

References from Other Council Bodies

Health and Wellbeing Board

Cabinet

Date: 6th December 2017

Author:	Cabinet Member for Adults' Health and Social Care, and Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To consider a matter referred to Cabinet from the meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board held on 25th October 2017.
- 1.2 The matter referred to relates to the Council's Vision Priority Four: "Help people to help themselves while always protecting our most vulnerable children and adults".

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To agree the recommendation of the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 25th October 2017, as set out in paragraph 3.5 of this report.

3. Detail

Swindon Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017-2019

- 3.1 At its meeting on 25th October 2017, the Health and Wellbeing Board considered a report of the Council's Affordable Warmth Co-ordinator, which provided information on the refreshed Swindon Affordable Warmth Strategy. The report, which is available online or by request from the contact and which is identified as Appendix One, set out how Swindon Borough Council and its partners have, for a number of years, been delivering initiatives to reduce the incidence of fuel poverty in the Swindon area.
- 3.2 The first Swindon Affordable Warmth Strategy was written in 2007, building on the work of the Wiltshire & Swindon Affordable Warmth Strategy 2002. This latest version brings the strategy up to date, providing a snapshot of the current levels and distribution of fuel poverty and describing the planned focus to help those affected over the next two years. The strategy covers both private sector and social housing.
- 3.3 The report advised on the strong links between the prevalence of fuel poverty and cold related illnesses and excess winter deaths and that the desire to reduce pressure on health services during the winter months is leading to more engagement of the health sector in affordable warmth issues. It was noted that action on fuel poverty is likely to lead to reductions in local health spend, GP referrals and hospital admissions due to improved health.

Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Steve Jones, Direct Dial Telephone Number – 01793 463602, email - stevejones@swindon.gov.uk.

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3.4 The Affordable Warmth Strategy links to Swindon Borough Council Priority One: improve infrastructure and housing to support a growing, low-carbon economy and Priority Four: help people to help themselves while always protecting our most vulnerable children and adults. It also links to the Swindon Health and Wellbeing Strategy Outcome 2: adults and older people in Swindon are living healthier and more independent lives. It contributes to wider Council work in areas such as Ageing Well, Long Term Conditions and Falls Prevention, helping to reduce the pressure on Adult Social Care. There are also clear connections to the Council's responsibilities under the Home Energy Conservation Act.

3.5 The Board resolved:

(1) That the Swindon Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017-19, attached at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

(2) That Cabinet and the NHS Swindon Clinical Commissioning Group Governing Body be recommended to adopt the Swindon Affordable Warmth Strategy for 2017-19.

(3) That an update on progress against the Swindon Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017-19 will be provided to a future meeting of this Board.

The original report, considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board, is available on the Council's website, or on request from Committee and Members Services (the clerk's contact details are set out below).

4. Alternative Options

4.1 It is a matter for Cabinet as to whether the recommendation of the Health and Wellbeing Board are supported.

5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management

Financial and Procurement Implications

5.1 There are no direct financial or procurement implications arising from development of the strategy. Planned work as outlined in the action plan is covered by existing budgets or will go through appropriate Swindon Borough Council approval processes. In the longer term helping people achieve affordable warmth may reduce health and social care cost through limiting the health impacts of cold damp housing..

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Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and Human Rights considerations have been taken fully into account in compiling this report. It is considered that the recommendations of this report are compatible with convention rights.

All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 The strategy has the potential to reduce health inequalities as there are significant inequalities in fuel poverty with higher prevalence in more deprived areas and within certain groups such as families with children. The strategy also has the potential to improve health, as cold damp housing can exacerbate a range of respiratory and cardiovascular conditions. Diversity Impact Assessment

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 A Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) was completed for the Strategy prior to it consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Board. It can be inspected on the Council's website.

Risk Management

- 5.5 There are no identified unmitigated risks.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Swindon Affordable Warmth Strategy 2017-2019 (*The appendix is available online at the Council's website or on request from Committee and Member Services*).

9. Key Decision/Decision in Cabinet Work Programme

- 9.1 This is not a Key Decision.