

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Report by the Executive Director of Social Work and Health

Social Work and Health Improvement Committee: 10 December 2008

Subject: National Guidance on Health Issues - Better Health Better Care Action Plan.

1. Purpose

- 1.1** To update members on recent developments which affect prioritisation of health inequality issues in relation to the national 'Better Health, Better Care Action Plan', and to seek committee approval on subsequent recommendations.

2. Background

- 2.1** Following publication of Better Health, Better Care: A Discussion Document in August 2007 and a three month consultation, to which WDC contributed, a new health policy – 'Better Health, Better Care: Action Plan' was published in December 2007.
- 2.2** At a meeting of committee in May 2008 Better Health, Better Care was presented as significant step towards recognition of the importance of partnership working in pursuit of a 'Healthier Scotland'. It was also accepted that West Dunbartonshire Council would play a key partnership role in achieving many of the targets within this document.
- 2.3** However, following the committee meeting of May 2008, The Scottish Government's Health Inequalities Task Force, chaired by WD Councillor Ronnie McColl, published a report in June 2008 entitled 'Equally Well', which set out the key challenges for addressing health inequalities in Scotland. See **Appendix 1** for more information on Equally Well. The full report can be viewed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2008/06/25104032/0>

3. Main Issues

- 3.1** If both sets of national guidance are actioned separately we will potentially lose co-ordination of partnership working that we are aiming to achieve, for example through our work on the Single Outcome Agreement.
- 3.2** The potential for duplication of effort and for lack of partnership focus in addressing the key health issues for our community is reason to ensure that we have a co-ordinated perspective on both sets of national guidance. This report is appended by a paper, **Appendix 2**, which

cross references all recommendations from both Better Health Better Care and Equally Well.

- 3.3** The paper in Appendix 2 provides a focus for discussion, prioritisation and clarity of purpose between partners in West Dunbartonshire. The column which refers to Lead Partner and the Recommendations will further develop through partnership discussion.

4. Personnel Issues

- 4.1** None at present however joint working will inevitably lead to sharing of resources.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1** None at present.

6. Risk Analysis

- 6.1** Many of the proposed actions in both documents require joint delivery between Local authority and NHS. Singular focus on both national documents will give potential for lack of efficacy and dissipation of resource.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1** We conclude that the collated actions from 'Better Health, Better Care: Action Plan' and 'Equally Well' documents in Appendix 2 sets out a work-frame through which partners can focus to meet national objectives for health and health inequality.

8. Recommendations

- 8.1** It is recommended that Committee endorse a proposal to use the paper in Appendix 2 to initiate and promote discussion of developing partnership work plans. Senior officers from relevant organisations to meet, discuss and report back to committee on agreed actions and leads.

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Appendices:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better Health Better Care – Summary of Actions. 2. Collated actions from 'Better Health Better Care Action Plan' and 'Equally Well' Recommendations
Background Papers:	Embedded in Report
Wards Affected:	All