

Item No. 13.	Classification: Open	Date: 19 June 2012	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Response to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-committee's Review of Childhood Obesity and Sports Provision for Secondary and Primary Children	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	

FOREWORD – COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

The service seeks and welcomes feedback which enables it to improve the health and well-being of the children, young people and adults of Southwark, and we continue to identify areas for improvement. The education and children's services scrutiny sub-committee's report and recommendations are received in this context. The recommendations will support the service and ensure that all families in Southwark receive the support and information they may need to live healthy lifestyles.

Of the 55 recommendations of the sub-committee we are already performing 47 as part of our commitment to reducing the levels of childhood obesity, 8 are for partner agencies to deliver. Of the 47 remaining the response to the recommendations in the main report detail of how these will be progressed with comments on what we will do to support those recommendations that are for partner agencies to deliver.

Children's services recognises that there are many complex inter-related factors which lead to childhood obesity including biology, physical activity, societal influences and the food environment. With this in mind the children's trust requested a joint review be carried out, using a 'community lens', to better understand the complex picture facing our communities. The findings of the review that took place between September 2011 and March 2012 will inform further work on reducing childhood obesity. The review will be published shortly.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Agree the response to the recommendations of the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee.
2. Agree the action plan attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee

3. On 12 July 2010, the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee decided to conduct a review of childhood obesity and sports provision for secondary and primary children. The review's findings and 55 recommendations were presented to cabinet on 17 April 2012. Cabinet agreed that the recommendations be noted. There are twenty eight recommendations that the chair and vice chair have identified as priorities and which are shown as shaded on the report. Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, cabinet member for children's services was

asked to bring back a report to cabinet, in order to respond to the overview and scrutiny committee, by June 2012.

Report summary

4. The aim of the review was to make recommendations to the cabinet for improvements to the education of children on healthy eating and the dangers of obesity, and to examine whether sports provision is adequate.
5. Evidence was gathered from officers from Southwark Council and Public Health; Bacon's College's schools sport partnership submitted a written report; the sub-committee's education representatives gave evidence and evidence was also gathered from the Council Assembly themed debate: 'Sports and Young People'. This included a range of one to one interviews conducted through outreach and community council and council assembly debates, deputations and questions.
6. The report contained 55 recommendations, these, broadly, include steps to: implement healthy eating and physical activity policies among the early years sector and to restrict the licensing of new hot food takeaways.
7. Children's services broadly accept the recommendations made by the sub-committee. This report contains a detailed response to each of the 55 recommendations and a summary action plan is included in Appendix 1.

Response to recommendations

8. The report and its recommendations complement the on-going work Children Services and its local partners are engaged in. It is encouraging to note that we are already doing the vast majority of recommended actions, and will ensure that the foci highlighted by report are maintained and/or increased going forward.
9. It must be noted that a number of the recommendations fall out with the control of the council, such as those relating to schools, which control their own budgets. The council will continue to work with its partners to promote healthy lifestyles.
10. In addition, the outcome from the children's trust's joint review will provide further opportunities to develop and enhance support for the borough's children, young people and families. The review took a community focus to better understand the viewpoint of our communities and stakeholders, and seek solutions from the 'bottom up', engaging our communities in this priority. Its final report is due to be published imminently.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Recommendations from sub-committee/response

11. The education and children's services sub-committee made 55 recommendations, to which responses are set out below. There are twenty eight recommendations that the chair and vice chair have identified as priorities and which are noted in this report as marked "priority".

Early Years

Recommendation 1 (priority)

Implement NICE guidance (2010) for maternal obesity 'Weight management for before and after pregnancy'. Local authority leisure and community services should offer women with babies and children the opportunity to take part in a range of physical or recreational activities, that are affordable,

accessible, with provision made for women who wish to breastfeed and, where possible, crèche provision.

Response

There has been significant investment in promoting healthy eating/living in the early years, including the promotion of NICE guidance by health professionals. Specifically a maternity and early years multi agency group has been set up to promote and implement best practice. In Children's Centres parents and young children have access to a range of physical and recreational activities as well as breastfeeding cafes.

Recommendation 2 (priority)

Develop and implement consistent healthy eating and physical activity policies across Soutwark Children's Centres and other early year's settings including child minders, private and voluntary nurseries that promote breastfeeding and ensure compatibility with the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and Caroline Walker Trust nutrition guidelines.

Response

All centres have healthy eating policies and support from the community nutrition team, and there are a range of programmes across the network such as breastfeeding clinics, cook & eat, let's get walking and fitness classes such as pilates or salsa. Soutwark are piloting the Eat Better Start Better programme ahead of National rollout to audit healthy eating practice in Early years settings, and train staff on implementing the national voluntary guidelines for food and drink.

Recommendation 3

Develop and carefully promote courses using professional chefs on cooking, shopping and nutrition through aspirational marketing to appeal to parents and carers in Sure Start Children's Centres and other early years' settings.

Response

Healthy Eating programmes are delivered in Children's Centres led by the community nutrition team. Through the Eat Better Start Better programme a range of early years practitioners are being trained to deliver such practical nutrition courses to parents with support from community nutritionists who use Change4Life campaign resources to help parents with shopping and cooking on a budget. Our view is that this method is likely to be more sustainable than using professional chefs

Recommendation 4

Encourage all nursery staff, including catering staff, to attend under 5's physical activity and nutrition training to support implementation of policies. Extend also to anyone caring for a child under 5.

Response

Early years settings are being trained through the Eat Better Start Better programme, including some catering staff. The next stage of the programme is to roll out their learning to parents using their settings. Grub4ilife has operated in Early Years centres which supports training of nursery chefs to produce quality meals and implementation of food policy. NICE guidance on physical activity for under 5's and 5-11yr olds will be included in Healthy Weight training offered.

Recommendation 5

Implement the 'Eat better, Start better' or HENRY programme in Sure Start Children's Centres, and other early years' settings, and ensure it is embedded in early years' practice.

Response

The "Eat Better, Start Better" programme is a national pilot that Southwark succeeded in applying for and the HENRY training is a bought-in service. Eat Better Start Better provides an audit tool with which early years practitioners can review food provision and practice in settings; this process will be rolled out to a range of settings by quality improvement officers and undertaken by nutritionists in Children Centres reviewing Children Centre food policy. HENRY is specialised training commissioned by Southwark PCT for health visitors to skill them in motivational interviewing on child obesity in under 5s (this may be carried out through their work in children centres, clinics and home visits).

Recommendation 6 (priority)

Develop initiatives which target parental obesity of both mothers and fathers as a priority.

Response

Parents in early years settings have been offered training to start up healthy activities including buggy walks. Parents are also being targeted from the top 10 schools for obesity to participate in Shop, Cook and Eat programmes, access physical activities and sport through Get Active London and MEND programmes which take a whole family approach to healthy weight.

Recommendation 7 (priority)

Undertake a pilot early years local weighing programme with a children's centre. Build on the Health Visitor practice of weighing children at 2 years and use this as a way of particularly targeting at risk parents and children and then signposting them to nutritional and exercise advice & programmes.

Response

We have established an early years healthy weight group which is exploring how to build on the measurement work health visitors already carry out; it is intended that this work is developmental, rather than a full programme, so is in keeping with the pilot idea in this recommendation.

Schools and the Universal Free School Meals

Recommendations for schools

Recommendation 8

Ensure a whole school approach to implementing the universal free school meals programme by involving all staff, children, parents, governors and the wider school community in developing a plan.

Response

A substantial amount of investment has been committed to improving the health of school children through the Free Healthy School Meals (FHSM) initiative which includes promoting whole-school approach. A programme has been developed offering whole school support to 10 schools initially.

Recommendation 9

Promote the uptake of school meals and nutrition based standards by working towards, or achieving, at least the Bronze Food for Life award and ideally the Silver award.

Response

Schools are encouraged to work towards Food for Life Partnership Awards. The FHSM programme includes the promotion of the nutrient and food based standards.

Recommendation 10 (priority)

Ensure that all primary and secondary school meals are nutritious and tasty at the point of delivery. Promote training for governors, who have responsibility for school meal provision.

Response

Governors are responsible for ensuring the meals provided meet the school food based standards and the nutrient standards for school lunch. However, Children's Services staff (governor training) and FHSM with staff from public health are providing training to governors. A session was delivered in November 2011 and another session is scheduled for June 2012.

Our schools are generally strong promoters of healthy eating and living, and the council strongly encourages where it can within the context of schools controlling their own budgets. For example, to support schools the council has developed a healthy school toolkit for headteachers and governors, which is accessible on the Southwark website.

Recommendation 11

Promote health literacy in schools throughout the curriculum, including PSHE classes.

Response

This is within the schools remit and Southwark schools are generally strong promoters of healthy eating and living, and the council strongly encourages where it can within the context of schools controlling their own budgets for example through the promotion of health literacy. Schools are offered support with health colleagues to develop a whole school approach to promoting health and wellbeing and advise schools on NICE Guidance on food and physical activity to support curriculum development. Healthy literacy is widely promoted and shared through the schools Change4Life network and Change4Life sports clubs.

Recommendation 12 (priority)

Make links between growing food, urban agriculture and nutritional education. Connect with local allotments and city farms. Grow food at the school.

Response

This is the responsibility of schools however through the FHSM programme, schools are advised how to ensure that lunches are nutritious, including encouraging schools to grow their own food and use sustainable food sources. They are encouraged to sign up to best practise programmes such as the Food for Life Partnership and follow sustainable practices.

The open spaces strategy expects proposals for new housing developments to include proposals to improve allotment provision or other food growing opportunities, especially in the north of the borough, as well as providing advice and support to promote urban agriculture.

Health have worked with Southwark Schools in Bloom programme to demonstrate links between food growing and good nutrition. Resources are available to share through Southwark Council and Southwark PCT website.

Recommendation 13 (priority)

Increase the quantity and quality of sport and physical activity throughout the school day including curriculum, lunchtime and after school.

Response

Within the context of schools controlling their own budgets, the council strongly encourages schools where it can to increase the quality and quantity of sport and physical activity throughout the school day.

The council has currently funded until April 2013, sports coaching and delivery in schools and within the community setting for 8-16 year olds. Sports coaching takes place within the school day (20-30 hours per week which includes after school organised games) and there are sessions on estates, youth centres and open spaces in early evening, school holidays and weekends.

All of the coaches have multiple industry recognised qualifications to deliver a wide range of sports for young people to participate in school and out. In addition to this the community sports development team are up skilling and working on building capacity with a number of voluntary sector organisations to deliver sport in schools. An example of this is the works being done with Peckham Pride basketball Club.

The community sport team will work with others to secure future funding and support.

Recommendation 14 (priority)

Provide at least 3 hours of sports provision and that includes a 45 minutes of constant cardio-vascular movement, through developing in house expertise or via Southwark's 'Superstar Challenge'. Time spent travelling to and from the activity should not be counted

Response

The community sport team own and deliver the Southwark Superstar Challenge Project. The Superstar Challenge is a specialist, successful yet resource heavy programme with outcomes based around health benefits, education and weight loss of young people. This is different to other projects which normally focus on attendances and participation targets.

Recommendation 15

Invest in training staff in coaching skills, through in house expertise, linking with outside expertise or via the Bacon's partnership.

Response

The council continues to invest in the skills of coaches and staff to ensure that they are able to deliver courses and activities which impact upon the health and wellbeing of young people.

Recommendation 16

Encourage active and outdoor play in schools during playtime.

Response

Through the Council and London Schools Sports Partnership programmes pupils are encouraged and coached in activities which can be transferred to the playgrounds during break times. The 'Superstar Challenge' is one of the best ways to educate pupils on the benefits and fun of leading an active and healthy lifestyle.

Recommendation 17 (priority)

Improve links with voluntary sports clubs and consider providing free or subsidised space and championing their activities

Response

Children's Services promote links between schools and voluntary groups and fund a wide range of activities through youth commissioning.

One of the main roles of the Community Sport Development Team is improve links with voluntary sports clubs, increase their capacity to deliver sport and deliver projects aimed at these clubs within the borough. Examples of such projects include national ('Sportivate' and 'Sports Makers'), regional ('Get Active London' and 'FreeSport') and local ('Legacy Makers') projects in addition to coordinating 'Proactive Southwark' the Community Sport and Physical Activity Network.

The Community Sports Team has an allocation of free or subsidised sports space at the leisure centres and Burgess Park Community Sport Centre which it works with the voluntary sector, Parks and Fusion to utilise and thus champion the activities of local clubs.

Work is also ongoing with a number of clubs housed at the Council's sports grounds. Assistance with funding, networking opportunities and training are a few examples of the work being carried out to ensure the sustainability of the clubs going forward.

Local Authority and Partners

Recommendation 18

Provide an option for schools to buy in the 'Superstars Challenge'; integrating the 'Superstars Challenge' with the free school meal offer may be an ideal opportunity to embed this initiative in schools.

Response

The Community Sport Team own and deliver the Southwark Superstar Challenge Project. The Superstars Challenge is a specialist, successful yet resource heavy programme with outcomes based around health benefits, education and weight loss of young people. This is different to other projects which normally focus on attendances and participation targets.

Recommendation 19 (priority)

Provide training for governors, who have responsibility for school meal provision, in ensuring tasty meals at the point of delivery, meeting high nutritional standards and an increasing uptake of school meals.

Response

Agreed. We will consider the option to offer governors training on healthy eating for schools to purchase in addition to that being offered in partnership with colleagues from health.

Recommendation 20

Promote the Food for Life standards to all schools.

Response

There has been substantial investment in improving the health of school children through the FHSM programme, which includes a Southwark council FHSM toolkit with guidance for all schools on how to work towards Food for Life Partnership Award.

Recommendation 21 (priority)

Provide an option for schools to buy in coaching from Bacon's College to enable teachers to gain the skills to become effective coaches and understand health literacy.

Response

Southwark's schools are generally strong promoters of healthy eating and living. All schools have the option to buy in the services of the London PE and Schools Sports Network based at Bacon's College (formally the Bacon's School Sports Partnership).

The Network is currently delivering a Change4Life health and wellbeing programme with primary schools and parental workshops on 'Health Literacy' are being delivered in June 2012.

Schools also have the opportunity to access a wealth of teacher training sessions to increase participation, improve skills and developed excellence for various age groups and abilities.

Recommendation 22 (priority)

Work with Bacon's College to ensure that the learning developed by the Bacon's Partnership Health and Wellbeing programme on health literacy is captured and available for schools to utilize through a pack, Inset day, or other suitable method.

Response

The Health and Wellbeing programme is integrated into a package of whole school support for 10 priority schools and delivered through Change4Life sports clubs in these schools. Information about the programme will be made available to all schools via webFronter.

Recommendation 23

Continue to maintain investment in MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition, Do-it!) programme so that children can be referred to this from the child weighing programme, and in other ways.

Response

The NHS PCT Health Improvement Team are continuing to fund MEND which will run for at least this financial year and are working with the clinical commissioning group to secure sustainable funding.

Recommendation 24 (priority)

Promote partnership work between sports clubs and schools.

Response

There has been substantial investment in improving the health of school children through the FHSM programme, which includes promoting links between schools and sports clubs.

Olympic and Paralympics values are demonstrated through work plans with the Community Sport Team and the School Games programme. Work is underway to align the Inclusive and Active 2 strategy with sports club activities and physical activity promoted through the GET SET network and Change4Life in schools. Public Health, London South Bank University and Community Sports Team are developing a piece of work on behalf of Proactive Southwark to support schools and communities to better engage with and promote sports and physical activity offered by local groups and clubs via the online Get Active London directory. This will encourage schools and clubs to be aware of what each other are offering at a very local level.

Recommendation 25

Promote active travel - ensuring every school has a healthy travel plan that encourages active travel i.e. walking and cycling to school.

Response

The council's Sustainable modes of travel strategy 2011 sets out how the council plan to promote sustainable travel for children and young people in the borough and includes the objective 'Develop, implement and monitor travel plans in all schools and further education institutions.' By 2011, 104 schools in Southwark had completed a travel plan.

Recommendation 26

Provide pedestrian and cyclist training for schools.

Response

The Transport plan 2011 includes the policy: 'Continue to support improving skills and knowledge to travel sustainably'. Southwark offers free cycle training in schools to all primary school children (focused on year five and six pupils). In 2010/11 507 students were trained at school and a further 117 children / young people were trained as part of the general cycle training programme. The council also offers free pedestrian training to schools and in 2010/11 training was delivered at 41 schools reaching over 2,000 students.

Recommendation 27

Promote a greater understanding of health through the child weighing programme. Consider screening more effectively for metabolic health by working with school nurses to develop other measures, such as waist measurements. Seek to create a dialogue on this.

Response

We have established an early years healthy weight group which is exploring how to build on the measurement work health visitors already carry out. An initial view on the recommendation to expand the child measurement programme to include screening for metabolic health - there is limited scope to expand, although consideration will be given to providing follow-up screening for older children (i.e. year 6) for early onset type 2 diabetes and other obesity-related conditions

Recommendation 28 (priority)

Provide schools with details of urban agriculture opportunities including links to allotments and city farms and information on how to link this to nutritional education and physical activity.

Response

The open spaces strategy expects proposals for new housing developments to include proposals to improve allotment provision or other food growing opportunities, especially in the north of the borough, as well as providing advice and support to promote urban agriculture.

Recommendation 29 (priority)

Evaluate the Universal Free Healthy School Meals programme effectively. There is an international and national need for research that helps identify effective methods to reduce health inequalities and childhood obesity; and that tracks the cost and outcomes of programmes.

Response

The programme's evaluation framework has three main aims:

1. To evaluate the impact of the FHSM programme on the take up of school meals.

2. To evaluate the contribution of the programme to tackling the high levels of childhood obesity.
3. To evaluate the contribution of the programme in mitigating the effects of child poverty, with particular focus on those children newly identified as eligible for a government free school meal as a result of the programme.

Nutrition

Recommendation 30 (priority)

Create a healthier environment for our children and young people by restricting the licensing of new hot food takeaways (A5) that sell low nutrient, calorie dense food e.g. within 400m boundary or 10min walking distance of schools, children's centres, youth-centred facilities. High concentrations of fast food outlets are currently in Peckham town centre, Queens Road Peckham, Walworth Road.

Response

The planning department is currently consulting on the proposal that the proportion of units which are hot food takeaways (A5 Use Class) does not rise above 5% in the Peckham town centre and Nunhead local centre protected shopping frontages. In addition:

- No more than two A5 units should be located adjacent to each other and;
- No less than two non-A5 units should be located between a group of hot food takeaways.

It is also consulting on the proposal to establish a 400 metre exclusion zone for new hot food takeaway use around secondary schools in the area action plan area.

Recommendation 31 (priority)

Support the development of a greater diversity of local food outlets that sell healthy food, particularly near schools after school so children have better options.

Response

Within planning regulations we encourage diversity of food outlets and the establishment of 'healthy food' businesses but within limited powers – unfortunately we cannot control nature of business once planning permission is obtained.

Recommendation 32

Restrict or place conditions on the licensing of cafes and other food outlets that mainly or exclusively sell food high in calories and low in nutrients. Consider particularly rigorous conditions when outlets are near schools and open during lunch hour or after school.

Response

We have no powers to restrict new hot food takeaways. We are committed to promoting healthy food outlets and environmental health officers visit approximately 1,000 premises per year and are currently promoting the Healthier Catering Commitment. The Healthier Catering Commitment is a voluntary scheme for food outlets in London based on the principle that small changes can make a big difference. The scheme is being piloted across twenty Boroughs in London (including Southwark) by catering businesses in partnership with environmental health and public health teams.

Recommendation 33 (priority)

Use planning and other methods at the local authority's disposal, to promote the establishment of businesses that make available healthy food. For example groceries, market stalls, food cooperatives and supermarkets that sell fruits and vegetables, whole foods etc.

Response

As part of the Markets and Street Trading strategy the council is committed to improve existing and identify new trading areas that include healthy food and vegetable pitches that meet the demographic and economic requirements of the local community.

Recommendation 34

Redefine food safety standards to reflect current threats to health and use environmental health officers to promote healthier eating.

Response

Public health nutritionists continue working with the Environmental health officer to supplement the current health and safety checks with the Healthier Catering Commitment programme, a London wide scheme promoting healthier takeaway meals in line with healthier catering commitments guidelines for London. So far eleven businesses have signed up and eight have been awarded the Healthier Catering Commitment certificate.

Recommendation 35 (priority)

Set high standards of nutrition in public spaces e.g. schools, offices, sports centres, day centres and libraries.

Response

School governors are responsible for ensuring that nutritional standards are met at schools and they have been supported by the Public health nutritionist and the FHSM programme. Some sports centres have been engaged through the Healthier Catering Commitment scheme and so far Camberwell and Dulwich leisure centres have been awarded the Healthier Catering Commitment certificate. Early years nutrition team have been working in libraries to support families around nutrition.

Urban Agriculture

Recommendation 36 (priority)

Promote urban agriculture, for example allotments and city farms. Use the planning process and spatial documents to help this.

Response

Strategic policy 11 of the Council's adopted Core Strategy sets out the council's approach to improving, protecting and maintaining a network of open spaces and green corridors that will provide food growing opportunities. The council does this by continuing to protect important open spaces, including allotments from inappropriate development. The council also promotes green corridors, gardens and local food growing in new development. The draft open space strategy sets out further guidance on the use of open spaces for allotments and community food growing.

Public Health have funded five Estates to develop growing spaces within the estate for mixed use (flowers and food growing) as part of the Olympic Health activities.

Physical activity and sport

Recommendation 37 (priority)

Continue with the Southwark Community Games wider programme. Ensure it is additionally targeted at very precise areas of population in local neighbourhoods.

Response

The Council continues to fund the Southwark Community Games (secure to March 2013 with no drop in provision this year). The Team work with the Safer Southwark Partnership, neighbourhood Housing Associations and youth services to identify where their coaching programme can be most beneficial and have the most impact. An example of this is working on an estate such as Fours Squares in Bermondsey. This was identified by the community safety team as an area of high anti social behaviour. This led to a Fun Day being held on the estate in April 2012 which was very well attended (400 people) and many young people were signed up to a range of activities such as sport and arts.

Recommendation 38

Continue to use the LBS Olympic brand to promote physical activity and sport.

Response

There are a number of events and programmes that are being delivered by the Council this summer which maximise the interest in sport and physical activity that the Olympics and Paralympics is renowned for generating. The Community Sport Team and Fusion are involved in a number of events and projects which aim to tap into this and ensure that people are signposted to the right activity or facility. The Community Sport Team are currently working on 7 Olympic related work strands such as delivering 10 community Olympic Events (Boundless Festival, Dulwich Parkrun), The London Youth Games and Olympic Values Teaching Resource aimed at yr5 and 6 primary school to name but a few. Fusion are also delivering their Olympic and Paralympics events programme which include The Leisure Passport Scheme and Olympic challenges programme.

Recommendation 39 (priority)

Collate information on Southwark wide provision of sports and physical activity and publish this widely. Ensure the public can easily access information on provision by Southwark Council, leisure providers, voluntary clubs and private sector providers. Enable this to be accessed on the website and through other portals, using available resources. Link with the LBS Olympic brand.

Response

The Get Active London 'widget' is now live on the Southwark website and the Community Sport Team and Southwark NHS are encouraging local clubs and organisations to provide information on this website for the local community. Southwark is currently topping the table compared with other London boroughs for the number of activities which can be found on the Southwark part of the Get Active website (approx 700 activities), meaning that there is a wealth of information for residents to tap into. The site received 2689 hits last year and the team are working to increase this by 25% this year.

The Community Sport Team along with the Southwark NHS Public Health Team, also have a remit to communicate both the Get Active Portal programme and Change4Life. The mechanism used to do this is through the Southwark ProActive Community Sport and Physical Activity Network, which is a quarterly meeting with all partners across the borough who work within or with the sport and physical

activity sector which includes community and voluntary organisations. Through this network the Council have committed further resources to promote these programmes and the project is in developmental stages.

In addition, work is ongoing in a number of other areas to develop increased awareness of sport and physical activity opportunities across the borough. Some of which include regular reviews of the sports and leisure centre webpages, introduction of the Community Sport monthly news letter, regular links with publications such as Southwark Life and frequent press releases.

Recommendation 40 (priority)

Continue to support the capacity of voluntary sectors organizations and facilitate partnership building, within available resources. Help champion local sports clubs.

Response

The main way in which the Council facilitates partnership building is through the coordination of the 'Proactive Southwark' Community Sport and Physical Activity Network. This is attended by all partners across the borough who work within the Sport and Physical Activity sector including community and voluntary organisations. There are also a number of sub groups which tackle specific areas such as disability sport.

The Community Sport Team coordinates and delivers national projects aimed at voluntary sports clubs within the borough such as 'Sportivate' and 'Sports Makers' which provide funding and volunteer training. Also regional projects such as 'Get Active London' and 'FreeSport' which provide a network of activities as well as local projects such as 'Legacy Makers'.

In addition to this Fusion's Community Sport Manager also works with a number of local organisations and Council Departments (for example Contact a Family, National Governing Bodies for Sport and Looked After Children)

Recommendation 41 (priority)

Prioritise the maintenance and provision of sports facilities in parks and green spaces, particularly green spaces in deprived areas. Where possible increase the provision of outside gyms and other sports facilities. Ensure good urban design so that spaces feel safe and are located near transport hubs.

Response

The council already widely promotes sport in parks and open spaces including developing ten outdoor gyms and outdoor table tennis as well as upgrading sports pitches and facilities across the borough's parks.

Strategic policy 11 of the council's adopted Core Strategy sets out in further detail the council's approach to improving, protecting and maintaining a network of open spaces and green corridors that will provide sport and leisure opportunities. The council will do this by continuing to protect important open spaces, including sports grounds from inappropriate development. It will also require new developments to provide space for children's play, gardens and other green areas and helping to improve the quality of and access to open spaces and trees, particularly in areas deficient in open space.

The draft open space strategy sets out further guidance on the current provision of sports facilities in the borough. The document also sets out how the council will seek to improve the quantity and quality of open spaces in the borough, including through measures such as improved safety and accessibility.

The draft open space strategy can be found on our website at: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/856/planning_policy/2535/open_space_strategy

Recommendation 42 (priority)
Maintain Peckham Pulse to a high standard.

Response

Standards are continually improving as a result of regular monitoring and performance review of the centre according to the terms and condition of our contract with Fusion. There is currently an ongoing programme of planned maintenance and a capital bid for improvement works to the centre.

Officers continue to work with Fusion to increase participation and improve access to the centre for young people. The contract as a whole increased visits by young people by 15% in 2011/12.

Recommendation 43

Promote a diverse range of sports, particularly for women.

Response

Through projects such as the 'Us Girls' initiative the community sports team delivers a number of women's only sessions to encourage sports participation by this target group. These range from more typical activities such as aerobics to football session with Millwall Community Scheme.

Recommendation 44

Ensure that Fusion invests in lifeguard training for women, as a priority, so it can ensure that it only uses female lifeguards for its women-only swim sessions. Once this has been achieved Fusion should promote this widely.

Response

Fusion continue to proactively aim to recruit female lifeguards. Fusion have at various intervals in the contract offered free National Pool Lifeguard Courses for women with a view of employing candidates upon successful completion of the course. It is an area that is being monitored.

Recommendation 45 (priority)

Ensure universal sports provision is accessible for disabled people

Response

The Council has a number of tools and structures in place to ensure that the services we provide are accessible to disabled people. At a policy level, as part of the wider ProActive network, the Southwark Disability sub group (includes a number of organisations working with people with disabilities) meet on a quarterly basis with the aim of sharing information and improving access to physical activity.

Other ongoing work includes improving access to facilities through the investing in leisure programme and the development of services within each leisure centre by the centre's Disability Champion.

Additionally the Community Sports Team deliver multi sports session at Southwark College, a disability programme of events at the London Youth Games and special inclusive events celebrating the Paralympics such as Boundless.

Recommendation 46

Ensure planning applications for new developments always prioritises the need for people (including those whose mobility is impaired) to be physically active as a routine part of their daily life.

Response

The Council has a number of tools and structures in place to ensure that the services we provide are accessible to disabled people. At a policy level, as part of the wider ProActive network, the Southwark Disability sub group (which includes a number of organisations working with people with disabilities) meet on a quarterly basis with the aim of sharing information and improving access to physical activity.

Other ongoing work includes improving access to facilities through the investing in leisure programme and the development of services within each leisure centre by the centre's Disability Champion.

Additionally the Community Sports Team deliver multi sports session at Southwark College, a disability programme of events at the London Youth Games and special inclusive events celebrating the Paralympics such as Boundless.

Recommendation 47

Ensure pedestrians, cyclists and users of other modes of transport that involve physical activity are given the highest priority when developing or maintaining streets and roads.

Response

Policy 7.1 of the Council's Transport Plan supports a road user hierarchy that places pedestrians at the top followed by cyclists.

Recommendation 48

Plan and provide a comprehensive network of routes for walking, cycling and using other modes of transport involving physical activity; particularly in deprived areas.

Response

Strategic policy 2 of the council's adopted Core Strategy sets out the council's approach to encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport rather than travel by car. The council will do this by planning places and development to reduce the need to travel and to support priority for active modes of travel, whilst maximising the use of public transport and minimising car use. The council will direct large developments to areas that are very accessible by walking, cycling and public transport and improve access to mixed use town and local centres.

The council's draft open space strategy also promotes a network of green links across the borough and will take this forward through the forthcoming Local Plan documents.

Recommendation 49

Ensure public open spaces and public paths can be reached on foot, by bicycle and using other modes of transport involving physical activity.

Response

Strategic policy 11 of the Council's adopted Core Strategy sets out the council's approach to improving, protecting and maintaining a network of open spaces and green corridors that will provide sport and leisure opportunities. The council will do this by requiring new developments to improve access to open spaces and trees, particularly in areas deficient in open space.

The council's draft open space strategy sets out further guidance on how we will improve the accessibility of our protected open spaces. The draft open space strategy can be found on the website at;
http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/856/planning_policy/2535/open_space_strategy

Policy 4.1 of the Council's Transport Plan supports the promotion of active lifestyles and recognises the value in public spaces as a way of doing this as well as supporting the update of active modes of travel.

The transport plan also notes 'Southwark benefits from many small parks, green spaces and quiet side streets and these have the potential to be developed as 'green links', providing an attractive alternative to our main traffic routes. Small scale improvements can make a real difference and we are working with local communities to identify how we can create more opportunities for local walking and cycling trips in their neighbourhoods.'

Recommendation 50

Promote walking and cycling and other modes of transport involving physical activity in spatial planning documents; particularly in deprived areas.

Response

Strategic policy 11 of the Council's adopted Core Strategy sets out the council's approach to improving, protecting and maintaining a network of open spaces and green corridors that will provide sport and leisure opportunities. The council will do this by requiring new development to improve access to open spaces and trees, particularly in areas deficient in open space.

The council's draft open space strategy sets out further guidance on how it will improve the accessibility of our protected open spaces including providing a network of green links across the borough. The draft open space strategy can be found on our website at;

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/856/planning_policy/2535/open_space_strategy

The council will also include more detailed policies in protecting and improving open spaces in our area based documents such as the Peckham and Nunhead Area Action Plan.

Recommendation 51

Incorporate active design codes in neighbourhood planning, housing strategies and building codes.

Response

Strategic Policy 12 of the Council's adopted Core Strategy sets out our approach to achieving the highest possible standards of design for buildings and public spaces. The council will do this by expecting development to conserve or enhance Southwark's historic environment and requiring tall buildings to have an exemplary standard of design. The council will continue to use the Southwark Design Review Panel to assess the design quality of development proposals. The council will continue to require Design and Access Statements with applications and encouraging Building for Life Assessments and heritage impact assessments.

The council have more specific design policies set out in the Southwark Plan 2007 which are used to determine planning applications including policy 3.12 Quality in design, policy 3.13 Urban design, policy 3.14 Designing out crime.

The council have detailed and area-specific design policies and guidance in documents such as the draft Peckham and Nunhead Area Action Plan and the adopted Elephant and Castle Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).

The Residential Design Standards SPD contains guidance on housing design and we encourage developers to use design codes and principles such as Building for Life and Secured by Design.

Working with residents at greater risk

Recommendation 52

Enhance healthier eating knowledge and behaviour amongst at risk populations, working with relevant geographic and ethnic communities.

Response

This is being addressed through our Healthy Weight Strategy; we work to enhance awareness with at-risk groups. BME community groups are currently being targeted via faith communities to specifically address West African diet and lifestyle, and also working with the British Heart Foundation to target BME women (e.g. Coin St 'Heart Felt' conference in May 2011 engaged 120 BME women). Regular nutrition support is made available to Southwark Muslim Women's Association and community groups working in areas with greatest health inequalities.

Recommendation 53 (priority)

Support people with learning disabilities and mental ill-health, as well as the carers and staff that work with them to encourage healthy eating and physical activity.

Response

Through our Healthy Weight Strategy; we work to support people with learning disabilities and/or mental ill-health. We are currently researching learning difficulties specific resources, and designed bespoke training and support for carers and adults with learning disabilities.

Working with the whole population

Recommendation 54

When refreshing Southwark's Healthy Weight strategies, consider evidence from the whole community approach, from France, EPODE ('Ensemble, Prévenons l'Obésité Des Enfants', or 'Together, Let's Prevent Childhood Obesity') and incorporate that where relevant and possible.

Response

Agreed. The evidence from EPODE will be considered when the Healthy Weight Strategy is revised.

Recommendation 55 (priority)

Ensure that links between Southwark's 'Healthy Weight Strategy'; Physical Activity Strategy and Food Strategy are made so that initiatives are mutually strengthening.

Response

Agreed. There are links between these strategies to ensure the various initiatives make a positive impact.

Community impact statement

12. The responses to the recommendations detailed in this report and the action plan apply to many sections of the community. A great deal of work is being carried out by the council and its partners to ensure that children, young people and their parents from diverse sections of the community are encouraged and supported to lead healthy lives.

Resource implications

13. No additional resources are being requested to deliver the recommendations of this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance

14. This report requests that cabinet notes and agrees the response to the recommendations set out under paragraph 11 and the Action Plan contained within Appendix 1. With the exception of those which fall outside the council's direct control, the adoption of some of the recommendations and any initiatives and actions relating to them may, in due course give rise to some particular legal implications, in respect of which appropriate advice should be sought and obtained from the Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance as required.
15. The decision to adopt the recommendations is one of a number of matters expressly reserved to the cabinet for decision under the council constitution and is consistent with national and corporate policy objectives.

Finance Director

16. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 13 above.

REASON FOR URGENCY

17. In accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rules set out in the Council's constitution, the Cabinet shall consider and provide a written response to a scrutiny sub-committee's report within 2 months. The scrutiny report was considered by cabinet at its meeting on 17 April 2012.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

18. It was not possible to circulate this report 5 clear working days in advance of the meeting because of the need for consultation over the cross-cutting issues covering other cabinet portfolio areas.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting papers and minutes	160 Tooley Street SE1 2QH	Scrutiny Team

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Recommendations from review of childhood obesity and sports provision Action Plan 2012/13

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Dora Dixon-Fyle, Cabinet Member for Children's Services	
Lead Officer	Romi Bowen, Strategic Director, Children's Services	
Report Authors	Natasha Sharmah, Policy Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	12 June 2012	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	Yes	Yes
Finance Director	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	12 June 2012	