

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Date: 14 December 2007

Subject: **South East England Health Strategy**

Report of: Head of Policy

Recommendation:

That the Executive Committee endorses the final draft of the South East England Health Strategy on behalf of the Regional Assembly.

Purpose of Report:

This report contains the Executive summary and the theme objectives of the amended draft of the South East England Health Strategy. The full document is available on the meeting papers pages on the Regional Assembly's website (<http://www.southeast-ra.gov.uk/meetings/exec/2007.html>). This has been revised following a period of discussion across the region. Following previous discussion by the Executive Committee (September 2007) the Strategy has been modified.

Key Issues:

The first Health Strategy for the South East was developed during 2007, following initial discussion by the Chief Executives of the Assembly, SEEDA, GOSE and the region's two Strategic Health Authorities (SHA). A draft was published in June 2007, followed by a period of discussion which included consideration by the Executive Committee in September 2007. There are a small number of additional objectives contained under each theme. In addition, the following changes have been made to the discussion draft in response to the comments received:

- The theme 'promoting healthy, sustainable communities and sustainable activities' has been divided into two; 'promoting healthy, sustainable activities' and 'a sustainable region'. It was felt that the discussion draft had been attempting to cover too much within one theme. The distinction is now been made between a sustainable region - focussing on developing a healthy, sustainable community that lives within its means – and safer and sustainable communities – focussing on social cohesion and well-being in relationships, families and communities.

- A Sustainability Appraisal and Equality Impact Assessment are being conducted alongside the development of the document; these will be published separately on the GOSE website. Recommendations coming out of these assessments will be addressed in the implementation plan for the strategy.
- There has been effort to engage with partners outside the health sector as emphasised by our response. This effort is reflected throughout the document, with a range of stakeholders recognised as having a role in delivering the aims of the Strategy, either as delivery lead or delivery partner. However, the actions are not meant to be exhaustive and as the Strategy is implemented, other partners and activities may be identified.
- Consideration of mental health has been strengthened in a number of sections, as suggested in our response. In addition, the safer and sustainable communities theme considers mental health in more depth, building on the consideration within the employment and health chapter.
- As requested in our response, the role of carers has been picked up more directly within the later life chapter and their need for flexible employment is addressed within the employment and health chapter. In particular, there is now an action for Joint Commissioning Strategies to identify and address the health, well-being and support needs of carers.
- The voluntary and community sectors continue to be recognised as having a key role in delivering the aims of the health strategy. However, the Strategy emphasises the need to “recognise, support and develop” the contribution of the sector.

Attention will now focus on implementing the Strategy and the Directors of Public Health are developing proposals for this. As emphasised in our response to the discussion draft, this will focus on the importance of partnership working and there is clear commitment to ensure alignment with regional strategy implementation. This will supplement the alignment in strategies that has been achieved to date. We are involved in discussions of how implementation will be managed and how these processes could relate to the Health Summit. There is also commitment to ongoing engagement with local partners who helped to develop the Strategy, as stressed by our response.

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