



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Elected Member Representation on the Belfast Strategic Partnership for Health and Wellbeing</b>
<b>Date:</b>	21 January 2011
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Suzanne Wylie, Director of Health and Environmental Services, ext 3260
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<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Committee agreed to set up new joint working arrangements with the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSC) at its meeting of 23 January 2009. The purpose in doing this was to create a mechanism to better tackle the health inequalities that exist across the city, which is one of the priorities that the Council has set out within its Corporate Plan.
1.2	Part of these joint working arrangements involved the establishment of a new unit, the Belfast Health Development Unit (BHDU), which was launched by the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety in March 2010. The BHDU incorporates staff from the Council, the PHA and the BHSC. The Unit has developed a joined-up action plan across the three agencies to address the priority health problems facing the people of Belfast.
1.3	The next step in delivering joined up planning and action is to set up a new Strategic Partnership for Health and Wellbeing to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Support a citywide collaborative approach across sectors to better address the inequalities and health and wellbeing challenges faced within Belfast</li><li>▪ Set the strategic direction for health and wellbeing improvement in Belfast, through the development of agreed priorities for the city and the alignment of corporate plans and resources of the key service providers</li></ul>
1.4	Members will also be aware that the Council was successful in being awarded a contract by the BIG Lottery to deliver a community planning pilot. A Cross Party Reference Group on Community Planning has been meeting for the last two months, chaired by Councillor Hartley and with two members from each political party in BCC. The group agreed that the pilot should focus on health as a theme and that it would specifically test how to enable the voluntary and community sector to influence the plans and resources of key statutory agencies.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<b>The Health and Wellbeing Partnership</b>
2.1.1	<p>The new Belfast Strategic Partnership for Health and Wellbeing is to be made up from the following sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Statutory sector, such as the Council, PHA, BHSCT, NIHE, PSNI, Education, etc.</li> <li>▪ Private sector;</li> <li>▪ Community and voluntary sector, including representation from the five Belfast Area Partnership Boards and community nominees put forward at a recent community sector workshop;</li> <li>▪ Local Elected Members.</li> </ul>
2.1.2	<p>This partnership will set the health and wellbeing priorities for the City in the form of a citywide plan and will be supported by the BHDU. The first meeting is to be held on 8 February at 11am in the Group Space, Ulster Hall. It will meet approximately four times a year.</p>
2.1.3	<p>It is suggested that each political party represented on Belfast City Council nominates a Member to sit on this partnership. Further, it is suggested that to maintain coherence across activities, the Members nominated should also sit on the Cross Party Reference Group on Community Planning. The staff in the BHDU will provide support for the members of the Partnership.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	None specific to Partnership Membership

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	None at present

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	The Committee is asked to agree to nominate one representative from each Party to sit on the Belfast Strategic Partnership for Health and Wellbeing.

	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
The Director of Health and Environmental Services will update the Committee on developments as the Partnership develops.	

	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
<p>BHDU – Belfast Health Development Unit  NIHE - Northern Ireland Housing Executive  PHA - Public Health Agency  BHSCT – Belfast Health and Social Care Trust  PSNI - Police Service of Northern Ireland</p>	

	<b>Documents Attached</b>
None	