibility for children under 5 following from 2015. This puts local authorities and health and wellbeing boards in a prime position to tackle the poor health outcomes experienced by some children and young people.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and engagement with children and young people themselves will inform the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This will in turn, ensure that services can be commissioned that give children the best start in life.

The Department of Health is asking organisations who have the power to make a difference to sign up alongside the government and do everything they can to improve the care that children and young people receive and reduce avoidable deaths. A number of organisations have already signed up to the Pledge.

The Department of Health, Local Government Association, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Public Health England and the Children & Young People's Health Outcomes Forum wrote to Lead Members for Children's Services and Chairs of Health and Wellbeing Boards asking them to share resources available to assist councils with this increased responsibility and to sign up to the "Better health outcomes for children and young people – Our Pledge". It also signposted to a number of other resources that would help the vision to become a reality and asked Local Authorities to share examples of good practice.

Signing up to the Pledge will demonstrate a commitment to giving children the best start in life. It will also start local conversations about how the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Local Authority, Health and wider partners can work together to improve health outcomes for children and young people, and tackle the unacceptable variation in quality of care for children and young people across the country and reduce health inequalities.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to signed up to the “Better health outcomes for children and young people’s Pledge”. The Pledge outlines how we will work in partnership, both locally and nationally, with children, young people and their families to make this happen:

The shared ambitions of the Pledge are:

1. Children, young people and their families will be at the heart of decision-making, with the health outcomes that matter most to them taking priority.
2. Services, from pregnancy through to adolescence and beyond, will be high quality, evidence based and safe, delivered at the right time, in the right place, by a properly planned, educated and trained workforce.
3. Good mental and physical health and early interventions, including for children and young people with long term conditions, will be of equal importance to caring for those who become acutely unwell.
4. Services will be integrated and care will be co-ordinated around the individual, with an optimal experience of transition to adult services for those young people who require on-going health and care in adult life.
5. There will be clear leadership, accountability and assurance and organisations will work in partnership for the benefit of children and young people.

In addition the Health & Wellbeing Board are asked to consider a mechanism to carry out a predictive equalities impact assessment across the partnership to determine that by signing up to the Pledge that they will address the health inequalities faced by some children and young people in Enfield.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

The need for improvement in children’s health outcomes is not new, and there have been initiatives that have led to improvements in specific areas, but have not resulted in the system wide changes required to improve outcomes. What is new is the opportunity to ensure the focus on outcomes in the new health and care system includes children and young people clearly and explicitly, from conception through to adulthood.

At a national level the new Children and Young People’s Outcomes Board, led by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO), brings together key system leaders in child health to provide a sustained focus and scrutiny on improving outcomes across the whole child health system.

A new Children & Young People’s Health Outcomes Forum will provide both on-going expertise in child health and offer constructive challenge to the next phase of this work. The Forum will hold an annual summit involving the CMO to monitor progress on child health outcomes and make recommendations for their improvement.

## Why sign the Pledge?

Latest evidence tells us that:

- The all-cause mortality rate for children aged 0 – 14 years has moved from the average to amongst the worst in Europe
- 26% of children's deaths showed "identifiable failure in the child's direct care"
- More than 8 out of 10 adults who have ever smoked regularly started before 19
- More than 30% of 2 – 15 year olds are overweight or obese
- Half of life time mental illness starts by the age of 14
- Nearly half of looked after children have a mental health disorder and two thirds have at least one physical health complaint
- About 75% of hospital admissions of children with asthma could have been prevented in primary care.

By signing the Pledge, the Enfield Health and Wellbeing Partners will demonstrate a joint commitment and effort to improve outcomes by:

- Reducing child deaths through evidence based public health measures and by providing the right care at the right time.
- Preventing ill health for children and young people and improve their opportunities for better long-term health by supporting families to look after their children, when then need it, and helping children and young people and their families to prioritise healthy behaviour.
- Improving the mental health of our children and young people by promoting resilience and mental wellbeing and providing early and effective evidence based treatment for those who need it.
- Supporting and protecting the most vulnerable by focusing on the social determinants of health and providing better support to the groups that have the worst health outcomes.
- Providing better care for children and young people with long term conditions and disability and increase life expectancy of those with life limiting conditions.

## 4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

## 5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The Department of Health, Local Government Association, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Public Health England and the Children & Young People's Health Outcomes Forum wrote to Lead Members for Children's Services and Chairs of Health & Wellbeing Boards inviting them to sign the pledge.

Signing the pledge demonstrates our commitment locally to improving health outcomes for children and young people through joint

commissioning, sharing of resources and putting them at the heart of decision making.

## **6. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

### **6.1 Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implications as a consequence of the recommendations in this report. Any activity arising will be met from within existing budgets.

### **6.2 Legal Implications**

A local authority has a general power of competence under s1(1) Localism Act 2011. This permits a local authority to do anything which individuals generally may do.

Section 2B (1) National Health Service Act 2006 states that 'Each local authority must take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area.'

A commitment to improve the health outcomes for children and young people would appear to be covered by these provisions. These provisions would also appear to cover the signing of a pledge to pursue such outcomes.

## **7. KEY RISKS**

Lack of commitment from one or more of the partners could potentially jeopardise the Local Authority's ability to commission services in an integrated way.

The Pledge encourages an early intervention approach. If this is not achieved, it is likely that more costly interventions will be required later on.

If partners continue to commission in isolation this could potentially result in duplication of services. By working in partnership this will result in better use of already scarce resources.

## **8. IMPACT ON PRIORITIES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY**

### **8.1 Healthy Start – Improving Child Health**

The main thrust of the Pledge is to improve health outcomes for children and young people.

### **8.2 Narrowing the Gap – reducing health inequalities**

The Pledge asks that partners treat all interventions with equal importance, including those with long term conditions.

- 8.3** Healthy Lifestyles/healthy choices  
The Pledge asks that children and young people are at the heart of decision making with the health outcomes that matter to them most taking priority. In particular it asks that care and services are co-ordinated around the individual to ensure an optimal experience of transition to adult services.
- 8.4** Healthy Places  
By working in partnership with the CCG and other colleagues the Pledge will ensure that we make Enfield a healthier place and address health inequalities faced by our children and young people.
- 8.5** Strengthening partnerships and capacity  
The Pledge asks for clear leadership, accountability and assurance so that the partnership works for the benefit of all children and young people. We are asked to commission and work in an integrated way. This will of course strengthen partnerships and capacity to deliver services that meet the need of our children and young people.

## **9. EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

It is recommended that the Health & Wellbeing Board carry out an predictive equalities impact assessment on the Children's Outcome Pledge to ensure that there are no health inequalities for children and young people living in Enfield.

The Board would need to identify a mechanism for all partners to contribute to the assessment.

### **Background Papers**

Better health outcomes for children and young people – Our Pledge  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/207391/better\\_health\\_outcomes\\_children\\_young\\_people\\_pledge.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/207391/better_health_outcomes_children_young_people_pledge.pdf)