

Wiltshire Council

Health and Wellbeing Board

19 September 2017

Subject: Wiltshire Healthy Schools Programme

Executive Summary

The Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme clarifies the actions all schools should take to effectively promote the health and wellbeing of young people, particularly the most vulnerable.

Accreditation is provided to an increasing number of schools who have met local standards across the 4 core themes.

Wiltshire Healthy Schools, relaunched in 2012, is an evidence based approach building on the most successful elements of previous national, regional and local Healthy Schools programmes.

Proposal(s)

It is recommended that the Board:

- i) notes the work of the Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme;
- ii) agrees to support the work of the Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme.

Reason for Proposal

The Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme, provided by Children's Services, helps schools to improve the health and wellbeing of pupils and the wider school community.

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Purpose of Report

1. To update board members on the work of the Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme.
2. To provide a summary of current school engagement and impact for children.

Background

3. This Wiltshire Council programme clarifies the actions all schools should take to effectively promote the health and wellbeing of young people, particularly the most vulnerable. This provides a supportive framework for all Wiltshire schools to audit their current provision, identify areas for development, implement planned actions and monitor progress, including recording impact for pupils.
4. Wiltshire Healthy Schools celebrates success, awarding accreditation to schools at bronze, silver and gold level. A multiagency Quality Assurance Group reviews the standards, receives school submissions twice a year and conducts selected school quality assurance visits.
5. Wiltshire Healthy Schools, relaunched in 2012, builds on the most successful elements of previous national, regional and local Healthy Schools programmes in line with recommendations from NICE and others.

Main Considerations

5. The Wiltshire Healthy Schools programme challenges and supports schools to meet a range of criteria in 4 core themes:
 - The Whole School Approach
 - Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education
 - Healthy Weight
 - Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health
6. All schools can access advice, training, support and resources from Wiltshire Council, including use of the Wiltshire Healthy Schools website: <https://www.wiltshirehealthyschools.org>. Schools who have signed up to the programme receive additional support, including use of online audit and action planning tools.

7. Schools can also access support from a range of local and national organisations to help them meet the local criteria. Many of these organisations work in partnership with the local programme.

The current offer to Wiltshire Healthy Schools

8. Schools are currently charged £150 each time they wish to renew their status, or complete a new level. Engaged schools receive:
 - A one day event, focussing on addressing local health priorities in schools
 - Access to the online audit and action plan (for a 3-year period, or until accreditation)
 - Telephone and email support
 - Accreditation from the Wiltshire Healthy Schools Quality Assurance Group
 - Invitation to a celebration event
 - Permission to use the Wiltshire Healthy Schools logo
 - Dated Wiltshire Healthy Schools wall plaque

Impact of Healthy Schools achievement

9. Wiltshire Healthy Schools provide evidence to show that they have implemented good practice to meet the health-related needs of pupils. Evidence submitted by schools reflects a wide range of actions and improvements throughout the 4 core themes of the school audit.
10. Examples of impact for children achieved by Healthy Schools include:
 - Reduced bullying
 - More effective PSHE education
 - Increased physical activity
 - More frequent hand washing
 - More resilient children
 - Healthier eating
 - More effective pupil participation.
 - Increased sun safety behaviours
 - Improvements in behaviour
 - Increased numbers of pupils brushing teeth

Current engagement and accreditation

11. The programme currently engages 118 schools. 50% of all Wiltshire schools are engaged in the programme, including 60% in the most deprived areas (top 1/3 of schools ranked by IDACI - Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (2015)); 48% of all secondary schools are engaged, including 90% in the most deprived areas.
12. Currently 55 schools hold accreditation: Bronze: 47; Silver: 5; Gold. A list of current Wiltshire Healthy Schools can be found here:
www.wiltshirehealthyschools.org/about/current-wiltshire-healthy-schools

Support from Local Area Boards

13. The programme is currently being supported by 4 Local Area Boards, to ensure schools effectively address local priorities and provide evidence of effective provision. Additional funding provided has helped to engage schools and encouraged them to support each other and complete within a shorter timescale.

Support for Thrive Schools

14. All 11 Thrive secondary schools, who are being supported to improve the mental health of students, have been required to work towards Wiltshire Healthy Schools. This joined up approach has significantly increased the engagement of schools in areas of deprivation.

Challenges

15. Although the programme is attracting an increasing number of schools, with growing levels of achievement around 50% of engaged schools do not meet the standards and most schools struggle to achieve the more challenging silver and gold levels, that show measurable impact for pupils.

Partnership working

16. Working links have been formed with other organisations and projects to increase support available.
17. Award criteria have been mapped with other local and national award schemes.

Next Steps

18. As the programme continues to attract more schools, it will adapt to continue to help schools meet current health priorities.
19. Further updates can be provided as required.

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