



HEALTH AND WELL BEING BOARD – 16 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH – 'LEICESTERSHIRE'S HEALTH – NEW INSIGHTS INTO OUR POPULATION'

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2017. A copy of the full report is attached at Appendix 1.

Link to the Local Health and Care System

2. The Director of Public Health's Annual Report is a statutory duty for the Director of Public Health and is an independent report on the health and wellbeing of the local population.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:
 - a) Notes the Director of Public Health Annual Report for 2017;
 - b) Notes the recommendations in the report.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

4. The report is published annually and is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board as part of the publication process for the report.

Background

5. The Director of Public Health's (DPH) Annual Report is a statutory independent report on the health of the population of Leicestershire.
6. One of the roles of the Director of Public Health is to be an independent advocate for the health of their population. The Annual Reports are the main way by which Directors of Public Health make their conclusions known to the public.
7. This year's report presents a broad overview of health in Leicestershire – covering population and population change, the wider determinants of health, lifestyle behaviours, hospital admissions and prescribing.

Summary of the Annual Report

8. The county continues to be a healthy place to live. While identifying the 21st century challenges being faced, child obesity rates are continuing to decline, around 65 per cent of residents are taking part in the recommended 150 minutes of activity per week and teenage pregnancy rates are more than halving.
9. While Leicestershire remains relatively affluent and healthy, the county faces challenges around housing and access to services and a priority within the report will be to examine rural health in more depth and ensure that robust plans are in place to tackle issues.
10. The report also points to air quality as posing the 'largest environmental risk to public health in the UK', with Public Health England assessing that over 300 deaths in the county each year can be attributed to an exposure to high levels of air pollution . The highest levels of air pollution in the county are around junction 21 of the M1, East Midlands Airport and the former coal-mining areas of North West Leicestershire.
11. Other key points from the annual report identify:
 - The need for closer partnership working between the county's Health and Wellbeing and Community Safety Boards to tackle rising rates for domestic and alcohol-related violence;
 - Ensuring children have the best start in life. This follows findings which mirror the national picture that shows the later that a child is born in the school year, the less likely they are to achieve a good level of development.
12. The report also outlines the tricky balancing act between continuing to improve public health at a time when Government funding continues to fall. The county population of 675,300 in 2015 is expected to grow during the next 25 years, for example, by 49 per cent in people aged 65-84, and 162 per cent in 85s and over.

Resource Implications

13. The recommendations set out in the report will inform commissioning decisions relating to the priorities for public health.

Timetable for Decisions

14. The Annual Report was considered by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 November and will be considered by the Cabinet on 24 November. It will be submitted to the County Council meeting on 6 December.

Conclusion

15. The report presents recommendations and priorities for public health over the next twelve months. Health and Well Being Board partners are asked to comment on the recommendations as part of developing a response to the highlighted areas.

Officer to Contact

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List of Appendices

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2017

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

16. Implementation of the Report's recommendations would have a positive impact on health inequalities.

Partnership Working and Associated Issues

17. The recommendations within the Report focus on actions across agencies that will improve the population's health. The basis of the report is improving population health in partnership with other key agencies.

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