

## Questions from councillors

### Health and Wellbeing Board – Monday 26 July 2021

#### Question from Councillor Trish Marsh

It is increasingly clear with the recent floods and heatwaves how important wider determinants of health are to the wellbeing of all our residents. These include polluted air, poorly insulated homes, scant access to greenspace, loneliness and more. The resulting ill health, both physical and mental, then puts pressure on our health budgets, our community services and our economy.

The list of wider determinants of health and wellbeing is a long one, and its reach and impacts will get worse as climate change increasingly pushes extreme weather events.

These pressures need to be monitored by the HWB and then to feed into their programmes to protect public health.

Please let me know what indicators of wider determinants of health you are currently monitoring and what additions you plan for the Public Health and JSNA reports for 2022/23 and beyond.

#### Response by Acting Director of Public Health

We agree that the wider determinants of health are vitally important to the short and long term health and wellbeing of residents of Herefordshire.

The Understanding Herefordshire website is Herefordshire's JSNA, and includes information on many of these including, but not limited to air quality, fuel poverty, loneliness, social mobility. The JSNA aims to understand what data means for the county rather than focusing on a defined set of indicators. However, the Public Health Outcomes Framework provides a benchmark of how the county is performing over time and compared to other areas on a range of nationally defined indicators of health and the wider determinants. The latest data can be viewed on PHE's [Fingertips](#) site.

The 2021 JSNA summary (due to be produced by the end of the year) will be an opportunity to consolidate what is currently known about all topics including wider determinants, and identify gaps for prioritisation in 2022 and beyond. Significant contributions will come from the [Talk Community Well-being Survey](#) (the results of which were published on 20 July) and the [Growing Up in Herefordshire Survey](#) (results due by September), both of which collect data on a wide range of aspects of life in the county.

#### Supplementary question

I am particularly keen that we have information on access to publicly available green space.

I understood from a presentation by planning some time ago that they were planning on developing an indicator round this.

This access is very important to wellbeing and something we understand much better after lockdowns.

Please can you update on progress towards reporting on our population's access to greenspace?

## **Response by Acting Director of Public Health**

It was confirmed a written response would be provided to the supplementary question.

*Written response below provided on 3 August 2021*

Historically it has been a challenge to source quality data on publicly accessible green space, with previous national datasets excluding assets such as public rights of way and common land – which are clearly important for Herefordshire. Several new / improved sources have become available recently, however, and we are developing a page on the Understanding Herefordshire website which will link to them and explain what they show for the county. The initial web page will be live by the end of August but we will continue to further refine the content, and investigate the feasibility of developing more detailed local data to complement the national data. We will publish a news item when the page is live: interested parties can [sign up for email updates here](#).