

MEETING	B&NES HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
DATE	26 June 2018
TYPE	An open public item

<u>Report summary table</u>	
Report title	Proposed Charter for joint action on improving health and wellbeing through nature
Report author	Prof Selena Gray, Chair, West of England Nature Partnership selenagray@wensp.org.uk Heather Elgar, Manager, West of England Nature Partnership heatherelgar@wensp.org.uk
List of attachments	'A charter between the West of England Nature Partnership and the B&NES Health and Wellbeing Board that commits to joint action on improving health and wellbeing through natural capital assets in the West of England' – Appendix 1
Background papers	N/A
Summary	<p>This proposes closer partnership working between the B&NES Health and Wellbeing Board and the West of England Nature Partnership, to support our shared aims of a healthy society. The attached Charter provides an overview of the value of natural assets and their importance for health and wellbeing, and suggests guiding principles for partnership working. Suggested outcomes include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish or maintain reciprocal representation between HWBs and LNPs; 2. Collaborate with the South West LNP Health and Environment work wherever possible; 3. Identify and actively promote commissioning of nature-based solutions; 4. Revise relevant local policies and strategies to embed collaboration on natural capital and healthcare outcomes; and 5. Train Community Connectors, or equivalents, in social prescribing systems about nature-based solutions and opportunities.
Recommendations	The Board is asked to consider the attached Charter which commits to joint action on improving health and wellbeing through nature between the B&NES Health and Wellbeing Board and the West of England Nature Partnership.

Rationale for recommendations	<p>There is a burgeoning evidence base of the importance of our natural environment for health and wellbeing. Shared action on embedding the value of nature into Public Health systems would support our shared aims of a healthy society. Such action would be cross-cutting in contributing to the specific themes outlined in the B&NES Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy:</p> <p>Theme 1: Preventing ill health by helping people to stay healthy</p> <p><i>e.g. Creating healthy and sustainable places that encourage physical exercise and foster mental wellbeing</i></p> <p>Theme 2: Improving the quality of people's lives</p> <p><i>e.g. Increase signposting to opportunities to be in nature, including through social prescribing</i></p> <p>Theme 3: Tackling health inequality by creating fairer life chances</p> <p><i>e.g. Ensuring equitable access to green spaces</i></p>
Resource implications	<p>N/A</p>
Statutory considerations and basis for proposal	<p>N/A</p>
Consultation	<p>The draft charter was developed by the South West Local Nature Partnerships together with regional stakeholders in public health.</p>
Risk management	<p>A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision making risk management guidance.</p>

THE REPORT

- 1 The West of England Nature Partnership (WENP) works across the geography of the four unitary authorities of Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bristol City. As the designated Local Nature Partnership, WENP has a mandate to work collaboratively on a landscape scale to restore and enhance the natural environment in the West of England – which ultimately underpins the health and resilience of our society.
- 2 Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are a key commitment from the 2011 Government White Paper, *'The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature'*, which recognises the need for stronger cross-sector collaboration to reverse the degradation of ecosystems – which we all rely upon, and to secure nature's return to health. Due to clear co-benefits of greening the economy and the links of nature and wellbeing, LNPs were envisioned to work closely with both Local Enterprise Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards. They are similarly prescribed bodies per the Localism Act 2011 and part of the 'Duty to Cooperate'.
- 3 The attached Charter has been drafted by the South West Local Nature Partnerships to support closer working between Local Nature Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- 4 We acknowledge previous partnership working between WENP and the Health and Wellbeing Boards across the West of England. At its inception, WENP Board membership was designed to include an agreed nominated joint representative of all four Health and Wellbeing Boards. Due to changing remits and personnel over time, we consider this statement of intent as an opportunity to refresh our joint commitments and identify the best strategic opportunities to drive forward shared objectives.
- 5 Nature, Health & Wellbeing is a key strategic area for WENP, with an aim to: *facilitate greater awareness of the benefits the natural environment provides to our health and wellbeing to all levels of society*. WENP considers a longer term ambition to be the mainstreamed prescribing (through primary care) and commissioning of 'green care'; preventions and interventions that, through engagement with nature, support people's health and wellbeing while stewarding our natural environment. WENP has an active Nature, Health and Wellbeing working group which facilitates a practitioner network for professionals working in green care, supports public engagement (through healthy city week), and aims to share best practice towards the integration of green care in primary care.
- 6 WENP also works to influence spatial planning, to ensure the importance of our natural assets are incorporated in decision making for the region, and ultimately to deliver healthy places. WENP supports this through the provision of evidence (e.g. Ecosystem Service mapping, see www.wenp.org.uk/maps) and the development of mechanisms (e.g. Natural Capital Trust). A key priority for 2018 is to ensure that the Joint Green Infrastructure Plan (a commitment arising from the Joint Spatial Plan) can effectively deliver for nature and society.
- 7 We welcome a discussion of the Charter and how we could work more closely together to support our shared aims of a healthy society.

Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format