



HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 8 NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2017.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. Last year's report focussed on workplace health and this report includes an update on progress against the recommendations made in that report.

Background

3. The Director of Public Health's (DPH) Annual Report is a statutory independent report on the health of the population of Leicestershire.
4. The purpose of a Director of Public Health's annual report is to improve 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.
5. 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.

Consultation

6. The report is the independent report of the Director of Public Health

Resource Implications

7. Full implementation of the recommendations of the report will need to be addressed through the commissioning cycle

Conclusions

8. The county continues to be a healthy place to live, while identifying the 21st century challenges being faced, with child obesity rates continuing to decline, around 65 per

cent of residents taking part in the recommended 150 minutes of activity per week and teenage pregnancy rates more than halving.

9. While Leicestershire remains relatively affluent and healthy, Leicestershire faces challenges around housing and access to services, and a priority within the report will be to examine rural health in more depth and ensure that robust plans are in place to tackle issues.
10. The report also points to air quality as posing the 'largest environmental risk to public health in the UK' with Public Health England assessing that over 300 deaths in the county can be attributed to an exposure to high levels of air pollution each year. The highest levels of air pollution in the county are around junction 21 of the M1, East Midlands Airport and the former coal-mining areas of North West Leicestershire.
11. Other key points from the annual report identify:
 - The need for closer partnership working between the county's Health and Wellbeing and Community Safety Boards to tackle rising rates for domestic and alcohol-related violence;
 - Ensuring children have the best start in life. This follows findings which mirror the national picture that shows the later that a child is born in the school year, the less likely they are to achieve a good level of development.
12. The report also outlines the tricky balancing act between continuing to improve public health at a time when Government funding continues to fall. The county population of 675,300 in 2015 is expected to grow during the next 25 years, for example, by 49 per cent in people aged 65-84, and 162 per cent in 85s and over.

Officer to Contact

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List of Appendices

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2017.

Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

Implementation of the report's recommendations would have a positive impact on health inequalities

Partnership Working and associated issues

The recommendations within this report focus on actions across agencies that will improve the population's health. The basis of the report is improving population health in partnership with other key agencies.