

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT

1. Meeting:	Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel
2. Date:	14 April 2011
3. Title:	Scrutiny Review of Health Inequalities: Diabetes Draft Report
4. Directorate:	Chief Executive's

5. Summary

This report sets out the findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review of health inequalities associated with diabetes in Rotherham. The draft review report is attached as Appendix 1 for consideration by the panel.

6. Recommendations

That:

- a. Members endorse the findings and recommendations of the report and make any amendments as necessary**
- b. The report is forwarded to Performance and Scrutiny Overview Committee for approval, and future submission to Cabinet**
- c. The response of Cabinet to the recommendations be fed back to this panel**

7. Proposals and Details

- 7.1** As part of its 2010/11 work programme, Adult Services and Health scrutiny panel set up a review group to examine patient experience of care and support in relation to the diagnosis and management of diabetes in Rotherham.

The review methodology was based on a pilot model developed by Doncaster Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee and took place between August and October 2010.

Below is a summary of the key findings:

- There are potentially 1100 undiagnosed people with diabetes in Rotherham, which highlights the need for awareness raising and education in relation to early symptoms in high risk groups
- Obesity and unhealthy lifestyles are prevalent in Rotherham, along with high levels of deprivation; raising awareness of the risk factors and focusing on prevention is needed to reduce the rise in diabetes
- NHS Rotherham have undertaken a project to redesign diabetes services in the borough, addressing a number of issues relating to patient diagnosis and care
- There is a lack of awareness of the condition with health professionals, which has raised questions in relation to the poor management of the condition when patients with diabetes attend hospital for another unrelated issue
- There is poor take-up of structured education for newly diagnosed patients, which may be a result of lack of awareness and understanding of the benefits to attending

- 7.2** The recommendations from the review are detailed in Section 4 of the full review report and include:

- The new statutory Health and Wellbeing Board (once established) provides a way of coordinating all partners to focus on prevention of unhealthy lifestyles, which will subsequently reduce diabetes and inequalities across the borough
- Prevention of obesity and raising awareness of the risk factors in both children and adults needs to be the main focus in reducing the prevalence of diabetes
- Need to maximise take-up of NHS Health Checks and structured education and widely promote the range of information sources available to inform people about risk factors and early symptoms
- Focus on education and early diagnosis of symptoms needs to be targeted at high risk groups
- The work being undertaken to redesign diabetes services in Rotherham needs to be supported and providers responsible for implementing this to be held to account by the Health and Wellbeing Board to ensure continued improvement in outcomes for patients

7.3 The indicative timetable for the onward consideration of the review and its recommendations is as follows:

- Due to the timescales with the local election and bank holidays throughout April, it is proposed to take the final report to PSOC when they reconvene in May/June 2011
- Report to Cabinet June 2011
- Cabinet response to report recommendations back to ASH before summer recess

7.4 Progress on the review's recommendations will be monitored on a six monthly basis by the Adult Services and Health Scrutiny Panel.

8. Finance

A number of the review recommendations may have financial implications, but it is considered that these will remain within existing budgets and resources in NHSR and GP commissioning once established. Costs in relation to the prevention and public health agenda are not yet certain and further guidance will be sought from NHSR as we move forward to leading on public health within the Council.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Obesity and unhealthy lifestyles are widely prevalent in Rotherham and unless work is undertaken to support people to eat healthier and take regular exercise, diabetes will continue to rise, particularly in the younger generation.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The developing Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be a key document in tackling unhealthy lifestyles and preventing conditions such as diabetes.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation has taken place with the diabetes expert within NHS Rotherham to ensure factual accuracy and wording of the recommendations are correct.

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