

West of England Partnership
Joint Transport Executive Committee
17 September 2010

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Health Sector

Purpose of Report

1. To sign the Memorandum of Understanding and report progress on the establishment of the Transport and Health Forum as part of the development of the Action Plan and seek views.

Background

2. The development work on the Joint Local Transport Plan 3 (JLTP3) and the Sustainable Community Strategies of the Local Strategic Partnerships have highlighted how walking and cycling can increase physical activity and have large health benefits. The draft JLTP3 strategy includes a focus on improving health and well being by increasing levels of physical activity through more walking and cycling in line with the national Active Travel Strategy (Department for Transport/Dept of Health February 2010). Measures to improve health are linked with those aimed at reducing carbon emissions, reducing congestion, supporting economic growth, improving air quality and quality of life, increasing accessibility and reducing risk of injury.
3. Cooperation through the preparatory work on the JLTP3 has led to the development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the health sector. As reported to this Committee on 2 July 2010, it is hoped the MoU (appendix 1) will help capture the health benefits of active travel and build closer relationships between the health sector and the local authorities.
4. Through the MoU, the partners will work together to promote and protect good health through delivery of the goals and ambitions set out in key Government policy documents and Local Development Frameworks and will adapt to the proposed major changes to the way local health services are run. The health sector are key partners in the production of the JLTP3 and are providing input, expertise and feedback. The partners will align, where practicable a programme and phasing of schemes for 2011 to 2026 for inclusion in the Delivery Plan of the JLTP3. As part of the closer working, the Directors of Public Health for the Partnership area have arranged a Health and Transport Consultation Event on 17 September, bringing together a range of managers and practitioners from the health sector to consider the draft JLTP3.
5. Building on the closer working, it is proposed that a Transport and Health Forum is established to promote effective collaboration and develop a set of outcomes where the parties consider there is scope for improved communication, greater cooperation and coordination of activities. The Forum will report to this Committee and an Action Plan will be developed. The Directors of Public Health will provide updates for and attend meetings of the Committee on a twice-yearly basis to consider progress on the Action Plan.

Recommendation

That Members sign the Memorandum of Understanding with the Health Sector and provide views

Appendices

Appendix 1: MoU with the Health Sector

Officer presenting the report:

Barbara Davies, West of England Partnership Office

Tel. 0117 922 4923; barbara.davies@westofengland.org

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Memorandum of Understanding

This Memorandum of Understanding is between the local authorities of Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire who together make up the West of England Partnership and the Health Sector for the Partnership Area through the Directors of Public Health for the area.

The purpose of the Memorandum of Understanding is to promote effective co-ordination and co-operation between the organisations in relation to transport and health.

The key principles are of openness, explanation and discussion together with shared responsibility and ownership of problems and solutions.

It is not legally binding.

The Health Sector in the West of England Partnership area is currently made up of:

- The Four Primary Care Trusts of NHS Bath and North East Somerset, NHS Bristol, NHS North Somerset, NHS South Gloucestershire
- A large number of Service Providers, which are commissioned by the PCTs to deliver NHS services for local residents. These include major Hospital Trusts, providers of community services, General Practices, dentists, opticians, and pharmacies.

We take health to mean not just the needs of individuals with specific illnesses and conditions, but also the promotion and protection of good health and the reduction of health inequalities, now and in the future.

This is a core duty of the Primary Care Trusts and of subsequent bodies that may result from the 2010 Health White Paper.

It is hereby agreed that:

Support

Strategy

Directors of Public Health will provide updates for and attend meetings of the Joint Transport Executive Committee on a twice-yearly basis to consider progress on the Action Plan.

The Memorandum of Understanding partners will collaborate to promote and protect good health through delivery of the goals and ambitions set out in key Government policy documents and Local Development Frameworks.

Information and Data collection

The Health Sector will be key partners in the production of the four West of England authorities Joint Local Transport Plan 3 and will provide input, expertise and feedback in order to maximise health gains and minimise the acute and chronic disease burden.

Information requests between Memorandum of Understanding partners will be managed as quickly as is reasonable depending on the complexity of the request and information available. Requests are to be as specific as possible.

Communications

The Memorandum of Understanding partners align, where practicable a programme and phasing of schemes for 2011 to 2026 for inclusion in the Delivery Plan of the Joint Local Transport Plan 3 and review programmes for each 3 year implementation phase.

A joint framework on communications will be established in order to promote levels of engagement and partnership working between the Memorandum of Understanding partners.

Timescale and review

Transport and Health Forum

The Memorandum of Understanding shall come into immediate effect. The West of England Partnership authorities and Health Sector for the West of England area will jointly review the arrangements set out in the Memorandum of Understanding at two yearly intervals.

To promote effective joint collaboration a transport and health forum will be established to seek to ensure that the transport system for the sub-region now and in the future is designed in such a way that it enhances health, wellbeing and prosperity for all residents, and contributes to reducing health inequalities.

Dated DATE DATE

It will achieve this by;

- Bringing together relevant expertise and representation from Transport and Health sectors.
- Building strong and constructive working relationships between the Health Sector and the Transport sector.
- Using best available evidence to inform planning and decision-making.
- Using the principles of 'Health Impact Assessment' to inform planning at the earliest stages of option development.
- Including access to health facilities for staff, patients and visitors.
- Producing and monitoring the Action Plan.



The Forum will report to the Joint Transport Executive Committee

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