

**THURROCK BOARD MEETING**

**DATE: 29th April 2015**

<b>Title of Report:</b>	Thurrock Council Update
<b>Author:</b>	Roger Harris, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning
<b>Presented by:</b>	Roger Harris, Director of Adults, Health and Commissioning
<b>Committees previous consulted:</b>	None
<b>Executive Summary:</b>	<i>The purpose of the paper is to provide the Board with an update on key issues affecting the local authority – in particular those items with a potential impact for the CCG.</i>
<b>Recommendation to the Board:</b>	<b>That the Board note the report.</b>
<b>Financial Implications:</b>	As noted within the report.
<b>Fit with CCG strategy/objectives:</b>	
<b>Risks identified:</b>	
<b>Resource Implications:</b>	
<b>View of the Patients Carers or the Public and the extent of their involvement:</b>	<i>To be used by PPI / or delete if not appropriate</i>
<b>Evaluation Criteria:</b>	
<b>Evaluation Date:</b>	

## **1. Public Health**

When Thurrock Council received its initial Public Health Grant, it was £1.2m short. This was as a result of how the South West Essex budget had been disaggregated. Therefore, the £1.2m that should have been part of Thurrock's Public Health Grant became part of the Essex County Council Grant.

After a robust and well evidenced challenge put together by Thurrock Council's Head of Public Health, the Department of Health agreed to refund £1.1m of the outstanding amount.

Since the decision has been confirmed, Essex County Council has announced that it will be challenging this decision via a judicial review. Should Essex County Council be successful in its challenge, this may impact upon the Public Health future grant amount received by the Council which may therefore have wide-ranging implications.

## **2. Council Savings**

As reported previously, Adult Social Care/Public Health/Commissioning is expected to deliver savings of at least £10m between 16/17 and 18/19 – to contribute towards the total Council savings target over the three years of £35 million. This is on a General Fund budget of approx £ 110m. So a cash reduction of approx 30% (which in reality is higher when you factor in growth in demand, inflation etc).

Since my last report to the March CCG Board, the Council's financial situation has deteriorated further. This is due to an element of savings not being delivered in 14/15, and also a Trade Union rejection of a change to staff terms and conditions. The total additional amount that the Council has to find for 15/16 is £1.5m. As Adult Social Care has the largest slice of the Council's budget, its allocation of the £1.5m is £411k.

Finding the additional amount will be extremely difficult for all departments. The majority of the Adult Social Care budget is allocated to external placements, and substantial work has already been carried out to try to reduce the amount spent – including reducing out of borough placements, and negotiating with providers. Council departments have been asked to outline savings options by the end of April. In Adult Social Care, this will mean putting forward some potentially unpalatable options.

## **3. Combined Authorities**

Organisations across the Public Sector are at crisis point. As such, they are looking for options which will make combined resources continue to meet need and deliver

outcomes whilst reducing overheads. Whilst Adult Social Care and the CCG have already started to develop and deliver an integrated approach to health and care – e.g. via a pooled BCF budget, the Council as a whole is also looking at the possibility of a 'combined authority' approach. Combined authorities would enable a greater level of devolution from national to local government, and provide the potential to deliver a wider range of services over a larger geographical area – e.g. economic, transport, regeneration and housing functions.

Thurrock and Southend local authorities have been asked to sign up to an Essex-wide approach. At the moment, Thurrock Council has not become a signatory. Thurrock and Southend local authorities are also exploring the possibility of a South Essex approach. This would include Southend and Thurrock unitary authorities, and also Basildon, Castle Point, and Rochford district councils.

Further discussions will take place after the local and national elections on the 7th May.

#### **4. Health and Wellbeing Board**

The Health and Wellbeing Board met on the 12th March. Key items covered included:

- Health and Social Care Learning Self-Assessment;
- 2014 Annual Public Health Report;
- Children and Young People's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment;
- Charter for Older People; and
- A bid to government funding to build specialist housing.

A few of the key points included:

- Use of the specialist housing (if bid secured) to provide accommodation for people with autism and mental health needs. Often, accommodation for these individuals is provided through out of borough providers which is extremely costly;
- The need to focus on promoting and maintaining independent living – e.g. via promotion of health;
- The need to work with developers and use section 106 monies to create a housing mix that enables individuals to remain independent;
- The success of the Troubled Families initiative.

The main political parties at a national level have all indicated a key role for Health and Wellbeing Boards – in recognition of the continued integration agenda and the need for a whole systems approach to improving health and wellbeing.