
**Report of Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health County Durham,
Durham County Council**

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is for Health and Wellbeing Board to receive the 2020 Annual report of the Director of Public Health (DPH) for County Durham (Appendix 2).

Executive summary

- 2 Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, one of the statutory requirements of the Director of Public Health is to produce an annual report about the health of the local population. The local authority has a duty to publish the report. The government has not specified what the annual report might contain and has made it clear that this is a decision for individual Directors of Public Health to determine.
- 3 The DPH annual report for 2020 focuses on the following:
 - a) Health and wellbeing across County Durham
 - b) Response to COVID-19
 - c) Approach to Wellbeing
 - d) The Taylor's Community
 - e) How we have worked with partners to impact on the Health and Wellbeing of residents living in County Durham
 - f) Update on the seven public health strategic priorities
 - g) A focus on the following strategic priorities and recommendations for their future work:
 - i. Good jobs and places to live learn and play
 - ii. Every child to have the best start in life

- h) Update on recommendations from 2019
- i) A set of recommendations based on the two priority areas of focus.

Recommendations

- 4 Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
 - (a) Receive the 2020 annual report of the Director of Public Health, County Durham.

Background

2018 DPH annual report

- 5 The 2018 report focused on the new vision for the public's health in County Durham. The report shared the work that has been done to set out a new vision for the health and wellbeing of County Durham.
- 6 The report was based around a fictional family 'The Taylors' describing the challenges facing the family, focussing on the 'assets' the family had and how these can protect health and wellbeing.
- 7 The 2018 report set out seven strategic priorities and specific actions against each priority for the forthcoming year.
 - Good jobs and places to live, learn and play
 - Every Child to Have the Best Start in Life
 - Mental Health at Scale
 - High quality drug and alcohol services
 - Healthy workforce
 - Promoting positive behaviours
 - Better quality of life through integrated health and care services
- 8 The 2018 report ended with a short set of recommendations.

2019 DPH annual report

- 9 The DPH annual report for 2019 focussed on the following:
 - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) / Durham Insight;
 - Update on recommendations from 2018 DPH annual report;
 - Taylor family (one year on);
 - Mental health at scale;
 - Healthy workforce.

2020 DPH annual report

- 10 The DPH annual report for 2020 includes the following:
 - a) Health and Wellbeing across County Durham;
 - b) Response to COVID-19;
 - c) Approach to Wellbeing;
 - d) The Taylor's Community;

- e) How we have worked with partners to impact on the Health and Wellbeing of residents living in County Durham;
 - f) Update on the seven public health strategic priorities;
 - g) A focus on the following strategic priorities and recommendations for their future work:
 - i. Good jobs and places to live learn and play;
 - ii. Every child to have the best start in life;
 - h) Update on recommendations from 2019;
 - i) A set of recommendations based on the two priority areas of focus.
- 11 The response to the COVID-19 pandemic is a specific focus to this year's DPH annual report. The COVID-19 pandemic is one of the greatest public health challenges in living memory, with significant repercussions for health and wellbeing.
- 12 The COVID-19 pandemic and the public health measures that followed have highlighted the important role of Public Health in protecting the public from infectious diseases and supporting and improving their health and wellbeing.
- 13 The response has also clearly demonstrated that health and wellbeing is everyone's business and the vital part that individuals, communities, businesses, services and organisations play in controlling the virus and working alongside our residents.
- 14 This year's DPH annual report, provides an update on how DCC have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic to reduce and control transmission of the virus, support our communities, and maintain our essential services.
- 15 The annual report provides an update on the progress made on the seven public health strategic priorities. Many of our public health services needed to change or adapt to continue to safely deliver during the COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions. Services developed innovative new ways of working to continue to support vulnerable groups.
- 16 The annual report will be uploaded onto the council website and copies provided to a range of organisations and individuals including the County Durham clinical commissioning groups, NHS England, voluntary and community sector, foundation trusts, Public Health England, North of England Commissioning service. In addition, copies will be made

available to the members library, to individual members (where requested), Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and officers.

Next year's DPH annual report

- 17 The 2021 DPH annual report will focus on the following strategic priorities:
- a) High quality drug and alcohol services;
 - b) Better quality of life through integrated health and care services;
 - c) Promoting positive behaviours;
 - d) COVID-19 recovery.

Main Implications

Legal

- 18 It is a statutory responsibility for the Director of Public Health in a local authority to prepare an annual report on the health of the local population.

Conclusion

- 19 This report provides examples of how we have been working on updates on the seven priorities that were set out in the 2018 annual report, and has an in-depth focus on giving every child the best start in life and promoting good jobs and places to live, learn and play. It also introduces a new evidence-based Approach to Wellbeing that has been developed and will be used to help empower our communities and build their resilience.
- 20 The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over; however we are committed to working in partnership with partners, communities, and residents to continue to protect and support the health and wellbeing of all County Durham's residents. Public health services will continue to learn, adapt and innovate as we support our communities to respond and then recover from what has been an extremely challenging time.
- 21 In the year ahead we will continue to work closely with our partners and communities to protect and improve the health and wellbeing of people in County Durham. As ever, reducing health inequalities is a core principle that will guide us in this work.

Background papers

- DPH annual report 2018

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/10077/Director-of-Public-Health-Annual-Report-2018/pdf/PublicHealthAnnualReport2018.pdf?m=636760677930970000>

- DPH annual report 2019

<https://www.durham.gov.uk/media/31646/Director-of-Public-Health-Annual-Report-2019/pdf/DPHannualreport2019.pdf?m=637111369766770000>

Other useful documents

- None

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Section 73B (5) of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 amended the National Health Service Act 2006 to include the requirement that the Director of Public Health for a local authority must prepare an annual report on the health of the people in the area of the local authority and the local authority publish the report.

Finance

No impact at present. However key public health interventions are dependent on the public health ring fenced grant.

Consultation

This is the independent report of the Director of Public Health and is not subject to consultation.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No impact.

Climate Change

No impact.

Human Rights

No impact.

Crime and Disorder

No impact.

Staffing

Staff time to produce the 2020 annual report.

Accommodation

No impact.

Risk

No impact.

Procurement

No impact but should inform council commissioning plans in relation to services that impact on the health of the population.