

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8

REPORT TO: Halton Strategic Partnership Board

DATE: 18 May 2005

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health and Health Strategy,
Halton Borough Council and Halton Primary Care
Trust

SUBJECT: Choosing Health in Halton

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present the Public Health Annual Report 2004 to the Board.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That the Board receive the report and, at a future meeting, respond to the three strategic recommendations:

- that individuals, families and organisations take steps to follow the ten health improvement tips in the report
- that partner organisations and the Halton Strategic Partnership Board as a body; consider how to protect resources for preventing ill health and for promoting positive health
- that the Board suggest appropriate topics for future health reports

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Context

Directors of Public Health are required to produce an independent Annual Report on the Health of local people. For the years 2002 and 2003, this requirement was served by the publication of the Halton Health Study and associated documents, which were presented to the Halton Strategic Partnership Board during 2004.

This Public Health Report is about preventing ill health and promoting positive health, so that those who live or work in Halton can live longer and stay well. It is the first Public Health Report that has been produced since the creation of Halton Primary Care Trust. Before 2002, the Director of Public Health for North Cheshire Health Authority, Dr Paula Grey, produced Public Health Reports.

3.2 Policy Context

National Policy for the NHS and local strategic partnerships (described in the Health Care Standards 2004, in National Service Frameworks and in the White Paper "Choosing Health") describes the NHS as a

health improving organisation, responsible for leading on prevention as well as treatment and care, in partnership with others.

Many existing partner activities deliver specific prevention programmes and wider programmes to improve well being.

Halton has been chosen by government as a “Spearhead” area, which means that we are expected to make faster progress in closing the gap with national average life expectancy and mortality.

4. KEY ISSUES

The report has been quality controlled by a small working group including the Chairperson of the Community Empowerment Network. Preparation has followed national guidance published by the Faculty of Public Health.

The Report is addressed to people who live or work in Halton. Its purpose is to summarise the main health challenges facing Halton, and to suggest what we should do now to improve our own health. More importantly, the report suggests what we should do now so that our children and grand children can grow up to live healthy and long lives.

Each chapter has a section at the end on where to find out more. We hope to develop the health pages of the Halton Strategic Partnership website to include links to a wide range of relevant health information, and to strengthen the health information sections of local libraries.

The Report covers a range of topics on health in Halton, using a common format. This format describes what the health problem is, key local facts, and what is known to work in tackling the problem. There follows a brief discussion of what is happening locally, and things to think about for the future.

5. NEXT STEPS

The Public Health Report has been shared with the Executive Board and Health Scrutiny Panel at Halton Borough Council, and the Board and Professional Executive Committee at Halton Primary Care Trust. It is available widely across Halton organisations and in libraries, schools and health care premises. Following this first, scene setting report, future reports may be briefer and more focused on specific topics. There is also the opportunity to produce reports more collaboratively across directorates and organisations in the future.

The Halton Strategic Partnership has published the report on the ‘health’ pages of its web site.

ATTACHED DOCUMENTS

Public Health Annual Report 2004