

11. COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS

The committee considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive, Community Health and Care Partnership providing an update on the Community Health Champions approach.

The report recalled that on 13 January and 24 February 2015 elected member raising awareness sessions had been organised. The sessions were attended by 14 individuals comprising of 6 elected members, 5 leader 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. Also at the session 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 issues and identify the inequalities gap;
- The session was relaxed and informative; and
- The session was an introduction into making you thinks, rather than arriving at a conclusion

With regards to engagement with community groups, in partnership with colleagues in Community Regeneration and in line with ward action plans, it was proposed that key community organisations would be invited to participate in a shortened version of the well-established evidence-based Health Issues in the Community Course. It was proposed that the course would be offered in 3-4 locations to allow maximum participation and learning.

The report concluded that the community health champion approach was progressing to the local development stage and this would be carried forward, working in partnership with area based colleagues and agencies.

It was recommended that the committee note the contents of the report.

Decision

- 1) To note the contents of the report; and
- 2) Agreed that future update reports only needed to be submitted to the local area committee every six months.