



Sheena Ramsey, Chief Executive

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report seeks to update Council on the establishment of the Communities and Volunteering Service and to seek approval to move this service from Housing, Environmental and Health Communities to Public Health and Wellbeing.
2. The work of the Communities and Volunteering service is focussed on the alleviation of poverty, inequality and disadvantage. The service supports the Council, its Elected Members, internal and external stakeholders by providing insight, research and expertise to aid the understanding of socio-economic disadvantage, its cause and effect, with a view to better understanding the lived experience of Gateshead residents, sharing good practice, influencing policy, process and ways of working to deliver upon the priorities set out in the Thrive policy framework and in support of the Council's aspirations for locality working.
3. It is proposed that the Communities and Volunteering Service will transfer from Housing, Environmental and Healthy Communities and into Public Health and Wellbeing, and that it will take on a new service title of Community, Health and Wellbeing.
4. This proposal will allow the Interim Service Director of Volunteering and Communities to be supported with the resources and expertise within Public Health and Wellbeing and will allow the Council to broaden the activities and the impact of the Communities and Volunteering Service by taking on the priorities described in paragraph 7 below.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- (i) Approves the proposed move of the Communities and Volunteering Service from Housing, Environmental and Health Communities to Public Health and Wellbeing.
- (ii) Approves the change of name for the service to Community, Health and Wellbeing.
- (iii) Notes the areas of work progressed to date, and the proposed priorities moving forward.