

Update of the Healthier Communities and Older People's (HCOP) Group:

The HCOP met on the 18th February 2009 and reviewed the action plan and priorities for this sub-group of the LSP.

Three projects met recognised priorities for the District and the Sustainable Communities Strategy and had 'added value', these were:

1. To reduce alcohol related hospital admissions. A project to understand the issues on alcohol consumption in the district: report on the statistics, the evidence of what works or is best practice, and what is currently happening.
2. To reduce rural deprivation by improving access to services; project to undertake the Access to Services consultation and survey.
3. To provide support to reduce adult obesity and increase adult participation in sport and active recreation; HELP/MEND programmes – new PRG funded project to increase access to the programmes by taking them out to the rural localities. This also meets priorities to increase access to services and to increase participation in regular volunteering.

Two projects were removed from HCOP's action plan:

1. To examine the reasons for higher mortality from breast cancer in Uttlesford compared with Harlow and Epping Forest Localities. New data (2004-2006, and 2005-2007) has indicated that mortality rates from breast cancer in Uttlesford have dropped below England and Wales, East of England averages and below that of Epping Forest and Harlow. This is to be monitored on an ongoing basis as a part of HCOPs main business.
2. To provide an environment for a thriving third sector. It was agreed that this was an ongoing general target as a part of all of the work of the LSP and its statutory partners and recommend that Uttlesford Futures Board consider this.

The group discussed a list of priorities for the District to be considered and prioritised for adding to the action plan, which will be decided by the next meeting. Priorities will be assessed against need and what added value there would be to tackling as a partnership.

The group also discussed membership and adequate representation and a representative from Social Services and from UDC Housing are to be invited to future meetings of the group.