

Council

7 December 2022

**Director of Public Health Annual Report
2022**



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

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

Councillor Chris Hood, 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 2022 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for County Durham (Appendix 2).

Executive summary

- 2 One of the statutory requirements of Directors of Public Health under the Health & Social Care Act 2012 is to produce an annual report about the health of the local population. In addition, the local authority has a duty to publish the report.
- 3 The government has not specified what the annual report should contain and has made it clear that this is a decision for individual Directors of Public Health to determine.
- 4 The County Durham Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022 focuses on the following:
 - Foreword by the Director of Public Health.
 - Health and wellbeing across County Durham.
 - Living with COVID-19.
 - Making smoking history.
 - Priorities (covering Healthier, Fairer, and Protected).
 - Update on recommendations from 2021.
 - Conclusion.

Recommendation(s)

4 Council is recommended to:

- (a) Receive the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022.

Background

- 5 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 (DPH) for a local authority must prepare an annual report on the health of the people and that the local authority should publish the report.
- 6 The government has not specified what the annual report should contain and has made it clear that this is a decision for individual Directors of Public Health to determine.
- 7 In 2018 the Director of Public Health for County Durham set out a new vision for the public's health in County Durham against seven strategic priorities. The following four annual reports (2018-2021) provided an in-depth focus on specific actions against each priority.
- 8 Over the last year the County Durham Public Health Strategic Plan has been reviewed and reshaped to align to three themed areas of work. These are:
 - **Healthier:** Having and promoting a healthier population (both physical health and mental wellbeing). For example,
 - Improve mental health and emotional wellbeing
 - Improve levels of physical activity and healthy weight
 - **Fairer:** Improving health across the whole life course, access to good quality health services and those wider services that also have an impact on population health while reducing population health inequalities and inequities. For example,
 - Work with partners to help reduce poverty and the impact of poverty and the cost of living crisis
 - Work with partners to contribute to inclusive economic growth
 - **Protected:** Protecting the health of our communities against communicable disease, domestic abuse, tobacco, drugs and alcohol that cause severe harm and plan for future emergencies. For example,
 - Reduce the harm caused through alcohol and drugs within our local communities
 - Respond to seasonal risks to health and ensure County Durham's preparedness for winter

- 9 The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022 provides an update on the Healthier, Fairer, and Protected themes of the Public Health Strategic Plan for 2021-2024.

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022

- 10 As part of the foreword to this year's annual report the Director of Public Health introduces the concept of 'building blocks' of good health.
- 11 These building blocks of good health, (how much money we have, the quality of the house we live in, the natural environment surrounding us, our access to transport, education and work) all impacts on our chances of living a long and healthy life. It recognises that the impact of social and environmental conditions in which people are born, grow up and live with, do not give everyone an equal chance of living long and healthy lives. Many of these have been adversely affected by covid-19 and even greater attention and working as partners with our communities will be required to address the inequalities both within County Durham and between County Durham and the rest of England.
- 12 Future annual reports will ensure these building blocks for good health remain at the heart of public health action.
- 13 The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022 provides an overview of the health and wellbeing of County Durham's population and examples of how the approach to wellbeing is being implemented.
- 14 The report provides an update on our COVID-19 response and the transition to living with COVID-19 This impact cannot be underestimated and also comes at a time when the cost of living is increasing for our residents too.
- 15 This year's report includes an in-depth focus on the progress to make smoking history in County Durham. Smoking remains the single largest cause of preventable deaths and one of the largest causes of health inequalities and remains a key priority for the health of our local residents.
- 16 The report provides an update on the Healthier, Fairer, and Protected themes of the Public Health Strategic Plan for 2021-2024 and concludes with a section on previous recommendations and a conclusion.

Main implications

Legal

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

Conclusion

- 18 The conclusion re-iterates the fact that the public health team and the work of the team can only progress by working with others.

Background papers

- Previous DPH annual reports

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

Other useful documents

- None

Author(s)

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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.

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 (DPH) and is not subject to formal consultation. However, Public Health do engage and consult with partners in the development of the DPH Annual Report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Actions from this report are targeted to reduce the health inequalities.

Climate Change

No impact.

Human Rights

No impact.

Crime and Disorder

No impact.

Staffing

Staff time to produce the 2022 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.