

TITLE OF REPORT: Update on Healthy Schools Programme
REPORT OF: Alice Wiseman, Director of Public Health

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide the committee with an update of the work of the Healthy Schools Programme during the 2016/17 academic year.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 A new approach for the delivery of the Gateshead Healthy Schools programme was developed during 2015/16 and the programme began to operate as a traded service from September 2016. The programme was included in the “Services to Schools & Academies Brochure” that is sent to schools each year and this meant that schools could choose whether or not to buy into the programme.
- 1.2 The Health in schools programme gives schools access to a co-ordinator who provides the following:
- Promotion of new services and programmes and support for health promotion campaigns
 - Provide quality assurance of all aspects of the framework and to participate in termly quality assurance group meetings
 - Work with schools, school nurses and other agencies on how to identify those in greater need and interventions to offer those identified.
 - Raise awareness by schools of care pathways and available services for children and young people in Gateshead
 - Support schools to identify and agree activities to address their specific health and wellbeing needs
 - Support schools to access training for staff
 - Liaise with wider stakeholders in their offer of health promotion and training to schools

2. Schools engagement in the programme

- 2.1 Forty one Gateshead schools, plus Bensham Grove Nursery School, actively engaged with the healthy school programme during the 2016/17 academic year. Forty three schools chose not to engage with the programme. The numbers of schools that chose to participate in the programme has decreased from the previous year when the service was fully funded by Gateshead Council. Schools gave a number of reasons for non- participation in the programme including cost, no healthy schools co-ordinator in place in the school, lack of time to devote to the programme, unsupportive senior leadership and pressures from other areas.

2.2 Each of the participating schools was offered up to five visits from the healthy schools co-ordinator during the academic year. This consisted of an initial consultation visit, an action planning visit followed up by three supportive/moderation/quality assurance visits.

2.3 In addition several twilight sessions were offered around a range of health related themes including healthy weight and emotional health and wellbeing. These sessions were also used as an opportunity for healthy schools co-ordinators to consult and network with other colleagues and the healthy schools programme team.

3. Themes identified by schools and awards

3.1 As part of the action planning schools have to identify what their health priority is and why they have chosen this health priority, including the data sources they used to arrive at their decision. They also have to identify what outcomes the school is aiming to achieve.

3.2 The vast majority of schools identified healthy weight as their focus during 2016/17 based on both local and national data for obesity rates. A small number of schools chose to focus on the area of emotional health and wellbeing and in particular anti-bullying. The nature of the programme is such that schools are able to formulate their action plans to cover anything up to two academic years and therefore participating schools can be at different stages on their journey to the achievement of their health related targets.

3.3 Nineteen schools received healthy schools certificates during the 2016/17 academic year.

4. Future provision

4.1 The current healthy schools programme has been provided by Edutainment which is a private company. From 1st September 2018 schools can either choose to purchase the services of Edutainment directly or can sign up to the offer from the Schools Sports Partnership in the services to schools and academies brochure.

5. Recommendations

- The committee is asked to note the content of the report and to provide comments on the information provided.