



West Lothian
Council

ARMADALE AND BLACKRIDGE LOCAL AREA COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS

REPORT BY DEPUTE CHIEF EXECUTIVE, COMMUNITY HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP

A. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Community Health Champions approach.

B. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Local Area Committees take note of the report.

C. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

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| I Council Values | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Focusing on our customers' needs• Providing equality of opportunities• Making best use of our resources• Working in partnership |
| II Policy and Legal (including Strategic Environmental Assessment, Equality Issues, Health or Risk Assessment) | None. |
| III Implications for Scheme of Delegations to Officers | None. |
| IV Impact on performance and performance Indicators | The development of Community Health Champions linked to local area committees offers the opportunity to improve health in our communities and tackle health inequalities. |
| V Relevance to Single Outcome Agreement | SOA 8 We live longer, healthier lives and have reduced health inequalities. |

VI Resources - (Financial, Staffing and Property)	Training and staff support for the development of community health champions, and training for councillors would be carried out within existing budget allocation.
VII Consideration at PDSP	Health and Care PDSP, 27/6/13, Reducing Health Inequalities and Improving Health: What councillors can do to make a difference; Council Executive, 21/1/14, Community Health Champion Proposal
VIII Other consultations	Community Health and Care Partnership; Community Planning; and Community Regeneration

D. TERMS OF REPORT

The report provides feedback on the raising awareness sessions delivered to elected members and an update on progress within local areas.

Elected member raising awareness sessions

The sessions were delivered on 13th January and 24th February 2015. The sessions were attended by 14 individuals comprising 6 elected members, 5 lead officers and 3 community regeneration officers. The sessions included a participative input on exercises drawn from the nationally recognised Health issues in the Community course: Barriers and Choices demonstrates visually the health inequalities gap and Equality versus Equity encourages discussion on the distribution of resources on the basis of need. The COSLA guidance: 'Reducing health inequalities and improving health: What councillors can do to make a difference' was presented. The session stimulated discussion on health inequalities with the following general comments made;

- *Good opportunity to discuss the issues and identify the inequalities gap*
- *The session was relaxed and informative*
- *The session was an introduction into making you think, rather than arriving at a conclusion. Good for the purpose.*

Engagement with Community Groups

In partnership with colleagues in community regeneration and in line with the ward action plan, it is proposed that key community organisations are now identified who may or may not currently recognise their role in addressing health inequalities. These groups will be invited to participate in the shortened version of the well-established, evidence-based Health Issues in the Community course.

E. CONCLUSION

The community health champions approach is progressing to the local development stage and this will be carried forward working in partnership with area based colleagues and agencies. It is proposed that the Health Issues in the Community course will be offered in 3/4 locations to allow maximum participation and learning.

F. BACKGROUND REFERENCES

None.

Appendices/Attachments: 0

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Date of meeting: 29/05/2015