



CABINET – 24TH NOVEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH –
‘LEICESTERSHIRE’S HEALTH – NEW INSIGHTS INTO OUR
POPULATION’**

PART A

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Director of Public Health’s Annual Report for 2017. A copy of the full Report is appended.

Recommendation

2. It is recommended that
 - a) The Director of Public Health’s Annual Report 2017 be noted and its recommendations supported;
 - b) It be noted that the Annual Report will be submitted for consideration by County Council on 6 December 2017.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. The Director of Public Health's (DPH) Annual Report is a statutory independent report on the health of the population of Leicestershire.
4. To enable the County Council to consider the Report, which will help inform future commissioning decisions.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

5. The Annual Report was considered by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 8 November and its comments are set out in Part B of this report. It will be submitted to the County Council meeting on 6 December 2017.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

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

Resource Implications

7. There are no resources implications arising directly from this report. The recommendations set out in the report will inform commissioning decisions relating to the priorities for public health.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

8. None.

Officers to contact

Mike Sandys, Director of Public Health
Tel: 0116 305 4239
Email: Mike.Sandys@leics.gov.uk

PART B

Background

9. The Director of Public Health's (DPH) Annual Report is a statutory independent report on the health of the population of Leicestershire.
10. 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.
11. This year's report presents a broad overview of health in Leicestershire – covering population and population change, the wider determinants of health, lifestyle behaviours, hospital admissions and prescribing.

Summary of the Annual Report

12. The County continues to be a healthy place to live. While identifying the 21st century challenges being faced, child obesity rates are continuing to decline, around 65 per cent of residents are taking part in the recommended 150 minutes of activity per week, and teenage pregnancy rates are more than halving.
13. While Leicestershire remains relatively affluent and healthy, the County faces challenges around housing and access to services, and a priority included within the report is to examine rural health in more depth and ensuring that robust plans are in place to tackle issues.
14. 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 each year can be attributed to an exposure to high levels of air pollution. The highest levels of air pollution are around junction 21 of the M1, East Midlands Airport, and the former coal-mining areas of North West Leicestershire.
15. 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.
 - The difficult 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.

Comments of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

16. Concerns were raised by Members about the impact of air quality on the population of Leicestershire and particularly in relation to 'drive-through' catering establishments. In response to a question regarding what measures could be taken to tackle this problem Members were advised that the main powers were with local planning authorities such as permitting, monitoring and dust control. The Director of Public Health agreed to give consideration along with colleagues in the Chief Executive's Department to whether tackling air quality should form part of the Strategic Growth Plan.
17. With regard to school readiness in Leicestershire and the development of children, Members suggested that more work needed to be carried out with Special Educational Needs children to ensure that their development was not inhibited and to help them become more independent. The Director of Public Health offered to work with colleagues in the Children and Families Services to investigate what further measures could be taken in this regard.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

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

Partnership Working and associated issues

19. 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.

Background Papers

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2016

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

Appendix

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2017.