

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

9th June 2022

ORAL QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

1.) Oral Question to the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board received from Richard Gibbons:

Re. Agenda Item 8, with 57% of adults in LB Bromley overweight or obese how has, is, and will the board engage with relevant Council departments to prioritise enabling more residents to switch to active travel modes for short trips to schools, shops, stations and local amenities in the borough to help improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

Reply:

Thank you for your question, which is a very important one.

As you have seen in our Health and Wellbeing Strategy Obesity is one of our named priorities, and will remain so. Obesity is a complex issues and many aspects contribute to this situation and therefore it requires a multifaceted approach to address Obesity. You have asked about prioritising the shift to active travel. This is an area that has been impacted on by a number of departments in the council, from transport, regeneration and Public Health and would be the remit of other committees too in addition to the Health and Wellbeing Board, and requires a multifaceted approach. A short summary of some of the work includes:

In September 2020, as part of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Council launched the 'Don't Wait to Lose Weight' campaign, which had an impact and complemented the work being undertaken both locally and nationally.

Transport:

The Road Safety team works with primary and secondary schools across the borough to promote active, safe travel modes on the journey to school. These modes include, walking, scooting and cycling. We also have an extensive programme of child and adult cycle training and promotion which includes adult Learn To Ride sessions for complete beginners and adult Accompanied Rides to support experienced adults with their commute to work and Cycle Maintenance workshops which teach basic maintenance techniques to keep riders on the road. Active travel is included in Bromley's Travel Plan.

The Regeneration Team – *are leading on the development of a physical activity and sports strategy which is currently being developed which is particularly focused on making more inactive people active. It is expected that active travel will be featured in this strategy which will have recommendations for the Council.*

Public Health Team – *work closely with council colleagues, the NHS and other One Bromley Health Partners to promote Bromley residents to being more physically active. For adults, this promotion is achieved through Public Health publicity and outreach health campaigns, education to Health Care Professionals*

and other key stakeholders about the benefits of physical activity and available resources in the borough. A leaflet designed by Public Health was recently updated which is disseminated as part of this work. For children this entails working closely with our Bromley Schools as part of the promotion of the Healthy Schools Bromley programme which the majority of Primary Schools are signed up to participate in. Most recently the Walk to School Week was promoted as a popular active travel promotional event.

This is not a complete list of all activities that have happened in the past, now or future but hopefully gives you some idea of the work of the council in this area. Work will continue with the departments working closely together to address the causes of obesity.

During the September meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board obesity was likely to be included in the discussions regarding the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Supplementary Question:

'Working Together to Promote Active Travel' and other reports advocate active travel. I appeal for Members to work cross-party and for the Portfolio Holders to report to the Environment and Community Service Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee, as there is little evidence of a move to link health and wellbeing and transport services. Local community groups, such as Living Streets, stress the mutual benefits of health and wellbeing for all.

Reply:

Yes, we work very closely with other Members, and I have written to both the Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces and Portfolio Holder for Transport, Highways and Road Safety – there are many cross-cutting issues, which will be handled as such.