

<b>Item No.</b> 14.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 18 November 2019	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>Report title:</b>		Response to Prevention Green Paper - Advancing our health- prevention in the 2020s	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All wards	
<b>From:</b>		Professor Kevin Fenton, Director of Health and Wellbeing; Jin Lim, Deputy Director of Public Health Signe Norberg, Policy and Public Affairs Officer	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. The Health and Wellbeing Board are invited to:
  - Note and consider the response to the Prevention Green Paper: *Advancing our health - Prevention in the 2020s* (Appendix 1).

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The consultation on the Government *Green Paper on prevention: Advancing our health - Prevention in the 2020s* close 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019. The consultation paper highlighted the ambitions of having proactive, predictive, and personalised prevention. This means targeted support, tailored lifestyle advice, personalised care and greater protection against future threats. Views were sought on proposals to tackle the causes of preventable ill health in England in relation to the environment in which we live, the choices we make, and the services we receive.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. The consultation asked 20 wide ranging questions (Appendix 1). While the focus on prevention is welcomed, the response highlights six areas requiring especial consideration by Government so that prevention ambitions can be truly embedded and realized in the health and social care and wider system.
  - **Wider determinants:** The significant impact of wider determinants on people's lives is recognised within the strategy, but there are no actions or commitments to mitigate this. Technology will undoubtedly transform, improve and create new services that will help change the way healthcare is accessed and used by patients, but it does not alter the socio-economic conditions and wider determinants of health that play a role in shaping a person's health and opportunities in life. Deprivation is a key driver of ill health across the country, and this needs to be further addressed within the strategy.
  - **Targeted interventions:** Whilst universal care is effective and important, the strategy does not fully acknowledge the importance of targeted interventions in ensuring the most vulnerable receive the care and support

they need. This is particularly important to recognise in the current climate of economic uncertainty, impacts of Brexit and cuts to health and social care budgets and the impacts of the reductions in public health budgets.

- **Childhood obesity:** It is encouraging to see that childhood obesity is highlighted in the Green Paper. However, there are already strong evidence based recommendations for actions from Chapter Two of the National Child Obesity Strategy that have not progressed beyond the consultation stage. Further clarity on how they will be taken forward by Government is urgently needed.
- **Healthy Start vouchers:** The weekly vouchers help low-income pregnant mothers and families with a child under 4 buy basic healthy foods, fruit and vegetables. When innovatively partnered with local businesses and markets, they also support and add value to the local economy. However, many eligible families still do not engage with the service and there are a number of improvements that need to be made in order to ensure higher uptake rates. It is estimated that between 2017 and 2018, nearly £135,000 worth of Healthy Start vouchers went unclaimed by eligible Southwark residents. Our response strongly requests that Government proceeds urgently with the consultation promised in Chapter 2 of the childhood obesity strategy.
- **Health in the planning and housing sector:** The strategy recognises that the scope of prevention is broad and incorporates a number of specialist fields. However the consultation fails to adequately highlight the importance of housing and planning in preventing ill-health. It should be recognised that the Government has made a number of positive changes to the housing sector in recent years by ensuring fair treatment of tenants and the creation of affordable housing. However, we would encourage the Government to consider how housing and planning can more fully participate in the prevention agenda through championing green-spaces, increasing accessibility to healthy food and ensuring individuals can access safe and affordable housing.
- **Funding is vital:** Without adequate long term funding, little progress can be made in any of these areas. The one-year Spending Review decision to allow a real-terms increase in public health grants is warmly received, but no details have been given on the precise nature of the increase, and the increase needs to extend beyond one year. The single year increase does not compensate for the estimated national reduction of approximately 25% in the public health grant over the last 5 years.<sup>1</sup> Alongside, it is estimated by the National Audit Office that nationally, general reductions in local authority budgets of almost a third (32.6%) since 2010/11, have led to falls in spending on wider local services that play an important role in supporting peoples' overall health and wellbeing.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2018/11/prevention-better-cure-except-when-it-comes-paying-it>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/news/additional-%C2%A332bn-a-year-needed-to-reverse-impact-of-government-cuts-to-public-health>

## Policy implications

4. The responses are currently being considered by Government. There is no clear timetable for the White Paper. As and when further Government proposals are made, their implications will be assessed for local policy.
5. Locally, we will continue to develop strong digital approaches with partners to make services more accessible and cost effective. Alongside the NHS digital programme, we are implementing major public health transformation approaches to key public health services such as health checks and sexual health.
6. We will also continue to embed a strong health in all policies approach across the Council. Our major Council strategies take an integrated approach to improving the health and wellbeing of Southwark's population. The New Southwark Plan provides a spatial planning and land use framework that includes supporting active travel, physical activity, affordable housing, increasing and protecting green space and growing opportunities and A5 (hot food take away) restrictions. Health improvement is also being integrated into the Housing Strategy and culture and health programmes. Additionally, the Council has recently adopted a healthier high streets framework. Southwark is also a changing borough and our social regeneration framework and charters aim to make regeneration work for everyone and ensure opportunities for health improvement are realised.

## Resource implications

7. No further resource is required.

## Legal implications

8. None.

## Financial implications

9. None.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Consultation document: Advancing our health - prevention in the 2020s	Corporate Affairs	Signe Norberg
<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/advancing-our-health-prevention-in-the-2020s">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/advancing-our-health-prevention-in-the-2020s</a>		
Childhood obesity – A Plan for Action Chapter 2	Public Health Division	Rebecca Steele
<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childhood-obesity-a-plan-for-action-chapter-2">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/childhood-obesity-a-plan-for-action-chapter-2</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Response to Prevention Green Paper: Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Professor Kevin Fenton, Strategic Director of Place and Wellbeing	
<b>Report Author</b>	Jin Lim, Deputy Director of Public Health Signe Norberg, Policy and Public Affairs Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	1 Nov 2019	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	NA
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	7 November 2019	