

REPORT OF THE CABINET

E. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH 2017

Introduction

1. This report concerns the publication of the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2017. 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 in depth into the health of the local population building further on the work done in the previous year which provided an analysis of health profiles of the population in Leicestershire across each district area. The report is attached as Appendix 1.
5. Leicestershire is, comparatively speaking, a healthy county but faces challenges around housing and access to services, and a priority within the report has been to examine rural health in more depth and ensure that robust plans are in place to tackle issues.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.

Consideration by Scrutiny, Health and Wellbeing Board and Cabinet

9. The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 8 November welcomed and supported the Annual Report. Two particular areas of concern were raised which are set out below:-
- a) There was a need to develop further measures to improve air quality and that looking ahead air quality should be a key consideration in developing proposals in the emerging Strategic Growth Plan;
 - b) There needed to be greater focus support to children with special educational needs to help them to develop skills to become more independent.
10. The Health and Wellbeing Board gave its support to the Annual Report at its meeting on 16th November, 2017. The Board asked the Director to consider providing a detailed breakdown of the data to partners by locality and by specific groups of patients.
11. The Cabinet at its meeting on 24th November, 2017 noted the report and supported the recommendations contained therein.

(Motion to be moved:-

That the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2017 be noted with support.)

Background Papers

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2015

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

Appendices

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2016.

24th November 2017

Mr N. J. Rushton CC