



**Report of Gordon Elliott, Head of Partnerships and Community  
Engagement and Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health County  
Durham**

**Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of this report is to present the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) with the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2018/19 (Appendix 2) for agreement.

**Executive summary**

- 2 There has been some excellent work carried out which has been led and supported by the HWB during 2018/19 which has impacted positively on the six strategic priorities detailed in the [Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19](#) (JHWS). The priorities, based on evidence from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), informs partners planning, policy and commissioning decisions, which enables us to continue to improve health and wellbeing services to all sections of the population countywide.
- 3 The direction of travel is positive, and it is anticipated that the emerging County Durham Vision 2035; the continuing integration of health and social care; supporting the development of a community focused wellbeing model and linking our new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-25 strategic objectives, will drive forward further improvements. This will enable the HWB to confidently address some of the future challenges we face over the forthcoming year and beyond.

**Recommendation(s)**

- 4 Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
  - (a) Agree the Health and Wellbeing Annual Report 2018/19
  - (b) Note the timeline and next steps outlined in the report
  - (c) Note that moving forward, our intent is to include more performance information in the Annual Report to demonstrate impact.

## **Background**

- 5 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 required all upper tier local authorities to establish Health and Wellbeing Boards. The County Durham Health and Wellbeing Board was formally established as a committee of Durham County Council (DCC) in April 2013.
- 6 This is the sixth Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report, which outlines the key performance achievements of the Board during its sixth year of operation. It includes examples of work the HWB has undertaken, or supported, during the past 12 months which delivers against the strategic priorities detailed in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016/19; and includes several case studies which show how the work of the HWB and its sub-groups has impacted on people's lives. It also specifies the future challenges the HWB face over the forthcoming year.
- 7 The HWB continues to receive progress updates on Health and Social Care Integration and on joint health and social care planning and commissioning activity and performance through the Better Care Fund. This includes receiving the one-year Durham Health and Wellbeing System Plan, which reflects the changing health and social care landscape, the challenges it faces, new policy and guidance and how that all impacts on service delivery and re-design in County Durham.

## **What has happened in the past 12 months**

- 8 The key performance indicators in the Annual Report show a positive direction of travel in several areas across people's life course stages, which demonstrate improvements in the health of the population. Examples include 155 businesses signing up to support the Breastfeeding Friendly Scheme; 2,253 secondary school pupils aged 14-15 have taken part in the Youth Aware of Mental Health programme; smoking prevalence in the over 18s has reduced to a point where, for the first time it is on par with national and regional averages; and Durham continues to be a high performer nationally in preventing delayed transfers of care from hospital. There are however, still challenges to face, which are touched on later in the Annual Report.
- 9 The following sections give examples of initiatives which have taken place to achieve the strategic objectives in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016/19.

*Priority 1: Children and young people make healthy choices and have the best start in life.*

10 Examples include:

- (a) Following a request from the HWB, they were provided with assurance from NHS England that programmes of work were being taken forward to support the sustainability of dental care practices in County Durham. The HWB endorsed the work currently being carried out with the local dental network and other key stakeholders to better understand the challenges facing NHS dental providers, with a view to developing a local practice resilience programme;
- (b) The HWB supported the refinement of partnership governance arrangements and approved the new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Strategy, along with the Integrated Steering Group for Children, which seeks to further improve outcomes for Children with SEND;
- (c) The HWB agreed the Children and Young People Mental Health, Emotional Wellbeing & Resilience Local Transformation Plan submission to NHS England. The plan aims to provide access, help and support to improve mental health services for children and young people;
- (d) The 'Reducing Tobacco in Pregnancy' work, endorsed by the HWB, focuses on reducing rates of smoking throughout pregnancy to 6% or less by 2022, by providing practical and ongoing support and advice to pregnant women.

*Priority 2: Reduce health inequalities and early deaths.*

11 Examples include:

- (a) The HWB received an update on the Community Pharmacy Network in County Durham, aligned to a whole system approach to health and self-care, to show how they are working to improve the health and wellbeing of residents. The network is delivering a range of services to their patients in addition to their core role of dispensing medicines; they aim to support people to manage their long-term conditions, be a first port of call for healthcare advice and treatment and be neighbourhood health and wellbeing hubs;
- (b) The newly formed Health Protection Assurance and Development Group, which reports to the HWB, have been working to improve strategies for health protection. They have been focusing on improved screening and immunisation programmes; outbreaks

and communicable diseases; being prepared to respond to incidences and emergencies which supports the prevention of disease; and the ability to manage disease if there is an outbreak;

- (c) The HWB endorsed partners' approach to addressing issues relating to health and housing. Health Impact Assessment work carried out by Public Health and the Spatial Policy Team has enabled partners to collectively consider how housing and related support can promote positive health, independence and equity, as well as identify and build on existing good practice;
- (d) The HWB advocated for a policy to impose restrictions on new planning and licensing applications for hot food takeaways, including the percentage in a given area and proximity to schools and colleges. The Hot Food Takeaway Policy will support our young people, families and communities to be able to live and interact within environments where healthier choices are the easy choice;
- (e) The Healthy Weight Alliance, a subgroup of the Health and Wellbeing Board, has taken forward County Durham's whole system approach to supporting people to achieve and keep a healthy weight; including the Sugar Smart Programme and projects funded from the Soft Drinks Industry Levy, which support schools to promote positive mental and emotional wellbeing.

*Priority 3: Improve the quality of life, independence and care and support for people with long term conditions.*

12 Examples include:

- (a) The HWB has supported the development of a Health and Social Care Plan for County Durham through a Joint Health and Social Care Strategic Commissioning Function and Integrated Governance arrangements. DCC and the Clinical Commissioning groups (CCGs) have worked closely together to progress the development of integrated health and social care services countywide, an example of success is the Teams Around Patients (TAP) model becoming operational across County Durham, providing easily accessible multi-disciplinary primary care services to people in their communities;
- (b) The HWB agreed the 'Think Autism in County Durham' as an all-age strategy, developed to provide a joined-up approach to support people with autism throughout their lives, including a focus on improved support through transition from child to adulthood;

- (c) The HWB received information on the arrangements for the Adult Care Transformation and Innovation Fund. This included a focus on social isolation and how Area Action Partnerships can support residents to be included in social activities in their community.

*Priority 4: Improve the mental and physical wellbeing of the population.*

13 Examples include:

- (a) The HWB has acknowledged the excellent work carried out by the Suicide Prevention Alliance who are currently developing a refreshed programme of work, which will improve and expand current service provision relating to suicide prevention. An example of their work is the Durham Crees initiative which aims to tackle loneliness by bringing people together in a comfortable environment. Initially aimed at men, it has been expanded to include women and young people;
- (b) The HWB have led on initiatives and approaches that promote good mental health across a variety of settings. The Prevention at Scale offer was a pilot programme, working with the Local Government Association, which supported a system wide approach to reducing stigma and discrimination of mental health whereby the County Durham Partnership signed up to the Time to Change Pledge;
- (c) The Mental Health Strategic Partnership Board (MHSPB) developed a Mental Health Strategic Plan which was approved by the HWB. The Plan was developed from the emerging priorities of its five workstreams - dementia strategy implementation, children and young people, suicide prevention, adults' wellbeing, and the Crisis Care Concordat. It details how the priorities are being taken forward by each workstream.

*Priority 5: Protect vulnerable people from harm.*

14 Examples include:

- (a) The HWB was appraised of the outcomes of the Joint Targeted Area Inspection of domestic abuse in Durham. The Board have been challenged to think differently about the voice of the child in decision making processes. The HWB have been keen to ensure that young people are heard and listened to in all priority areas and have held a specific session with young people about what is important to them;
- (b) The HWB endorsed the new Durham Safeguarding Children Partnership (DSCP). Following the introduction of the Children

and Social Work Act 2017, the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) was replaced by the DSCP, a multi-agency statutory safeguarding partnership led by Durham County Council, Durham Constabulary and the Clinical Commissioning Groups. Under the new legislation the DSCP provides strong joined up leadership to deliver effective safeguarding arrangements, in line with the statutory guidance set out in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)'.

*Priority 6: Support people to die in the place of their choice with the care and support that they need.*

15 Examples include:

- (a) The HWB agreed to consult on options for a new service between Macmillan Joining the Dots and public health to support people living with cancer. The Service was launched in January 2019 and is delivering a new non-clinical needs service which supports the patient, their family (including support to children and young people who are affected by a family member having cancer) or carers to live with/beyond cancer or provide end of life/palliative care and bereavement support;
- (b) Through the one-year Health and Wellbeing System Plan, the HWB endorsed the introduction of new improved systems which prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and help people to live at home for their end of life care through a 7-day service to offer support and advice.

## **Future Challenges**

16 Whilst a lot of work has been undertaken to improve the health and wellbeing of the population the HWB still face some challenges over the forthcoming year and beyond. A new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) for 2020-25 is being developed, which includes a review of the current priorities and the development of new priorities for the next five years. These new priorities will be based on information from the JSNA, links to the new County Durham Vision for 2035 and key performance indicator areas for improvement including:

- (a) Reducing tobacco dependency in pregnancy;
- (b) Increasing the percentage of patients seen with face to face second contact within 9 weeks of referral to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services;
- (c) Reducing falls, injuries and hip fractures in the over 65s;

- (d) Reducing the gap between the employment rate for those with a long-term health condition and the overall employment rate.
- 17 Whilst the new priorities for the JHWS 2020-25 are to be confirmed we can still identify areas for work including every child having their best start in life, improving people's mental health at all ages, promoting positive behaviours and reducing the number of people smoking.
- 18 There are also wider long-term system challenges to face including ensuring people live longer in good health, reducing life expectancy variations, improving healthy life expectancy in a climate of ongoing austerity and reducing health inequalities in places where people live, work, learn and play.
- 19 In addition, the threat to public health funding remains and the HWB and its constituent members have lobbied government to protect this budget which could see £19m taken from County Durham.

### **Next Steps**

- 20 Members of the HWB are requested to note the following key dates for the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2018/19:
- Cabinet receives Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2018/19 for endorsement – **16 October 2019**;
  - Partner governance arrangements receive the Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2018/19 for endorsement – **October to December 2019**;
  - Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive HWB Annual Report 2018/19 for information – **November 2019**.

### **Background papers**

- [County Durham Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2016-2019](#)

### **Other useful documents**

- None

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (HSCA) places clear duties on local authorities and CCGs to prepare a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). The local authority must publish the JHWS. The Health and Wellbeing Board lead the development of the JSNA and JHWS.

### **Finance**

Ongoing pressure on public services will challenge all agencies to consider how best to respond to the health, social care and wellbeing agenda.

### **Consultation**

Consultation on the priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board is undertaken on an annual basis through the Partnership Event and other engagement activities.

### **Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty**

The key protected characteristic groups are considered as part of the process to identify the organisations to be invited to partnership engagement events and through the development of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

### **Human Rights**

No direct implications.

### **Crime and Disorder**

[Durham Insight](#) provides information relating to crime and disorder.

### **Staffing**

No direct implications.

### **Accommodation**

No direct implications.

### **Risk**

No direct implications.

### **Procurement**

The HSCA outlines that commissioners should take regard of the JSNA and JHWS when exercising their functions in relation to the commissioning of health and social care services.



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## **Appendix 2: Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report 2018/19**

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Attached as a separate document.