

Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board

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Report for decision

Gypsy and Traveller Champion

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	Seen by:	Name	Date
Report Sign off	Relevant Senior Manager / Lead Officer (Director Level)	Christina Gray	4.7.18
	Cabinet Member / Portfolio Holder (if applicable)	Christine Lawrence	4.7.18
	Monitoring Officer (Somerset County Council)	Scott Wooldridge	4.7.18

Summary:	<p>A paper on the Health and Wellbeing of the Gypsy and Traveller community was recently considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board. This identified a number of actions that could be taken to support and improve Gypsy and Traveller health outcomes. One of these actions was the creation of a Gypsy and Traveller Champion on the Health and Wellbeing Board. This paper sets out the role of the Champion.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>That the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Board approves</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The appointment of Cllr Gill Slocombe as Gypsy and Traveller Champion for the Health and Wellbeing Board2. The parameters of the Gypsy and Traveller Champion within relation to the Board
Reasons for recommendations:	<p>The Board recognised the need to be aware of and consider the health needs of the Gypsy and Traveller community. It was agreed that having a Board member Champion would assist the Board to do this.</p>
Links to Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy	<p>This role will help improve inequality within health care and wellbeing.</p>
Financial, Legal and HR Implications:	<p>There will be no financial, legal or HR implications.</p>

Equalities Implications:	This role would help to reduce discrimination and increase fostering good relations through communities.
Risk Assessment:	None

1. Background

- 1.1. An information session on the Health and Wellbeing of the Gypsy and Traveller community highlighted the particular health needs and inequalities experienced by the community. At this session it was agreed that a number of actions should be progressed to address this need. One of these actions was to identify a Gypsy and Traveller Champion for the Health and Wellbeing Board. This paper seeks to authorise that appointment and outline the parameters of this role.
- 1.2. The role would complete the following roles on the board:
- Be an active Champion for Gypsy and Traveller Health
 - Provide a yearly update on action to improve Gypsy and Traveller Health in Somerset
 - Have a thorough and current knowledge of the health needs for the Gypsy and Traveller Community

The Champion role should understand the Gypsy and Traveller community and be able to represent their needs to the Health and Wellbeing board.

- 1.3. The role will be supported by Public Health and Somerset Equality Officers Group officers. They will provide updates and clarification to make sure the Champion is clear on the needs of the community.
- 1.4. The Champion will be in role for the term of the Health and Wellbeing Board. Should this need to change during the term of the Health and Wellbeing board a new champion will be requested from the Board.

2. Options Considered and reasons for rejecting them

- 2.1. The only other alternative considered was inviting a community member to the Health and Wellbeing Board. It was considered that this would be a burden to place on a community member. It was also considered that there was not a community member at the moment that would be in a position to attend the meetings.
- 2.2. The Champion role will be supported by additional work that is happening within Public Health, the Somerset Equality Officers Group (SEOG) and work to identify funding for an engagement worker in Somerset. They will also be supported by officers from Public Health and SEOG.

3. Consultations undertaken

- 3.1. Engagement was completed through the Gypsy and Traveller forum before it went on hiatus. This identified areas of interest and concern from the Gypsy and

Traveller community. Also staff from Public Health visit members of the community to better understand the issues and what could be done.

4. Implications

- 4.1.** This role will raise the profile of Gypsy and Traveller Health and help to address the health inequality which exists for these communities.