

Oxfordshire Health & Wellbeing Board – 5 November 2015

Health Inequalities Commission

Presented by Joe McManners, GP, Clinical Chair, OCCG

Purpose of this paper

To inform the Health & Wellbeing Board as to the status of the Health Inequalities Commission.

Background

1. Earlier this year, Dr Joe McManners, Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) Clinical Chair announced his intention to the Health & Wellbeing Board to launch a multi-agency Health Inequalities Commission for Oxfordshire, to answer the question: ‘What does Oxfordshire need to do over the next 5 years to reduce health inequalities?’ with the specific objectives of:
 - a) Undertaking work with local community groups to improve understanding of barriers to accessing health services, and the causes for poor health outcomes;
 - b) Reviewing existing initiatives across the UK, and assessing their impact, evidence base and cost;
 - c) Improving shared understanding of mutual objectives for reducing health inequalities across Oxfordshire;
 - d) Recommending a tightly defined programme of work to be jointly delivered by health, local government and third sector partners over the next 2-5 years.

The Health & Well Being Board, Health Improvement Board, Oxford Strategic Partnership, Cherwell District Council and OCCG Executive Board endorsed this approach.

Objectives of the Commission

The Commission will be a ‘task and finish’ group with specific objectives:

- a) To review existing initiatives and best practice in addressing inequalities across the UK, assess their impact, evidence base and cost. The scope is to look broadly across health and society to determine what best evidence is to address the determinants of poor health;
- b) To review current programmes in Oxfordshire to support and learn from successes and to recommend next steps;
- c) To take evidence and views from stakeholders and patients/public to tackle the problem;
- d) To produce a report based on findings with recommendations.

Expected Outcomes

- a) Final report to be presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board (H&WBB);
- b) Report and H&WBB recommendations to be presented to local partners;
- c) Report to be presented at a large scale, high profile event consisting of key stakeholders, for opportunities to comment on the report;
- d) Relevant organisations to incorporate recommendations and actions into their programmes and projects for delivery and evaluation;
- e) Actions and outcomes to be reported via the refreshed Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Current Status

A Steering Group, which has a Terms of Reference, is already in situ and comprises members from OCCG, including GPs; Central Southern Commissioning Support Unit (CSCSU); Oxford Health; Oxford University Hospitals Trust (OUHT); Oxfordshire County Council Public Health and OCC Children's Services; Public Health England; Oxford City Council; Cherwell District Council and Healthwatch.

Joe McManners and Ian Hudspeth, Leader of Oxfordshire County Council, appointed an independent Chair to the Commission. Sian Griffiths is an ex Director of Public Health in Oxfordshire and also an academic and is familiar with the geography and inequality issues in Oxfordshire.

The Steering Group has developed a proposed framework for the Commission to work to, which has been verified by the Chair. The framework includes proposed membership of the Commission and members' roles; the reporting and governance structure; the inequalities themes to be in scope; communication and engagement with patients, public, voluntary and community groups and a mechanism for receiving their contributions.

A project manager will be recruited on a short term basis to assist with the research, which will be national as well as local, and will review current services and identify gaps and needs. The project manager will also provide administration to the Commission and assist with the report writing.

Progress of the Commission work will be reported to the Health & Wellbeing Board, with the final report being presented to members.