



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

E33

Council 18 June 2013

CABINET MEMBER REPORT TO FULL COUNCIL

Report by Cllr Sara Mildmay-White Deputy Leader

Portfolio includes:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Sport

- 1.1 This is my first report as Portfolio Holder with a sole focus on Health and Wellbeing. It is a topic about which I feel passionately and to which Borough services make a huge contribution. Whether it is helping to ensure appropriate housing is being built to meet the changing needs of our population or putting the concept of walkable neighbourhoods at the heart of our planning for future development, the decisions we take as Borough Councillors have a profound impact on the wellbeing of local residents.
- 1.2 We are also well placed to encourage organisations which we work with or fund, such as Abbeycroft Leisure and the voluntary sector, to seize the opportunities to work more closely with the new GP led Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) which now have the responsibility for commissioning health-care services for local people. There is a real opportunity here for GPs to put a premium on services which help keep people healthy and active. I have been very encouraged by the West Suffolk CCG's commitment to using resources within the communities it serves and helping to reduce the personal and social cost of the current levels of poor physical health which over time can also lead to poor mental health.
- 1.3 By the time of our Council meeting the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board will have met for the first time as a statutory Board. I anticipate that it will have formally adopted the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Strategy which went through Council here in February 2013 and which was approved by the shadow Board in March. I was pleased that following a debate on the second draft there was recognition of the need to include housing strategies amongst the key documents which support the Strategy. Although from a district perspective we could always argue for more emphasis on the value of strong communities and the undoubted contribution they make to a person's sense of wellbeing, I think the final strategy is a fair balance of clinical issues and a broader community perspective. Following the Board meeting I will arrange for an electronic copy

of the Strategy to be made available to all Councillors via the Members' Bulletin.

While adoption by the Board will conclude the formal decision-making, the important work is still to come. The Board now needs to use its influence to improve health outcomes for residents in Suffolk in line with the strategy. As well as identifying and giving support to joint commissioning the Board also has a role to play in championing health issues and unblocking barriers to joint working.

- 1.4 I have met with Cllr Hirst at Forest Heath and we are considering the current contributions which the two districts make to the health of our residents and trying to identify further practical ways in which we can increase the impact of our contribution. We are seeking a meeting with the Chief Operating Officer of the West Suffolk CCG and the Chairman of the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board to identify opportunities to add value at a local level as our contribution towards the achievement of the strategy.
- 1.5 One example of the added value which districts can bring is the work recently done by a multi-agency group including the councils, the CCG, the County Council and voluntary groups which has resulted in the appointment of a Falls Prevention Exercise Co-ordinator who started work on 7 May. The multi-agency group worked up a business case for the role and then successfully secured funding from the CCG to put in place an 18 month post which is being hosted by Age UK. The postholder will work with GPs, physiotherapists and other specialists in West Suffolk to map, co-ordinate, train and support new and existing community-based exercise classes for those older people who have fallen, or are at risk of falling.