

REPORT OF THE CABINET

C. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH 2015

Introduction

1. This report concerns the publication of the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2015. The report is a statement on the health of the population of Leicestershire and is a key resource for shaping commissioning decisions to improve the health status of the population.

Background

2. The Director of Public Health is appointed jointly by Leicestershire County Council and the NHS and leads on improving the health and wellbeing of the people of Leicestershire. This is done by reporting publicly and independently on trends and gaps in the health and wellbeing of the population and by making recommendations for improvement to a wide range of organisations.
3. One of the roles of the Director of Public Health is to be an independent advocate for the health of their population. The Annual Reports are the main way by which Directors of Public Health make their conclusions known to the public.

Focus of the report

4. This year's report looks at how public and our partners across the health system can strengthen and enhance the impact that communities have on people's health and wellbeing.
5. People in Leicestershire are living ever longer lives, meaning that there are increasing numbers of older people living with long-term conditions and disabilities. It is therefore essential that the Council redoubles its focus on preventing ill health, so that people not only live longer lives but also remain healthier for longer. At the same time it is important to recognise that more people will need support and help with their health and care needs.
6. The role that communities have in supporting health and wellbeing will become increasingly important over the next few years. All public services across Leicestershire will face a very difficult financial challenge. The County Council has to save at least a third of its budget over the next four years. Demand for services is growing. People are living longer, which means that when they need services they need them for longer, and people are working for a smaller proportion of their lives. However, this also means that there may be more people who can volunteer and support people in communities.
7. Communities have a valuable role to play in empowering people to help themselves and providing extra support where it's needed. Being part of a strong and supportive community that works together on local issues can in

itself provide an enormous boost to people's health and wellbeing. It is important that the County Council, district councils and local health organisations work together in a coordinated approach to build community capacity.

8. Leicestershire County Council's recently approved Communities Strategy sets out a framework for developing community based approaches. The central philosophy of the Communities Strategy is prevention and this should be the driving force behind community led models.
9. The report sets out a framework for developing community based approaches that can improve the health and wellbeing of the population, and provides examples of some of the initiatives that are already happening across Leicestershire. The report also identifies areas where the researchers found less evidence of local schemes.
10. The report also demonstrated that the framework is an effective approach for providing communities with opportunities to improve health and wellbeing. However, the very nature of community led approaches means that these are not being systematically applied across Leicestershire, and to be most effective each community will need to be able to develop the community interventions that are most suitable for their needs. Joined up working between the Public Health Department and the Policy and Communities Team within the Chief Executive's Department will help to ensure an effective and co-ordinated approach to prevention. Community approaches will be central to this and to the delivery of the Communities Strategy.

Consideration by Scrutiny, Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet

11. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 11 November considered the report welcomed the report and submitted views to the Cabinet. These are set out in Appendix 2 to this report.
12. The matter was considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 18th November 2015 when the report was noted and the recommendations contained therein were supported.
13. The Health and Wellbeing Board gave its support to the Annual Report at its meeting on 19th November, 2015.

(Motion to be moved:-

That the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2015 be noted with support.)

18th November 2015

**Mr. N. J Rushton CC
Chairman**

Background Papers

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2014

http://www.isr-online.org/reports/director_of_public_health_annual_reports

Public Health England & NHS England. A guide to community-centred approaches for health and wellbeing.

<http://ow.ly/UQiXJ>

Leicestershire County Council. Leicestershire Communities Strategy

<http://ow.ly/UQj1G>

Appendices

Appendix 1- Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2015 - The role of Communities in improving the health and Wellbeing of the Population.

Appendix 2 - Draft minute from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 11th November