



HEALTH SCRUTINY PANEL

31 AUGUST 2004

SCRUTINY OF “HEALTH LIVING” REVIEW

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To confirm the Panel's progress in the Healthy Living Review and to introduce representatives from the Citizen's Advice Bureau, the Money Advice Service and Welfare Rights Service.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Panel notes the content of this report and holds a meeting after the Healthy Living Seminar, to establish the most appropriate next step for the Healthy Living Review.

3. PROGRESS OF THE REVIEW

- 3.1 So far the Panel has heard from the Elected Mayor on the issues he considers important and the necessity for a co-ordinated approach to ensure a healthy lifestyle for people. The Panel has also received a presentation on the Healthy Living Centre's activities from the Public Protection Manager and the Healthy Living Co-ordinator.
- 3.2 Members will recall at the last meeting that particular interest was shown in financial matters pertaining to health, specifically debt and the negative impacts this can have on individual and community health. To this end, representatives from the Citizen's Advice Bureau, the Council's Money Advice Service and Welfare Rights Service have been invited to speak to the Panel about their own areas of work and the extent to which the services they provide are co-ordinated and interact with other related services. The Panel

will recall that a key part of the Review's terms of reference is the co-ordination of the Healthy Living Agenda.

- 3.3 As the Panel will be aware, whilst operating in a similar field, the three services invited to speak have separate and distinct areas of work.
- 3.4 The Citizens Advice Bureau is an independent and impartial organisation, which is also a registered charity. It offers advice and advocacy services on a variety of matters including debt and consumer issues, benefits, housing, legal matters, employment and immigration.
- 3.5 The Welfare Rights Service is based within Social Services. It offers a full range of welfare benefit and tax credit information, from the claim stage to tribunal advocacy if necessary. It has caseworkers in community-based projects and has a daily advice line. It also offers training and information to Council and Health Staff on Welfare Benefits.
- 3.6 The Money Advice Service sits within the Council's Public Protection and Planning Unit, which is housed with the Executive Directorate of Environment. This Service offers a more generic financial advice service for those suffering from financial difficulties, of which debt is a part.
- 3.7 Following the Panel hearing from the three services referred to above, a healthy living seminar will be held to gain the views of various stakeholders regarding the strategic issues requiring attention if a co-ordinated Healthy Living Agenda is to be consistently delivered.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

No background Papers were used in the preparation of this report.

19 August 2004

Contact Officer:

Mr. Jon Ord - Scrutiny Support Officer

Telephone: 01642 729706 (direct line)

Email: jon_ord@middlesbrough.gov.uk

www.middlesbrough.gov.uk