

CONSULTATION DRAFT

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY & RUTLAND NHS PCT and LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP BODY

Review of Proposals by Interim Director of Public Health

1. Remit

The purpose of this document is to outline how the Healthier Communities Partnership Body proposals submitted to the Leicestershire Strategic Senior Officers' Group on 20 November 2006 could be adapted to promote and deliver health improvement in Leicestershire County.

This review is intended to help the substantive holder of the Director of Public Health post develop the Healthier Communities Block of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement for the current period of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement until April 2009.

2. Reference Documents

This document builds on the work described in the following documents:

1. "Healthier Communities Partnership Body" Report of Leicestershire County Council to Leicestershire Strategic Senior Officers' Group on 20 November 2006
2. "Joint Public Health Priorities" Report of Leicestershire County Council and the Primary Care Trusts in Leicestershire in September 2004.

3. Draft Terms of Reference of Healthier Communities Partnership Body (Appendix A of "Healthier Communities Partnership Body" Report)

3.1. "Role and Function"

One approach is to give the Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body a distinctive "Role and Function" by considering it explicitly as a commissioning body for healthier communities in which it conducts and analyses health needs assessments in order to prioritise and commission work to deliver objectives for specific topics and geographical areas.

There are several ways in which health needs assessments can be undertaken:

- Epidemiological approach – this involves measuring the incidence and prevalence of health, ill health and determinants of health, assessing the feasibility and effectiveness of potential interventions, and determining the ability of current and future service provision to influence health, ill health and determinants of health at the population level. The fundamental assumption is that the measurements,

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assessments and determinations are objective processes determining objective needs that are appropriate and relevant to the local population.

- Normative approach – this involves comparing parameters in the local population with similar parameters in comparable populations to determine which topics or geographical areas should be focused on for action. The most common method used in this approach is ‘benchmarking’. The fundamental assumption is that the level of the parameters in comparable populations represents the appropriate level for the local population.
- Corporate or Community approach – this involves wide consultation with key or representative stakeholders, agencies, groups or communities to ascertain the needs of the local population. The fundamental assumption is that these needs will lead to improvements in health rather than improvements in well-being, e.g. addressing the issue of litter and graffiti in public places may improve general well-being but has not been demonstrably proven to improve the health of the population.

No single approach to health needs assessment can provide an overall picture of the health needs of the local population, and it is likely that at least two out of the three approaches need to be undertaken.

The Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body can then decide on the priority topics based on its health needs assessments, which can be global or specific in terms of topics and geographical areas. On the basis that there are national determinants of health that influence all UK populations, the priorities can be taken from the White Paper “Choosing Health”:

- Accidents
- Alcohol
- Diet and nutrition
- Inequalities
- Mental health
- Obesity
- Physical activity
- Sexual health
- Substance misuse
- Tobacco.

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However, there are particular geographical areas in Leicestershire that have heightened problems with some of those topics, e.g. the issue of teenage pregnancy (as part of sexual health) is of greater concern in certain areas of Leicestershire County and are more likely to be the socio-economically deprived areas. It is also likely that there are some health issues that are important to some communities that are not in the national “Choosing Health” topics, e.g. domestic violence. There needs to be a way of enabling such issues to be reflected in the work of the Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body.

Once topics and geographical areas have been prioritised, the Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body should then commission groups deliver the change required in those topics and geographical areas. In all such commissions, inequalities in health and access to services should be addressed.

3.2. Summary

The Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body should be a distinctive commissioning body with functions that describe:

- health needs assessment to identify potential areas for change
- prioritisation of topics and geographical areas to implement change
- commissioning of groups to deliver change.

4. Draft Membership of Healthier Communities Partnership Body (Appendix A of “Healthier Communities Partnership Body” Report)

If it is accepted that the role of the Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body is as a commissioning body, then its membership should reflect that role and the required functions. It is proposed that the membership should include people who are able to contribute either resources or expertise in the commissioning role for the health of the local population. This may be in terms of health needs assessment, prioritisation or commission of groups.

The suggested membership is the following individuals or nominated deputies:

- Director of Public Health and Health Improvement for Leicestershire County & Rutland PCT, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council (Chair)
- Consultant/Specialist in Public Health for Leicestershire County & Rutland PCT with the remit of non-NHS partnership work
- Director of Adult Social Care and Health for Leicestershire County Council
- Director of Children and Young People’s Services for Leicestershire County Council

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- Senior Officers from each of the seven District Councils in Leicestershire representing their District Local Strategic Partnerships
- Representatives from two Voluntary and Community Sector organisations.

The reasons for the suggested membership are:

- NHS public health contributes expertise regarding health needs assessment, public health and health service provision
- County Council contributes expertise regarding County Council service provision as well as contributing to county-wide strategic needs assessment
- District Councils contribute expertise regarding District Council service provision and District Local Strategic Partnership issues so that they can contribute directly to the prioritisation of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement as well as the corporate/community approach to health needs assessment
- Voluntary and Community Sector organisations contribute expertise regarding local voluntary and community group capacity and capabilities as well as the corporate/community approach to health needs assessment.

4.1. Summary

The Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body should have a membership that contributes to its role as be a commissioning body, in particular:

- health needs assessment
- prioritisation of topics and geographical areas
- commissioning of groups.

5. The Role of Delivery Groups in the Healthier Communities Block of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement

If it is accepted that the role of the Healthier Communities Block of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement is to improve the health, reduce ill health and improve the determinants of health in the population within Leicestershire County, then the Delivery Groups should be organised to reflect this.

Assuming that the national determinants of health influence all UK populations, the Delivery Groups can be taken from the White Paper "Choosing Health":

- Accidents – there would need to be a new group formed to co-ordinate work with respect to accidents on the road, at home, at work and by elderly people (focused on falls prevention). It could include Domestic Fire Safety.

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- Alcohol & Drugs – there would need to be a new group formed to co-ordinate work of the Drug Action & Alcohol Team, alcohol control, drug control, social issues associated with alcohol and illicit drug misuse.
- Mental health – this could evolve from the Leicestershire Mental Health Strategy Group which co-ordinates work regarding mental health and well-being with particular focus on vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, but will probably require changes in their responsibilities, membership and accountabilities.
- Obesity – since obesity is linked to both diet & nutrition and physical activity, it is proposed that a single Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Obesity Delivery Group is formed to co-ordinate work regarding diet & nutrition and physical activity. This could evolve from the Leicestershire Northamptonshire & Rutland Food & Health Steering Group. The relationship with the Leicestershire and Rutland County Sports Partnership will need to be clarified if such changes take place.
- Sexual health – this could evolve from the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Sexual Health Forum which co-ordinates work regarding sexual health promotion, sexual health services, Chlamydia screening, teenage pregnancy, but will probably require changes in their responsibilities, membership and accountabilities. The relationship with the Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Board will need to be clarified if such changes take place.
- Tobacco – this could evolve from a re-established Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Tobacco Control Partnership Group which co-ordinates work regarding smoking cessation and tobacco control, but may require changes in their responsibilities, membership and accountabilities.

The geographical scope of the Delivery Groups is probably best across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland as many of the constituent organisations work across these local government boundaries. In doing so, the groups must ensure that they address the shared and discrete needs of the constituent areas.

The role of the Delivery Groups would be to:

- provide advice and information to the Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body
- propose options regarding programmes to deliver changes in the health, ill health or determinants of health for a geographical area (which may or may not be the for the whole of Leicestershire) as determined by the Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body

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- co-ordinate the delivery of any programme as commissioned by the Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body
- work with District Local Strategic Partnerships to deliver any programme as commissioned by the Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body
- report on progress towards agreed milestones and targets to the Leicestershire Healthier Communities Partnership Body.

The key relationship in delivering programmes is likely to be between the Delivery Group and the relevant partner organisations and District Local Strategic Partnerships. This will require good partnership management and so senior individuals will need to be identified to lead each Delivery Group.

5.1. Summary

The Healthier Communities Block of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement should be focused on improving the health, reduce ill health and improve the determinants of health in the population within Leicestershire County. The Delivery Groups should be organised to reflect this aim and not according to disciplines, professions or organisations. The suggested list of Delivery Groups reflect the White Paper “Choosing Health” topics and could be amended accordingly.

Dr Ronald Hsu
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Leicestershire County & Rutland PCT, Leicestershire and Rutland County Councils

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LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT

HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP BODY

Revised Draft Terms of Reference

1. Objectives

- 1.1 To provide strategic direction and develop co-ordinated multi-agency action to improve health and reduce health inequalities in Leicestershire.
- 1.2 To maximise the opportunities offered by the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement to improve partnership working to improve the health of Leicestershire people.

2. Role and Function

- 2.1 To develop a Leicestershire-wide, multi-agency plan for public health linked to the delivery plans for the White Papers Choosing Health and Our Health, Our Care, Our Say, to regional and other local public health strategies and the wider strategies and plans of partners.
- 2.2 To conduct and analyse health needs assessments to enable informed prioritisation of topics and geographical areas.
- 2.3 To commission programmes from Delivery groups and District Local Strategic Partnerships as outlined in the Leicestershire-wide, multi-agency plan.
- 2.4 To be responsible for:
 - a) achievement of delivery plans and targets in the Healthier Communities Block of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement
 - b) effective links and co-ordination of health interventions in other Blocks of the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement
 - c) identification of outcomes, indicators and targets that may be added to the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement when it is reviewed and refreshed annually
 - d) identification of budgets and resources that may be pooled or aligned to better achieve the joint public health priorities.
- 2.5 To further develop the close partnership working with NHS organisations, local authorities, voluntary and community groups, private sector organisations and other Local Strategic Partnership partners which are crucial to promoting health and reducing inequalities.
- 2.6 To ensure that an appropriate focus is given to addressing health inequalities, assessing and monitoring health care needs and improving the overall health of the local population.
- 2.7 To ensure that the assessment of the health needs of the population is effectively fed in to commissioning strategies and plans of the Leicestershire

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County and Rutland NHS Primary Care Trust, the local authorities in Leicestershire and other partner organisations.

- 2.8 To develop a planning and performance management structure to support delivery of its responsibilities. This will include, but not be limited to, ensuring the achievement of delivery plans and targets in the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement.
- 2.9 To take into account strategic and local dimensions of planning and delivery in public health.
- 2.10 To ensure community involvement and engagement in the development of its plan(s) and identify opportunities to link in to relevant community involvement activities of all partners.

3. Membership

The suggested membership is the following individuals or nominated deputies:

- Director of Public Health and Health Improvement for Leicestershire County & Rutland PCT, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council (Chair)
- Consultant/Specialist in Public Health for Leicestershire County & Rutland PCT with the remit of non-NHS partnership work
- Director of Adult Social Care and Health for Leicestershire County Council
- Director of Children and Young People's Services for Leicestershire County Council
- Senior Officers from each of the seven District Councils in Leicestershire representing their District Local Strategic Partnerships
- Representatives from two Voluntary and Community Sector organisations.

Appropriate experts, specialists and support staff will be invited to meetings as and when appropriate to inform, facilitate and co-ordinate the work of the Healthier Communities Partnership Body and the actions it undertakes.

The leads of the Delivery groups in the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement will attend the meetings of the Healthier Communities Partnership Body to report on progress and to present proposals for developments.

4. Reporting Arrangements

The Healthier Communities Partnership Body will report to the Leicestershire Together Board via the Leicestershire Strategic Senior Officer Group. It will communicate with the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement Block Leads Group regarding the Leicestershire Local Area Agreement.

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