

# Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020

Health and  
Wellbeing Board  
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## Healthy Lives, Healthier Communities

Protecting and supporting the people of County Durham



# Health and wellbeing across County Durham

[www.durhaminsight.info](http://www.durhaminsight.info)

- Recent developments include - a COVID-19 landing page hosting the public COVID-19 dashboard

## Where we live, our services, our communities

There are many challenges to health and wellbeing especially whilst dealing with COVID-19. However, County Durham has many assets that can support and protect health, some of these are set out below:

### Building on our assets

#### Where we live

**13,800** businesses



**21** green flags for parks and open spaces

**2 in 5** residents live in rural areas



**12** miles of coastline

**150** miles of former railway paths

Durham Cathedral and Castle are world heritage sites



#### Our communities

**530,000** people live here, around **1 in 5** are over the age of 65

**30** dementia friendly communities

**43** Crees

**14** Area Action Partnerships

**71%** people working age are in employment

**59,000** adult carers in County Durham

**38** mutual aid shops



#### Our Services

**4** colleges

**33** further education establishments

**13** special educational needs schools

**1** University

**234** primary schools

**52** Secondary Schools

**39** libraries

**12** Council owned leisure centres

**177** breastfeeding friendly businesses



# Response to COVID-19

- County Durham Together – Community Hub
  - Supported over 10,000 people
  - Over 2,000 shielding residents needed support with food supplies
  - 1,500 needed support with pharmacy supplies
- Conducted a health impact assessment:
  - Assessed the potential impact of COVID-19 on inequalities in county Durham



This is Charlie Elliott, supporting vulnerable members of the community by delivering boxes of freshly prepared hot meals.

The COVID-19 pandemic is far from over, but 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..



# Our priorities





# Good jobs and places to live, learn and play

## Why is this important?

County Durham has **33,500 (14%)** households living in fuel poverty

Over **95%** of people over the age of 65 receive winter fuel payments

## What we have done

- Working with Housing Solutions Warmer Homes Team to develop and pilot a cold related ill health project
- Offered free intervention such as new or replacement boilers / central heating system, home insulation and

# Every child to have the best start in life

## Why is this important?

There are around **10,400** children with SEN (in state schools)

This is **14.5%** of all school pupils

## What we have done

- Completed a Health Needs Assessment (HNA) for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND). This detailed assessment means that we have a better understanding of the health needs of some of County Durham's most vulnerable children and young people.



# How we have worked with partners to impact on the Health and Wellbeing of residents living in County Durham

This is David Jones. With support from the Housing Solutions Warmer Homes Team David was able to access a free scheme and receive a grant to replace his current central heating system with a new one.



Community Action Team (CAT)

The CAT brings together residents and a range of organisations to tackle housing and environmental issues in a specific area by identifying local priorities and making best use of resources.

“I am delighted with my new central heating system; my home is warm and comfortable now and I’m not worried about the cold weather and high coal bills anymore. I was amazed that I didn’t have to pay anything, it was totally free”.



# Recommendations

## **Good jobs and places to live, learn and play:**

- 1) Work with housing and planning colleagues to implement health interventions that aim to raise health and living standards and reduce fuel poverty.
- 2) Include housing support for older people in a Healthy Ageing Strategy
- 3) Engage with hot food takeaways to promote healthier changes to cooking practices and menu options across Takeaways across County Durham.

## **Every child to have the best start in life:**

- 1) Increase the number of schools and settings working towards the Health and Wellbeing Framework
- 2) Reduce the number of women who smoke during pregnancy.
- 3) Increase the number of businesses and venues signed up to the breastfeeding accreditation scheme.

