

## REPORT TO HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY BOARD

**22 January 2018**

<b>Subject:</b>	Strategy to Reduce Infant Mortality in Sandwell
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Councillor Elaine Costigan - Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection
<b>Director:</b>	Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing – David Stevens
<b>Contribution towards Vision 2030:</b>	 
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	Valerie de Souza Consultant in Public Health 0121 569 3189 Valerie_desouza@sandwell.gov.uk

### **DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board:**

1. Consider and comment upon the attached strategy

#### **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT.**

- 2 In late 2016/early 2017, a strategy was developed by Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (SWBCCG) and Sandwell Local Authority to address infant mortality and stillbirths within the CCG. This report summarises the findings and recommendations of that report, and provides an update of the current position.

### **3 IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION**

This strategy supports a number of ambitions within Sandwell's Vision 2030. It supports the ambition that Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for. It also supports our children to benefit from the best start in life.

### **4 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

1. Rates of stillbirth and infant mortality are higher in Sandwell and Birmingham than they are nationally.
2. Both stillbirth and infant mortality rates have decreased in Sandwell Local Authority in recent years.
3. Numerous risk factors are associated with infant mortality and stillbirth but this strategy highlighted the following as especially important:-
  - Smoking
  - Ethnicity
  - Infant Nutrition/Breastfeeding
  - Deprivation and Poverty
4. Four interventions were recommended within the strategy which were:-
  - Commissioning of a Family Support Nurse Service
  - Recruitment of Health Pregnancy Advocates (peer support system)
  - Supply of an enabling fund to assist health behaviour change
  - Health education and promotion to encourage healthy choices
5. All of the interventions were agreed in principal by both SWBCCG Governing Body and the Health and Wellbeing Board in early 2017 but are required to go through the SWBCCG prioritisation process.

### **5 THE CURRENT POSITION**

The attached strategy outlines current services which are designed to reduce infant mortality, along with suggested modification to these and additional service which would reduce infant mortality in Sandwell.

**6 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)**

Any changes to individual services have undergoing consultation and similarly planned changes/addition to services will include a period of stakeholder and resident consultation.

**7 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS.**

Outlined in the attached strategy.

**8 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

Strategy has resource implications for individual organisations which provide and commission services which support reduction in infant mortality.

**9 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

Considered by individual commissioner/provider organisation.

**10 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Considered by individual commissioner/provider organisation.

**11 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Considered by individual commissioner/provider organisation.

**12 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

N/A

**13 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS**

Considered by individual commissioner/provider organisation.

**14 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)**

Considered by individual commissioner/provider organisation

**15 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND.**

N/A

16 **CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

To support the attached strategy.

17 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

A STRATEGY TO REDUCE INFANT MORTALITY AND STILLBIRTHS IN SANDWELL AND WEST BIRMINGHAM

18 **APPENDICES:**



Summary of Infant  
Mortality Strategy for

**David Stevens**  
**Executive Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing**