

Title of report: Director of Public Health Annual Report

Meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting date: 10 June 2024

Report by: Director of Public Health

Classification

Open

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose:

To share the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023 with the Health and Wellbeing Board. The focus of the 2023 report is improving health in older people, and it is titled "Ageing well in Herefordshire".

Recommendation(s)

- 1. That the board note the content of the report, and for board members to share with respective organisations and networks to consider the recommendations contained within.**

Alternative options

2. No alternatives were considered as the Director of Public Health Annual Report is a statutory document and forms an aspect of the strategic planning process for protecting and improving the health and wellbeing.

Key considerations

3. Since 1988 the Directors of Public Health (DPH) have been required to publish an annual report on the health of their population, this can be an overview assessment or based on a specific theme.
4. The annual report serves as a vehicle by which the DPH can highlight issues and areas of focus for universal or targeted attention to help protect or improve the health of their population.
5. The annual report remains a key method by which the DPH is accountable to the population they serve.
6. The Faculty of Public Health guidelines on DPH Annual Reports list the report aims as the following:
 7. Contribute to improving the health and well-being of local populations
 8. Reduce health inequalities.
 9. Promote action for better health through measuring progress towards health targets.
10. Assist with the planning and monitoring of local programmes and services that impact on health over time.
11. The Public Health Annual Report is the DPH's independent, expert assessment of the health of the local population. Whilst the views and contributions of local partners have been taken into account, the assessment and recommendations made in the report are those held by the DPH and do not necessarily reflect the position of the employing and partner organisations.
12. Each year a theme is chosen for the annual report. Therefore, it does not encompass every issue of relevance, but rather focuses on a particular issue or set of linked issues. These may cover one of the three work streams of public health practice (health improvement, health protection or healthcare public health), an overarching theme, such as health inequalities, or a particular topic such as mental health or cancer.
13. For the 2023 report, the topic of ageing well was identified and highlights the following:
 - a. In Herefordshire, a significant proportion of the population are over the age of 65, with the numbers of over 85 year olds rising rapidly.
 - b. Although people in Herefordshire are living longer lives, these years are not always spent in good health. With older age comes an increasing probability of an accumulation of chronic diseases that significantly impact on people's quality of life and are a large financial expense for health and social care.
 - c. Those aged 65 years and older are more likely to live in the most rural areas creating particular challenges with the delivery of services, where travel times and access issues, such as public transport, are a barrier.
 - d. We have a collective responsibility to ensure that our residents continue to live independent, healthy, purposeful and connected lives in older age.
 - e. The development of ill health in older age is not inevitable. There are many actions that can be taken by individuals and society to prevent or delay the onset of disease and maximise healthy life expectancy.
 - f. This report presents the challenges we face with an ageing population, but also the action we can take as individuals and communities to improve our health as we age. It also showcases some examples of the local services and initiatives available to support health in older age.

Community Impact

14. In accordance with the adopted code of corporate governance, Herefordshire Council is committed to promoting a positive working culture that accepts, and encourages constructive challenge, and recognises that a culture and structure for scrutiny are key elements for accountable decision making, policy development and review. Topics selected for scrutiny should have regard to what matters to residents.

Environmental Impact

15. There are no general implications for the environment arising from this report

Equality duty

16. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) Facilitate good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

17. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. It is likely that the annual report will have a positive impact in organisations carrying out their equality duties as age is a protected characteristic and the report raises awareness of ageing well and reduce inequalities amongst this population group

Resource implications

18. There are no resource implications associated with this report. The resource implications of any recommendations supported by the HWB will need to be considered by the responsible party in response to those recommendations or subsequent decisions.

Legal implications

19. Health and Wellbeing boards are responsible for encouraging integrated working between health and social care commissioners, including partnership arrangements such as pooled budgets, lead commissioning and integrated provision.

20. Their purpose is to establish collaborative decision making, planning and commissioning across councils and the NHS, informed by the views of patients, people who use services and other partners.

21. The functions of the Health and Wellbeing Board are set out in paragraph 3.5.24 of the constitution.

Risk management

22. There are no risk implications identified emerging from the recommendations in this report

Consultees

23. Community and stakeholder engagement is not a requirement of the Director of Public Health Annual Report, although the following people have either been involved in the production of the document or consulted:

Emma Lydall (Public Health Registrar), Claudia Ciurleo (GP Registrar), Abigail Marshall (Sustainability Project and Promotions Officer), Charlotte Worthy (Intelligence Team Unit Manager),

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023