

Mendip District Council

- Working to Support the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy



1.0 Introduction

Health and Wellbeing runs through the many activities that the District Council carries out, but it is with the Health and Social Care Act moving responsibilities for public health to local government, and the creation of Health and Wellbeing Boards, that there is a greater focus.

This document acts as an audit of the corporate contribution being made to health and wellbeing and also looks at the actions Mendip District Council is taking to improve the quality of life of our residents.

It is intended that this document will:

1. Contribute to a greater understanding of the overall contributions from Mendip District Council to the Somerset Health and Well-Being Board priorities.
2. Show how partners across our area are coming together to support health and wellbeing.
3. Identify where joint working should bring increased outcomes or efficiencies.
4. Identify good practice that could be shared between partners across Somerset.
5. Provide a clear link from the Health and Wellbeing Board priorities to our own council work.
6. Identify community-led action that plays an important role to encourage healthier lifestyles.

2.0 Linking the Corporate Plan to Health and Wellbeing

Mendip District Council's current Corporate Plan runs from 2012 -2015

Its key priorities are:

1. Take a clear strategic and community leadership role for the district



2. Support business development and growth
3. Take all steps possible to support the provision of housing in the district
4. Improve the understanding of the rurality of Mendip

And within these priorities it states the following more specifically;

- The council must play a leading role in shaping the district, improving the health and wellbeing of our residents, and helping to achieve the aspirations of local people through strong community leadership.
- We intend working with our many partners to improve the health and wellbeing of people in the district by helping to improve the standard of housing in Mendip.

3.0 Linking with Partners to Support the Health and Wellbeing Strategy

As part of the work to identify priorities for the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy the District Council held two consultation events in 2012 inviting a wide range of people and organisations to share their views on what was important. The feedback received was very positive and also identified a desire from those attending to form a local health and wellbeing board that could address local issues while also contributing to the Somerset strategic priorities that were developing.

The Mendip area has three GP federations and the feedback from their representatives in particular was that a platform where the priorities from each federation, and their developing health forums, could be feed into wider community action would be seen as a positive way forward.

As consequence of this feedback terms of reference for a Mendip Health and Wellbeing Board were agreed in December 2012 and the board, chaired by the Mendip representative of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board, Cllr Nigel Woollcombe-Adams, now meets quarterly.

Both the feedback from the consultation events regarding Somerset priorities and the Terms of Reference for the Mendip board can be seen in the appendices of this document.

The local health and wellbeing board has been keen to not only support the priorities of the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy but articulated a wish to focus on some key local priorities that would allow them to look at how partners services might be realigned to deliver improvements for local residents. To this end the Mendip Health and Wellbeing Board has identified the following three priorities that they are collectively addressing to meet the wider Somerset Strategy:

Area 1 – Mapping transport routes and health service provision

Aim: To ensure that no-one in the district is unable to easily access a range of health services

Action : To identify those parts of the district here it is not possible to access health services locally or to get easy public transport to them elsewhere. From this to then bring together the work going on in the voluntary sector to create ways of enabling access to services be it via local voluntary groups, helpers, use of the targeted outreach support etc.

Somerset Health Wellbeing Priority Supported: 1, 2 and 3

Area 2 – Improving employment opportunities

Aim: To improve employment opportunities for people in the district, help those out of work to gain employment and those in low skilled jobs to gain skills to move upwards.

Action: Shape Mendip Employment work stream that brings together this work for Mendip to be used as the vehicle to drive this forward this forwards with reports back to the H&WB

Somerset Health Wellbeing Priority Supported: 1,2

Area 3 - Reducing deprivation and improving the wellbeing of targeted groups

Aim: To focus on three of the poorest performing wards in Mendip to identify elements of deprivation and focus support in these areas to improve outcomes for vulnerable people in these wards

Action: To look at Frome Market, Shepton East, and Glastonbury St Benedicts, identify key areas of weakness and work with partners to realign key service elements that could improve the circumstances of people in these wards.

Somerset Health Wellbeing Priority Supported: 2,3

4.0 Normal Service Delivery to Support Public Health Outcomes

The District Council' Network publication 'District Action on Public Health' identifies the fact that the public health reforms have enhanced the district council role in improving healthy outcomes for local people. It indicates that these fall into three main areas namely:

- Health Protection
- Health Improvements
- Wider Determinants of Health



While many will instantly think of environmental health as being a District Council's contributor to these areas there are in fact a whole range of services provided that help support public health improvements. Within appendix A we have listed the services provided by Mendip and where they support one of the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

5.0 Mendip District Council enhanced offer to the Health and Wellbeing themes

As well as the normal service deliver that the District Council provides in support of health and wellbeing, and the new areas that our local health and wellbeing board has identified as important to them, our Corporate Delivery Plan and Operational Plans identify other areas of work that give additional support. Key examples of this are as follows:

Priority One : People, families and communities take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing

Helping communities to understand their own needs and take responsibility for addressing their needs is a key priority. Resources amongst partners are becoming more and more scarce and by helping people, and the community, to help themselves not only will they benefit but services providers will be better able to support those with more critical needs.

Action – Community action

The Health and Wellbeing Board will give greater support for community-led action to encourage healthier lifestyles. Examples of action include developing local health walks and other community action as well as developing a more joined-up approach to providing information about local opportunities.

In addition to our core work we will:

- Secure the future of the Wells Recreation Ground and Bishop's Barn to support the community's needs and our play strategy.
- Use the Wells Sports Hub project to help the local sports clubs develop and broaden the opportunities they can offer the community.
- Identify effective uses of S106 monies to offer greater opportunities for wellbeing.
- To work with the community of Coleford as they develop the Coleford Project and identify their needs.

- Support Food Safety Week with partners and promote food hygiene in the home.

Action – Healthy planning and policy

The Health and Wellbeing Board will ensure that health and wellbeing is given due consideration in planning and other policy decisions to maximise the positive impact of our environment on healthy lifestyles. Examples of action could include identification of community food growing spaces and use of planning to influence the position of takeaways.

In addition to our core work we will work:

- To adopt a Local Plan that focuses on improvements to the District for the well being of our communities.
- In partnership with the Safer Somerset Partnership to tackle crime and the fear of crime.
- To deliver a new Leisure Strategy for the District.
- To meet the aspirations of our Play Strategy.
- To use the planning process to deliver green space for the community.

Action – Prevention first

The Health and Wellbeing Board will be used alongside other impact assessments, when developing new local policy, taking significant decisions on services and during commissioning processes. It will help organisation give due consideration to how the work aligns and contributes to the themes within this strategy and give particular emphasis on focusing greater attention on prevention.

In addition to our core work we will work:

- To ensure that dangerous buildings in our district are properly managed.
- To use are actions under the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control to support prevention.
- To promote no smoking in children's play areas.
- To actively address fly tipping and graffiti to promote a message of zero tolerance.
- To deliver our new Leisure Strategy.

Priority Two: Families and communities are thriving and resilient

A thriving and resilient community has a greater sense of wellbeing. Families are more able to cope with challenges that they may face without longer term adverse effects. With this in mind Mendip will be supporting this priority in the following key areas.

Action – Well-connected, vibrant communities

There will be a much greater focus on supporting neighbourhoods and communities to take responsibility for shaping and transforming their own lives and their local services. Examples of action include the development of local forums which inform community and health services.

In addition to our core work we will:

- Use 'Invest in Mendip' to help deliver jobs and raise the opportunities for economic wellbeing across the District.
- Meet our commitment under the Armed Forces Covenant to ensure that those who have given for our communities received support back.
- To work with the Mendip Mobile Advice Service and help local communities identify the areas of need.
- To use the 'Coleford Project' to develop a model for community support.
- To approve a Local Development Order for the Bath and West to regenerate the area, using input from local representatives to shape the LDO.
- To set up an Enterprise Fund that will allow local businesses to develop and offer greater opportunities to local people.
- To work to meet our commitments under the Local Government Declaration on Tobacco Control
- To work with the local Chamber of Commerce across the District to award grants to support new small business development.
- To use the opportunities coming from the Hinkley C Project to give our communities opportunities to develop benefits to their wellbeing.
- Work to increase the delivery of rural exceptions sites.
- To implement the Community Trigger Scheme.

Action – Improving educational attainment

The Health and Wellbeing Board will focus on continuing to improve educational attainment at GCSE and foundation level with particular focus given to the groups with lowest attainment. Examples of action include work to support families to prepare children for starting school.

In addition to our core work we will:

- Work within the Family Focus programme to help support children to become ready for school and increase school attendance.
- Support the aspirations of the Somerset Early Help Strategy to give all children the chance to achieve their educational potential.

Action – Supporting families and people with low resilience

There will be specific focus on working with the least resilient families and people in our communities and ensuring smooth access to relevant and tailored services. Examples of action include the development of a Troubled Families Programme and specific work with excluded and/or vulnerable groups. 16

In addition to our core work we will:

- Build on the successes of the first year of our Family Focus Programme to adapt services, with partners, to support families in need.
- Develop the P21 work at the Shape Mendip Hub to support families with young people in times of need.
- To use our knowledge of areas of disadvantage in the District with our local partners to focus resources to give support.
- To continue to work with our partners at Wessex Reinvestment Trust to provide low cost loans to enable them to live in decent accommodation.
- To provide support and guidance on the changes through Universal Credit, working with Mendip CAB.
- To deliver year 2 of the action of our Homelessness Strategy.
- Work to co-ordinate effective support for gypsy and traveller accommodation, recognising that this is a key platform for health and wellbeing.
- Provide training for vulnerable people to help them maintain sustained tenancies.

Priority Three : Somerset people are able to live independently

This priority acknowledges the importance of a place to live and the right to live independently. Both young people and older people face specific issues in this regards in Somerset, with the increasing age of our population requiring careful planning for the future. With this in mind Mendip will be supporting this priority in the following key areas:

Action – Housing for independence

There needs to be an increased focus on the changing housing needs of the Somerset population, with particular focus given to widening the housing options for achieving



and maintaining independent living. Examples of action include delivery of the Somerset Vision for Housing through a joined-up Somerset Housing Strategy, which also considers issues of affordability, benefit changes and fuel poverty and housing conditions. 17

In addition to our core work we will work:

- To meet our target on reducing fuel poverty.
- To promote the Green Deal and similar schemes to help people afford to stay in their homes.
- To use our Landlords Forum to promote support for good housing standards.
- To ensure that houses in multiple occupation are inspected and safe to occupy.
- To continue to be a member of the Somerset Home Improvement Agency.
- To run a community energy pilot to help people come together to get cheaper energy.
- To review our asset base to identify land that could be used to provide affordable homes to meet the needs of the future demography.

Action – Support for carers

The Health and Wellbeing Board will ensure support for carers is integrated across health and social care. Examples of action include the setting up of a new universal service for carers in Somerset and establishing a Carers Partnership Board.

In addition to our core work we will:

- Use our Housing, Health Care and Support Strategy for Older People to support carers needs.
- Support Compass Carers by bringing our services to support carers needs.

Action – Joining-up of support services

Integrated health and social care will be developed across the county to support people to regain and maintain their independence for as long as possible. Examples of action include extending Integrated Living Teams across the county.

In addition to our core work we will:

- Use Shape Mendip to bring greater integration between our own teams and the Integrated Living Teams.
- Support the P4A team work by tailoring housing options help.

- Work with the three GP Federations within Mendip to link District services and the voluntary sector offer to give better co-ordinated support to people in need.
 - Work to ensure that the Somerset Family Focus programme using its learning to help all partners find ways to work collectively.
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6.0 Conclusion

The needs of our community are important to the District Council and we hope that our support for the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy and its aspirations can be seen through the actions we have carried out so far and aim to achieve over the next few years. Mendip District Council would like to thank all our partners for their work and commitment to improving health and wellbeing in our area, we could not achieve these things without them.



Nigel Woolcombe-Adams
Mendip Representative on the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

Appendix A – Services that support health and wellbeing

Activity	Priority		
	1	2	3
Food safety	✓	✓	
Streetscene		✓	
Pest control		✓	
Refuse collection & recycling		✓	
Civil contingencies		✓	
Homelessness		✓	
Housing Standards		✓	✓
Welfare support			✓
Building control			✓
Licensing	✓	✓	
Environmental protection		✓	
Community safety	✓	✓	
Leisure	✓	✓	
Heritage and conservation	✓	✓	
Voluntary and parish development	✓	✓	
Land use planning			✓
Housing Options	✓	✓	✓
Health and safety	✓	✓	

Enhanced activities that the services deliver

Activity	Priority		
	1	2	3
Protect community health with regular safety inspections of food outlets, licensed premises, taxis and businesses	✓	✓	✓
Work in partnership to promote food safety on a budget	✓	✓	
Work with partners as part of 'Smokefree Somerset' to reduce smoking within the community	✓	✓	✓

Activity	Priority		
	1	2	3
Identify and assess Homes in Multiple Occupation, and take steps to improve premises where necessary		✓	
Review licensing of caravan sites and roll out licensing to privatised Gypsy sites within Mendip	✓	✓	
Ensure, with partners, that we respond effectively to community safety concerns raised by local people and that the strategic priorities for policing and crime reduction in Mendip reflect local needs.	✓	✓	
Work with parishes to identify and address local issues locally	✓	✓	
Work with partners to deal with 'high contact families' with complex social and other needs	✓	✓	✓
Work with partners to help communities to develop a strategy, schemes and local solutions to reduce rural isolation and inequalities to meet existing needs of those communities.	✓	✓	✓
Support people into work and minimise the impact to our residents of the major changes to housing and council tax benefits proposed by the Government.	✓	✓	✓
Make optimum use of resources for home adaptations each year to enable people to live independently.	✓	✓	✓
With partners, enable additional new homes to meet the needs of the district, including mixed housing schemes to buy or rent that are affordable.	✓	✓	✓
Ensuring contributions from developers are made towards the infrastructure requirements (affordable housing, education, highways, sports, arts and leisure, and community buildings) for every new home built.		✓	
Provide low interest loans to gypsies and travellers to enable them to improve their standard of living accommodation and create CLTs.	✓	✓	
Continue to work with partners to improve poor housing conditions in the private sector, where they exist.		✓	✓
Work with landlords via the landlords forum and through the landlords	✓	✓	

Activity	Priority		
	1	2	3
accreditation scheme to ensure good housing standards in the private rented sector .			
License and inspect houses in multiple occupation to ensure standards are met.		✓	✓
Work with partners to combat fuel poverty.	✓	✓	✓
Through our new core services contract, deliver schemes with local communities that enhance the appearance of their local areas.	✓	✓	
Deliver campaigns and projects that help householders and businesses (including the council) to cut energy use and adapt to climate change.	✓	✓	
Promote the Green Deal and similar schemes that enable householders and businesses to make existing buildings more energy efficient.	✓	✓	
Work to reduce and/or eliminate air, water or land pollution	✓	✓	✓
Continue to support communities to minimise flood water risks.		✓	
Work with partners to provide support and assistance to those businesses and individuals facing redundancy and preventing it where possible.	✓		
Work with partners, to contribute to improving skills and tackling youth unemployment.	✓		
Improve access to affordable housing in rural areas through a community land trust framework and a rural lettings policy		✓	✓
Minimise homelessness by creating and delivering a countywide homeless strategy and through provision of advice, support and housing options.	✓	✓	✓
Delivering a countywide homeless strategy	✓	✓	✓
Work in partnership to bring empty homes back into use		✓	
Develop leisure and play strategies	✓	✓	
Improve access to public services through the public sector Hub	✓		

Activity	Priority		
	1	2	3
Work with key voluntary sector organisations to support communities	✓	✓	

Appendix B – Terms of Reference of the Mendip Health and Wellbeing Board

PURPOSE

1.1 To work to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities in Mendip.

TASKS/OBJECTIVES

2.1 To drive forward an agreed programme of work to address the priorities identified within the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2.2 To ensure that the specific needs to the residents of Mendip are identified and focused on when addressing the priorities within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

2.3 To co-ordinate work between the organisations and strategic partnerships in order to deliver the strategic priorities and its related work programme.

2.4 To advise the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board, through the Mendip Board member, on the health and wellbeing needs in Mendip.

2.5 To identify links and gaps between organisations working on improving health and wellbeing in Mendip and work to remove blockages.

2.6 To work to improve communications between all parties working on Health and Wellbeing and the residents of the Mendip area.

MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

3.1 The Board will operate as a partnership.

3.2 The terms of reference for the group will be reviewed on an annual basis.

3.3 Agendas and papers for the meeting will be sent out at least five working days prior to the meeting. The action points of the meeting will be sent out following the meeting.

3.4 Membership of the Board will be made up of representatives from:

HEALTH

Central Mendip GP Federation



East Mendip GP Federation
West Mendip GP Federation
The Somerset Partnership
NHS Somerset

VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Mendip CAB
Mendip YMCA
Mendip Community Support

HOUSING

Aster Communities (on behalf of Mendip's registered providers and with responsibility to report back to other providers)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Mendip District Council (Max 3 Councillors, with officers only to attend as support where necessary)
Representatives from the five major centres of Street, Glastonbury, Wells, Shepton Mallet and Frome

3.5 Members of the Board should do the following:

- commit to attending the majority of meetings
- act as a conduit between the Board and their organisations

Appendix C – Feedback from Mendip Consultation on Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

Note from Mendip Health and Wellbeing Event of 24th September 2012

The Mendip Health and Wellbeing Event saw a series of presentations looking at the proposed priorities in the Somerset Strategy and projects being carried out locally that are helping to improve health and wellbeing.

Following these presentations attendees broke into groups to discuss the priorities, identify activities being carried out locally to address these, record gaps that they felt would affect achievement of the priorities and future projects that could be implemented in partnership for the benefit of the community.

Top Level Feedback

- Attendees were broadly supportive of the priorities identified
- The inverted triangle used to identify how the strategy will be put into action was well received.
- Mapping of current services/support was seen as a vital first step for the aims of the strategy to be effectively met
- Transport issues for communities are seen as a key area that the strategy is failing to acknowledge sufficiently
- Communication both now, and on an ongoing basis, is seen as vital to achieve success with calls for a website to allow signposting/highlighting of events, sharing of best practice, forums for discussing issues.
- Attendees felt that for communities and individuals to feel able to engage in the ways required there will need to be strong support and training mechanisms in place to help people get started. Getting involved initially requires bravery/confidence that many lack.

The meeting identified a comprehensive set of areas for future work and issues that it felt needed to be addressed to achieve success. It was agreed that these issues would be collated and fed back at another meeting later in the year to allow partners to agree future joint actions. There was a strong sense that for the strategy to engage local people there was a need not only to build a strong communications vehicle but to implement a number of key actions that could be promoted to build momentum and help members of the community feel able to get involved.

Next Steps

The meeting agreed that a move to create an ongoing local health and wellbeing board to implement activities would be helpful; another meeting is to be held in early December when a terms of reference for the board will be considered.

MDC agreed to collate the feedback from this meeting and feed it back to attendees identifying key messages from the meeting and possible areas for action to meet the strategy priorities.