1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report provides a summary of the Health and Wellbeing Board public engagement roadshow events and the health and care issues that Brent’s communities felt were important.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Board is asked to note, discuss the emerging themes and agree how the findings can be used to feed into the Brent Health and Care plan workstreams.

3.0 Detail

3.1 At its meeting on 24 January 2018 the Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to hold a public engagement roadshow similar to a previous series of engagement events in 2016. The purpose of the roadshow was to raise awareness of:

- the Brent Health and Wellbeing Board as the local health and care system leader
- the joint working between the council and CCG
- the board’s six priorities
- and provide information on the health and care issues that people raised as concerns at the roadshow events in 2016.
3.2 Three roadshow pop-up stands were organised:

- 10 March at Tesco Extra, Brent Park
- 13 March at Kingsbury Library
- 16 March at Harlesden Library.

3.3 The roadshow stalls were hosted by Cllr Hirani, Chair, Health and Wellbeing Board and Dr Ethie Kong, Vice Chair, on the first day. Cllr Butt, Leader of Brent Council, also joined on the first two dates.

3.4 Officers from Brent Council, Brent CCG, Healthwatch, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, Brent CVS, and Hestia jointly supported the stalls by providing people with information and running activities. A range of information was provided to people including information on GP access hubs, good mental health, diabetes, healthy cooking, balanced school lunchboxes, smoking cessation, facts about shisha use and oral health. These topics were selected in response to what people said they were interested in during the 2016 roadshow and the areas that local evidence tells us are prevalent issues.

3.5 Activities that officers ran included a ping-pong game to raise awareness of correct oral health practice, demonstrations of the Health Help Now digital app and a pin board consultation on possible interventions to reduce childhood obesity. These were supplemented by a five minute exercise routine with some library users followed by a mindfulness session at Kingsbury Library.

3.6 People were most interested in the availability of out of hours GP appointments and the use of the Health Help Now app to book GP appointments, check symptoms and locate local services such as pharmacies and walk-in centres.

3.7 People engaging with the stalls at the three roadshow sessions tended to raise the following areas of concern or interest:

- Balanced lifestyles – some people said that they were pre-diabetes or had diabetes and were keen to know more about healthy eating and increasing physical activity. This widespread interest at the roadshow reinforces Brent’s focus on prevention and early intervention

- Childhood obesity – people were surprised to find out about the high levels of obesity in primary school aged children in Brent. Board members will be aware of recent refreshed data showing a high prevalence of childhood obesity in the borough (43% of Year 6 age children are overweight or obese). At the Board seminar in November 2017 on this issue members agreed a pilot project trialling interventions to reduce childhood obesity in a single ward in the borough

- Tackling social isolation – people showed interest in the information the SIBI officer from Brent CVS had available and were keen to talk about
the issue. This reinforced the Board’s intention to move SIBI (Social Isolation in Brent Initiative) into the social prescribing space

- Accessing services and information in ways that fit around people’s lives - this was evidenced by people’s interest in the Health Help App now and the out of hours GP services. It was clear that low awareness of these services was a barrier to access or use for many. Access to out of hours GP services was an issue raised at the 2016 roadshow

- Some were interested in participating through becoming Patient representatives and volunteering with Healthwatch.

3.8 The presence of the leadership of the Health and Wellbeing Board, Brent CCG and Brent Council was valuable because people were drawn in and felt listened to. Overall, there was a sense of people appreciating the Board’s presence and willingness to listen to concerns.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no direct financial implications to be drawn from this report.

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 It is noted the stalls are for providing information only. Care must be taken to ensure that no Council officers supporting the stalls provide any specific medical or health advice that are not qualified to do so. This is so as to avoid any legal challenges being brought against the Council by individuals acting on the advice.

6.0 Equality Implications

6.1 The public sector equality duty requires public bodies to pay due regard to the need to:
  • Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010;
  • Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not;
  • Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

6.2 The Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality Duty (outlined above) cover the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation.

6.3 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report at this stage. However, equalities implications from the individual recommendations will continue to be considered and assessed during the decision-making process.
7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

7.1 The events were advertised to all Health and Wellbeing Board Members and relevant stakeholders. The events were also posted to Brent Councillors within the Members’ internal information bulletin, and hosted by Councillor Hirani.

Report sign off:

PHIL PORTER
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