

**SOUTH EAST ENGLAND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Date: 14 September 2007

Subject: **South East England Health Strategy**

Report of: Head of Policy

**Recommendations:**

That the Executive Committee:

1. Consider the discussion draft of the South East England Health Strategy, and endorse the proposed Assembly response set out in Annex 2;
2. Note that the final draft of the Strategy will be presented at the December Executive Committee with a view to gaining endorsement from the Assembly.

**Purpose of Report:**

This report sets out the context of the South East England Health Strategy (see Annex 1, report produced by Deputy Regional Director of Public Health) and includes the draft Strategy which has been published by the Regional Directors of Public Health for discussion (copy attached). A proposed Assembly response is set out in Annex 2 for members' consideration.

**Key Issues:**

The Regional Public Health Team, in partnership with the region's two Strategic Health Authorities (NHS South East Coast and NHS South Central), has produced a draft Regional Health Strategy for discussion with partners in the region. Assembly officers have commented on earlier drafts of the Strategy prior to publication. The region's Health Summit in March and the Healthy Region Forum in June 2007, hosted by the Assembly, also provided opportunities for members and other stakeholders to comment on the Strategy.

The Strategy focuses on five key themes: health inequalities; healthy and sustainable communities; employment and health; children and young people; and older people. Each theme has an overarching aim and up to five objectives through which the aim will be achieved. It also sets out key actions to deliver each objective.

In our proposed response (Annex 2) we welcome the broad emphasis of the Strategy, but highlight the need to maintain and develop close cross-sectoral partnership working on these issues at the local and regional level, including in relation to the South East Plan and implementation plan. We also emphasise the need to ensure adequate investment in services.