

Inquiry Scope for a whole system review of Child Obesity

Title	“Tackling and reducing child obesity” – How well is Buckinghamshire doing?
Signed-off by	Brian Roberts, Chairman of Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee
	Sara Turnbull, Head of Member Services (Statutory Scrutiny Officer)
Author	Liz Wheaton, Committee & Governance Adviser
Date	28 November 2017
Inquiry Group Membership	To be confirmed at the meeting on 28 th November but provisional membership: Brian Roberts (Chairman of HASC) Barbara Gibbs (Vice-Chairman of HASC) David Martin (County Councillor) Ralph Bagge (County Councillor) Jules Cook (Chiltern District Council Co-opted Member) Margaret Aston (Co-opted Member)
Member Services Resource	Member Services will provide the following officer support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Turnbull, Head of Member Services – Policy Advice and Report Quality Assurance • Kelly Sutherland, Committee & Governance Manager – Project oversight • Liz Wheaton, Committee Adviser – Policy Lead & project management • Committee Assistant – Administrative support (as needed)
Lead Cabinet Member	Noel Brown, Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health
Lead HQ/BU Officer	Sarah Preston, Public Health Principal Lucie Smith, Public Health Practitioner
What is the problem that is trying to be solved?	In August 2016, the Government published their strategy for tackling childhood obesity. Its primary aim is to significantly reduce England’s rate of childhood obesity within the next 10 years, so how well is Buckinghamshire doing in reducing its rates? Child obesity is a critical public health issue, putting children at greater risk of developing cancer, type 2 diabetes and heart disease in later life. Treating obesity and its consequences is currently estimated to cost the NHS £5.1bn every year. The wider costs of obesity to society are estimated to be around three times this amount. By contrast, the UK spends only around £638 million on obesity prevention programmes. <i>(Source: House of Commons Health Committee report on Childhood obesity – brave and bold action, 2015-16)</i>

Obesity rates are highest for children from the most deprived areas and this is getting worse. Children aged 5 and from the poorest income groups are twice as likely to be obese compared to their most well off counterparts and by age 11 they are three times as likely. (Source: HM Government Childhood Obesity – A Plan for Action)

Delivery of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is one of the statutory public health duties that transitioned to local authorities in April 2013. The programme aims to provide robust health surveillance data on child weight status to understand obesity prevalence and trends at local and national levels.

The table below shows the results of the National Child Measurement Programme for Buckinghamshire since 2014.

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Reception (4-5 year olds)	18.6%	18.8%	18%
Year 6 (10-11 year olds)	26.7%	28.5%	26.9%

Whilst these figures do not reveal any major increase in the number of overweight and obese children in both age groups over the years, it does raise questions as to why there has not been a significant reduction in the figures. If the figures remain static over the next few years, then the Government's target will not have been reached in Bucks.

The County Council is uniquely placed to bring together key partners required to tackle child obesity but how co-ordinated is the approach, what activities and plans are currently in place and what more can be done.

Is the issue of significance to Buckinghamshire as a whole?

Yes - within Buckinghamshire, there were no statistically significant differences between District Council areas in the proportion of children who were obese for all the NCMP measurement years between 2007/08 and 2014/15.

Is the topic of relevance to the work of BCC?

Yes – the delivery of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) is one of the statutory public health duties that transitioned to local authorities in April 2013.

Is this topic within the remit of the Select Committee?

Yes – Public Health is part of the scrutiny remit of the Health & Adult Social Care Select Committee. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment is a joint health and wellbeing strategy that outlines the needs of the population – specific areas have been highlighted in

	the JSNA, including one relating to healthy weight – children and young people.
What work is underway already on this issue?	The priority areas highlighted in the JSNA form part of the Health & Wellbeing Board's work programme. The Board holds themed meetings around these priorities although child obesity is not scheduled to be discussed over the coming months.
Are there any key changes that might impact on this issue?	The Government's sugar tax is due to be introduced in April 2018 and the levy from this tax will be used to fund the Healthy Pupils Capital programme. In February 2017, the Government announced that schools are to receive £415m to help pupils benefit from healthier, more active lifestyles. Local authorities and larger multi-academy trusts will receive an allocation for schools in the 2018/19 academic year.
What are the key timing considerations?	None
Who are the key stakeholders & decision-makers?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet Member for Communities and Public Health • Public Health team • Bucks Learning Trust (schools improvement team) • Clinical Commissioning Groups • Bucks Healthcare Trust – Diabetes clinic • Children and Adult Mental Health services (CAMHS) • Schools, including school nurses, leaders of school breakfast clubs and school meal hub co-ordinators • District Council co-opted HASC Members
What might the Inquiry Achieve?	<p>The overall aim of the Inquiry is to identify improvements in the system to help meet the Government's target of reducing childhood obesity over the next 10 years.</p> <p>The Inquiry Group will undertake the following in order to fulfil the aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review the current strategies and action plans in place to reduce child obesity across the whole system; • evaluate the National Child Measuring Programme and test the robustness of the data; • seek a greater understanding of the lobbying currently being made to Government on issues affecting obesity – including the food and drinks industry, green spaces within housing developments; • assess current joint initiatives between public health and schools and other health partners; • understand the proposed plans for allocating and spending the funding available as part of the Healthy Pupils Capital programme; • explore the strength of partnership working with the District

	Councils in influencing factors affecting levels of obesity.
What media/communications support do you want?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With agreement from all partners, a press release to announce the start of the inquiry and a call for evidence. A press release to be circulated on completion of the report.

Evidence-gathering Methodology

What types of methods of evidence-gathering will you use?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desktop research to include comparative data provided nationally and locally on the National Child Measuring Programme; • Review of current strategies – both national and local to include the “Childhood Obesity: a plan for action” and the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment; • Review other local authority plans for tackling obesity; • Review the District Council’s leisure plans and future housing development plans. Ask the District Council HASC Members to facilitate this part of the evidence gathering; • Meetings with health practitioners within the Council, CAMHS (mental health services) and the Hospital Trust (Dieticians); • Meetings with officers in the Bucks Learning Trust, including the school improvement team; • Meetings with the relevant Clinical Commissioning and Public Health Leads who are responsible for commissioning services related to prevention of obesity; • Visits to speak to school nurses to find out more about how the NCMP works in their school; • Review the School meals policy and speak to co-ordinators of the school meals hubs; • Review the national curriculum on physical activity and healthy eating programme in schools.
How will you involve service-users and the public in this inquiry?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct an online survey with primary schools to better understand what work is currently underway to tackle this and to ascertain whether more could be done.

Outline Inquiry Project Plan

Stage	Key Activity	Dates
Scoping	Inquiry Scope agreed by Select Committee	28 November 2017
Evidence-gathering	Evidence-gathering phase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk top research; - Meetings and visits - Online survey 	January and mid-February
	Final Evidence Session	By end of Feb
Developing	Inquiry Group/SC meeting – Key Findings Report &	By March

Recommendations	Possible Areas of Recommendations considered	
	Testing & developing recommendations with stakeholders	By March
Reporting	Final Inquiry Group report with recommendations completed (signed-off by SC Chairman)	By March
	Report published for Select Committee – special meeting to be set-up in April	April
	Select Committee agrees report to go forward to decision-makers	By 27 April
	Cabinet considers recommendations	May meeting