

**County Council**

**8 December 2021**

**Director of Public Health Annual Report  
2021**



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## **Report of Corporate Management Team**

**Jane Robinson, Corporate Director of Adult & Health Services**

**Amanda Healy, Director of Public Health, Adult & Health Services**

**Councillor Paul Sexton, Portfolio holder for Adult & Health Services**

### **Electoral division(s) affected:**

Countywide

### **Purpose of the Report**

- 1 The purpose of this report is for Council to receive the 2021 Annual report of the Director of Public Health for County Durham (Appendix 2).

### **Executive summary**

- 2 Under the National Health Service Act 2006, 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 2021 focuses on the following:

- Foreword
- Health and wellbeing across County Durham
- Approach to wellbeing
- County Durham – our health roadmap
- COVID-19 – response and recovery
- Update on strategic priorities
- Specific focus on 3 remaining strategic priorities:
  - Promoting positive behaviours
  - High quality drug and alcohol services

- Better quality of life through integrated health and care services
- Revisiting the Taylors with a focus on real life case studies
- Update on recommendations from 2020
- A set of recommendations for 2021 based on the three priority areas of focus.

### **Recommendation(s)**

4 Council is recommended to:

- (a) Receive the 2021 annual report of the Director of Public Health, County Durham.

## **Background**

### **2018 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 in the last year 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' and describes the challenges the family face and is focussed on the 'assets' that the family have and how these can protect health and wellbeing.
- 7 The 2018 reports sets 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
  - Positive behaviours
  - Better quality of life through integrated health and care services

### **2019 report**

- 8 The DPH annual report for 2019 'Time to talk about mental health and wellbeing' focussed on the following:
  - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) / Durham Insight
  - Mental health at scale
  - Healthy workforce
  - Recommendations
    - Update on recommendations from 2018 DPH annual report
    - Update on the seven public health strategic priorities and the specific actions against each priority area
    - Taylor family (one year on)
- 9 The 2019 report ends with a short set of additional recommendations for mental health at scale and healthy workforce.

### **2020 report**

- 10 The DPH annual report for 2020 'Healthier Lives, Healthier Communities' focussed on the following:
  - Health and wellbeing across County Durham

- Response to COVID-19
- Where we live, our services and our communities
- Approach to wellbeing
- PH strategic plan, priorities and actions
  - Update on the seven public health strategic priorities and the specific actions against each priority area
- Taylors and Taylor community
- Every child to have the best start in life
- Good jobs and places to live learn and play

11 The 2020 report ends with a short set of additional recommendations for every child to have the best start in life and good jobs and places to live learn and play. These actions that will be reported on in the annual report for 2021.

## **2021 annual report**

12 The DPH annual report for 2021 includes the following:

- Foreword
- Health and wellbeing across County Durham
- Approach to wellbeing
- County Durham – our health roadmap
- COVID-19 – response and recovery
- Update on strategic priorities
- Specific focus on 3 remaining strategic priorities:
  - Promoting positive behaviours
  - High quality drug and alcohol services
  - Better quality of life through integrated health and care services
- Revisiting the Taylors with a focus on real life case studies
- Update on recommendations from 2020
- A set of recommendations for 2021 based on the three priority areas of focus.

13 In the 2020 DPH annual report we introduced the County Durham Approach to Wellbeing. This year the DPH annual report looks at how the approach has been implemented, including how the Wellbeing Principles that were developed as part of this work have helped the County Durham Together Community Hub to adapt to meet the changing needs of our communities throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

14 In this year's DPH annual report, it provides an update on how DCC have responded to outbreaks of COVID-19 in care homes, schools,

workplaces and a range of community settings. In addition, it also provides an update on the COVID-19 vaccination programme in County Durham.

- 15 In the 2018 DPH annual report it set out seven priorities to promote and protect the health and wellbeing of the people of County Durham. These priorities have been a focus in each of the subsequent reports. This year's annual report will provide an update on the remaining three priorities, which are promoting positive behaviours, high quality drug and alcohol services and better quality of life through integrated health and care services.
- 16 The subsequent annual reports have followed the progress of our "Taylor" family and their community over the last four years to understand how the work that we have carried out has made a difference to their lives and the lives of others across County Durham. This year's annual report provides a focus on real life case studies in County Durham.
- 17 The 2021 report ends with a short set of recommendations promoting positive behaviours, high quality drug and alcohol services and better quality of life through integrated health and care services. These actions that will be reported on in the annual report for 2022.
- 18 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 and Healthwatch. In addition, copies will be made available to the members library, to individual members (where requested), Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny Committees and officers.

## **Main implications**

### **Legal**

- 19 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**

- 20 Council are asked to receive this report.

## Background papers

- Previous DPH annual reports

<https://www.durhaminsight.info/director-of-public-health-reports/>

## Other useful documents

- None

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**Contact:** Amanda Healy

Email

[amanda.healy@durham.gov.uk](mailto:amanda.healy@durham.gov.uk)

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

Section 73B(5) of the National Health Service Act 2006 places a requirement on the Director of Public Health for a local authority to prepare an annual report on the health of the people in the area of the local authority. Section 73B(6) places a duty on the Council to publish the report.

### **Finance**

The publication of the report is funded by the ring-fenced public health 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 2021 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