Title: Progress report - The Cancer Prevention, Awareness, and Early Detection Scrutiny Review

Report of the Director of Public Health

Open Report | For Decision
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Summary:
At the start of the 2015/16 municipal year, the Health & Adult Services Select Committee (HASSC) agreed to undertake an in-depth scrutiny review into cancer prevention, awareness, and early detection.

The scrutiny review addressed 3 questions:
1. Why are residents of Barking and Dagenham more likely to develop cancer and less likely to survive cancer than residents in other London boroughs?
2. What is the reason that residents are less likely to respond to requests to screen for cancer than in other London boroughs?
3. What is the reason that residents are not as aware of the signs and symptoms of cancer as residents in other London Boroughs?

Twelve recommendations for action in LBBD were made. The resulting action plan has been implemented. This is an update on actions taken to support the action plan.

Recommendation(s)
HASSC is recommended to review the updated action plan and agree any gaps and future actions.

Reason(s)
These actions support the vision of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of residents and reduce health inequalities at every stage at people’s lives.
1. Introduction and Background

1.1 In the municipal year 2017/18, the Health & Adult Services Select Committee (HASSC) undertook an in-depth scrutiny review into cancer prevention, awareness, and early detection.

2. Proposal and Issues

2.1 The Cancer scrutiny review report made 12 key recommendations to the Health and Wellbeing Board and partners to help improve the health and cancer awareness and early intervention and raise the profile of cancer awareness in the borough. The review answered the following 3 questions:

1. Why are residents of Barking and Dagenham more likely to develop cancer and less likely to survive cancer than residents in other London boroughs?
2. What is the reason that residents are less likely to respond to requests to screen for cancer than in other London boroughs?
3. What is the reason that residents are not as aware of the signs and symptoms of cancer as residents in other London Boroughs?

3 Progress report

3.1 The HASSC was consulted on the draft report in March 2017 and Councillor Worby, the Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care, and Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, also had an opportunity to view the recommendations.

3.2 The scrutiny report made 12 recommendations:

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) acts to reduce the prevalence of smokers in the borough, to levels comparable with London;
2. The HWB sets out to the HASSC what action it is taking to reduce the number of overweight and obese individuals in the borough, to levels comparable with London;
3. The HWB acts to increase residents’ awareness of how lifestyle, including exposure to the sun, can affect the likelihood of developing cancer, the signs and symptoms of cancer and the importance of early diagnosis, and screening;
4. The National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative informs the commissioners on what action it is taking to target specific ‘at risk’ groups;
5. The Barking & Dagenham Clinical Commissioning Group (BDCCG) ensures that GPs are auditing and acting on audit information to ensure that patients enter the cancer pathway appropriately, and cancer is diagnosed at as early a stage as possible;
6. The BDCCG, in partnership with Macmillan and Cancer Research UK, acts to increase the proportion of residents returning bowel cancer screening kits, within the next year;
The HWB, along with MacMillan and Cancer Research UK, acts to raise awareness of the importance of screening and to increase uptake of breast and bowel screening in the borough to a level comparable with England within the next year;

The HWB, along with MacMillan and Cancer Research UK, acts to raise awareness of the importance of screening and reduce the variation in cervical screening uptake between GP practices within the next year;

The Committee urges NHS England to make the Cancer Dashboard available within one year;

The HWB acts to raise awareness of the importance of the Health Check and reduce the variation in Health Check uptake between GP practices;

NHS England provides assurance to it that residents will continue to have in-borough access to breast screening; and

The BDCCG, working through the North-East London Cancer Commissioning Board, assures the Committee of the action it is taking to increase awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer.

The progress plan against these 12 actions is attached as Appendix 1.

4. Reading List

Officers and members will draw on the following papers throughout the review to inform the report and assist with producing recommendations:

Achieving World Class Cancer Outcomes: A strategy for England


5. Financial Implications

Implications completed by: Katherine Heffernan, Service Finance Group Manager:

This report is mainly for information, providing an update on scrutiny review and action plan for cancer prevention, awareness, and early detection in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham. As such, there are no financial implications arising directly from the report.

6. Legal Implications

Implications completed by: Dr. Paul Feild Senior Governance Lawyer
There are no specific legal implications arising from this report at this time

Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

None.

List of appendices:

HASSC DRAFT Cancer Scrutiny Report