

County Council

11 December 2024

**Director of Public Health Annual Report
2024**



Report of Corporate Management Team

Michael Laing, Interim Corporate Director of Adult and Health Services

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

Councillor Hood, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Adult and Health Services

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is for the County Council to receive the 2024 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 and 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 2024 focuses on the following:
 - Health of our people.
 - Future health of our people.
 - Health and social care.
 - Healthy behaviours.
 - Wider determinants of health.

- Conclusion and recommendations.

Recommendation(s)

5 County Council is recommended to:

- (a) receive the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024.

Background

- 6 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.
- 7 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.
- 8 The Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024 provides an overview of the health and wellbeing of County Durham's population.
- 9 This year's report 'Unfair and avoidable; Looking ahead to health in 2040' has a focus on the future health of County Durham residents.
- 10 Using the work of the Health Foundation, the report highlights the potential increases in major illness and the unfair and avoidable inequalities that will worsen for our more deprived communities by 2040 should nothing change.
- 11 The projections covered within the report are challenging, however they are not inevitable and by acting now we can secure a better future for our communities and residents.
- 12 The report highlights how health and social care, healthy behaviours, and the wider determinants of health impact on our lives and affect our health. It provides examples of how County Durham's Approach to Wellbeing has informed system improvements and highlights interventions that if we scale up or do more of, can continue to improve outcomes for our residents.

Main implications

Legal

- 13 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

- 14 The conclusion re-iterates the fact that no work to improve public health can be achieved without working with others, our partners and most importantly our local communities.
- 15 The report concludes with a list of recommendations which highlights opportunities to build on existing work and identify new opportunities to

further embed the approach to wellbeing in the development and implementation of new systematic preventative approaches.

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 and Engagement

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 2024 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.