

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Health and Wellbeing Board
MEETING DATE:	18 th September 2013
TITLE:	Feedback from the Health and Wellbeing Network Meeting 24 th July 2013
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: None	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 On the 8 May Bath and North East Somerset Council released the Placemaking Plan Launch document. Its aim is to generate discussion and ideas for developing places and communities in Bath and North East Somerset. This includes aspirations for key development sites.
- 1.2 The Health and Wellbeing Network meeting on 24th July was an opportunity for groups with an involvement or interest in health and social care to hear more about the Placemaking Plan and to consider how the community might work together to plan key development sites that promote health and wellbeing.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 The Board is asked to:

- Note the key recommendations from health and wellbeing provider discussion on the Placemaking Plan:
 - Safeguard - Safeguard Health and Wellbeing Board interests in the development of new communities; protecting growth and making sure that it is the right growth for people against the backdrop of planning policy and housing numbers
 - Influence - Develop a clear relationship and pathway so that the Health and Wellbeing Board can influence the Cabinet Member for Planning and strategic planning processes
 - Based on local understanding – Know the people we are building houses and communities for (including older people); what do they want, what do they need and ensuring wrap around health and social care is available for any new communities. Also ensuring that planning processes are transparent to communities including building on credit unions.

- Learn - 'Listen to communities and work collaboratively'. Keep and build on the current networking, seek inspiration from elsewhere and consult widely with local communities, groups and stakeholders on new development and proposals.
- Capacity - There are many existing resources and services that can be better used. Assets such as older people, volunteers, and existing 'neighbourliness', all represent opportunities and the current provision of services must also be understood as an asset.
- Balance - Build on existing links and services. Developments must find a balance between financial benefits and longer term social/health benefits. Any development needs to rebalance the health inequalities for those who find it hard to engage or access services.

3 THE REPORT

3.1 The Healthwatch Bath and North East Somerset Health and Wellbeing Network meeting was held on Wednesday 24th July 2013. 51 people from local groups with an involvement or interest in the subject attended the event to discuss the Placemaking Plan. In groups delegates discussed the following questions:

3.2 **What wellbeing issues do providers feel need to be addressed by development – how does 'place' affect wellbeing?**

During the discussion it emerged that the identity of 'place' develops from the local population and that identity can go back a long way. The need to balance development and preservation was recognised but Bath must be a living city that meets people's needs into the future. If people have to spend a lot of time in their homes they need to be able to access all of their needs including feeling safe (especially for mental health), shopping, noise and transport in and out of their community.

It was felt that engagement should start with local champions to help reconnect people and that environmental issues can impact on health provision. The accessibility, including affordability, of community services and facilities was stressed. The concept of 'community commissioning', linking development and wellbeing by fostering integrated, connected and sustainable communities, was also discussed.

3.3 **What are the implications for providers of health and wellbeing services in maintaining and providing services to these developing communities? What services will they need?**

The affordability and accessibility of services and facilities is an issue for both local people and local service providers. A lack of infrastructure (including bungalow style buildings and transport links for example) coupled with reductions in funding could make service provision prohibitive in some places.

Developments to the physical environment should be matched with supporting appropriate service development, such as additional staff and training, in order to effectively extend existing provision. This range of existing local provision must be

understood, and supported. Maintaining local shops was an example, but also access to GPs, schools and open spaces.

The group agreed that good local community involvement, and joining up residents and providers, is needed, as medical healthcare providers are not always engaged with the community. It was discussed that a range of services and support is required to provide for physical, emotional and mental wellbeing. It was also highlighted that good signposting and an understanding of local economies and context is important.

3.4 What do providers feel are the key issues the Health and Wellbeing Board should look at when considering the Placemaking Plan?

- Safeguard – Safeguard Health and Wellbeing Board interests in the development of new communities; protecting growth and making sure that it is the right growth for people against the backdrop of planning policy and housing numbers
- Influence - Developing a clear relationship and pathway so that the Health and Wellbeing Board can influence the Cabinet Member for Planning and strategic planning processes
- Based on local understanding – Know the people we are building houses and communities for (including older people); what do they want, what do they need and ensuring wrap around health and social care is available for any new communities. Also ensuring that planning processes are transparent to communities including building on credit unions.
- Learn - ‘Listen to communities and work collaboratively’. Keep and build on the current networking, seek inspiration from elsewhere and consult widely with local communities, groups and stakeholders on new development and proposals.
- Capacity - There are many existing resources and services that can be better used. Assets such as older people, volunteers, and existing ‘neighbourliness’, all represent opportunities and the current provision of services must also be understood as an asset.
- Balance - Build on existing links and services. Developments must find a balance between financial benefits and longer term social/health benefits. Any development needs to rebalance the health inequalities for those who find it hard to engage or access services.

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