



Health and Wellbeing Board

7 October 2015

Report title	Infant Mortality Health Scrutiny Review	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Sandra Samuels Public Health and Wellbeing	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Linda Sanders	People
Originating service	Public Health	
Accountable employee(s)	Ros Jervis Glenda Augustine Tel Email	Director Public Health Consultant in Public Health 01902 551372 ros.jervis@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by	People Leadership Team Public Health Senior Management Team Cabinet	1 June 2015 18 June 2015 22 July 2015

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to approve:

- The recommendations proposed within the Health Scrutiny Infant Mortality Review

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to note:

- The close alignment of the proposed recommendations to the Wolverhampton Infant Mortality Action Plan 2015 - 2018

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the recommendations of the Health Scrutiny Infant Mortality Review which was undertaken from July 2014 to March 2015 to gather evidence in relation to the issue of infant mortality in Wolverhampton.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The National Child Health Profiles published in March 2014 indicated that Wolverhampton had the highest rate of infant mortality in England. The average rate of infant mortality between 2010 and 2012 was 7.7 deaths per 1,000 live births compared to the England average of 4.3 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- 2.2 This high rate of infant mortality raised concerns across health and social care organisations and resulted in the convening of a multi-agency infant mortality working group in May 2014.
- 2.3 A Health Scrutiny Review commenced in July 2014 to assess the effectiveness of current and future work aimed at addressing modifiable factors that are the main causes of infant mortality in Wolverhampton. The review group met on seven occasions to consider written and verbal evidence from local and regional organisational and professional representatives.
- 2.4 A key element of the scrutiny review was the city-wide Infant Mortality Action Plan that was presented to and approved by the Health & Wellbeing Board on the 4 March 2015.

3.0 Health Scrutiny Review Infant Mortality

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Review is a comprehensive summary of current services, policies and practices to address the high rate of infant mortality in Wolverhampton. There was in-depth discussion on the main causes of infant mortality and identification of gaps in service provision that could improve maternal and infant outcomes (see appendix one).
- 3.2 The detailed consideration of the evidence presented to the Review group resulted in the development of 12 recommendations outlined in the executive report that can be found at appendix two.
- 3.3 Primarily the recommendations highlight the:
 - importance of co-ordinating local efforts to tackle the underlying causes of infant mortality in Wolverhampton
 - need for a strategic and co-ordinated response to tackling the modifiable causes of infant mortality in Wolverhampton
 - need to respond to challenge of poverty and deprivation

- importance of changing practice and policies alongside the application of learning based on reliable new evidence of impact and effectiveness

- 3.4 The Scrutiny Review recommendations endorse the Wolverhampton Infant Mortality Action Plan produced by the Infant Mortality Working Group (IMWG). The IMWG is chaired by the Director of Public Health who will also be responsible for co-ordinating progress reports on delivery/implementation of the Scrutiny Review recommendations.
- 3.5 On 22 July the Infant Mortality Scrutiny Review was presented to and approved by Cabinet.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 Funding for Public Health is provided to the Council by the Department of Health in the form of a ring-fenced grant. The initial funding allocation for Public Health for 2015/16 is £19.3 million, this is subject to a half year funding reduction for which consultation is currently in progress to determine the actual impact of the proposed announcement on the Council.
- 4.2 Public Health related recommendations will be contained within the Public Health ring-fenced grant.

[JF/24092015/E]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 There are no anticipated legal implications to this report.RB/25092015/L

6.0 Equalities implications

- 6.1 There are no equalities implications related to this report .

7.0 Environmental implications

- 7.1 There are no environmental implications related to this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

- 8.1 There are no anticipated human resource implications related to this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 9.1 This report does not have any implications for the Council's property portfolio.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 Draft Infant Mortality Action Plan – Health & wellbeing Board
Scrutiny Review of Infant Morality – Final Report & Executive
Response - Cabinet

4 March 2015

22 July 2015