

Item No 10.	Classification: Open	Date: 24 March 2014	Meeting Name: Health and Wellbeing Board
Report title:		Early Action Commission Proposal / Developments	
Wards or groups affected:		All	
From:		Gordon McCullough, Chief Executive Community Action Southwark (CAS)	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The board is requested to:
 - a) Approve the creation of an independent Early Action Commission to look into how local needs can be met earlier, through innovative multi agency approaches, to improve residents' health and well-being outcomes.
 - b) Request a further report for the next meeting which sets out the objectives, scope and terms of reference of the Commission.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2. There was a discussion at the Health and Wellbeing Board in December, and through the 'Value the VCS' campaign, about how all board members and agencies believe that early action is the right principle to address the causes of problems, rather than the symptoms.
3. This paper takes the discussion forward and makes recommendations about next steps.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. Community Action Southwark (CAS) proposed that the Health and Wellbeing Board consider establishing an independent Early Action Commission. It was argued that early action, as a needs reduction strategy, could lessen future liabilities and foster greater multi-agency working¹.
5. Although it was widely agreed that early action is the right approach to tackling intractable issues around demand management; we haven't quite worked out as a group of agencies, communities and individuals how best to do this together².
6. It is therefore proposed that we create an independent Early Action Commission to help us work out how we can act together earlier.

¹House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts *Early Action: landscape review. Second Report of Session 2013-14, 13 May 2013*

²Community Links (2013) *The Deciding Time: The second report of the Early Action Task Force* London: Community Links

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. It is suggested that the Commission uses, as a broad focus, the social determinants of health to help organise its focus and act as a lens through which it can be aligned to the Health and Wellbeing framework. An assessment of emerging and existing work into early intervention and prevention across agencies will be conducted to inform the scope of the Commission.
8. The recommendation is that the Commission's work would start in August 2014 and report in March 2015. During a scoping stage (between March and July 2014) detailed terms of reference will be developed, a rapid evidence review of early action conducted and an independent chair/commissioners recruited.

Next steps

9. A final paper on the scale and scope of the Commission will be presented, for approval, to the Health and Wellbeing board in July 2014, at which point the Commission will start its work.

Legal implications

10. There are no legal implications contained with this report.

Financial implications

11. Establishing the Early Action Commission as outlined in this paper is likely to have cost implications. It is anticipated that these will be met through pooling resources across members.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead	Gordon McCullough, Chief Executive, Community Action Southwark	
Report Author	Gordon McCullough, Chief Executive, Community Action Southwark	
Version	Final	
Dated	13 March 2014	
Key decision	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	13 March 2014	