



## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 31 OCTOBER 2023**

### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

### **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH LEICESTERSHIRE'S HEALTH – WHAT THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD'S DASHBOARD TELLS US**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2023.

#### **Link to the local Health and Care System**

2. Production of the Director of Public Health's (DPH) Annual Report is a statutory duty for the Director of Public Health and is an independent report on the health and wellbeing of the local population.

#### **Recommendation**

3. It is recommended that the Health and Wellbeing Board:
  - a) Notes the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2023 (attached as the appendix to the report);
  - b) Notes the recommendations in the report setting out priorities for the Public Health Department
  - c) Considers its own priorities for the medium term in the light of the data in the report.

#### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

4. The report is published annually and is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board as part of the publication process for the report.

#### **Background**

5. 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.
6. 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 a way by which Directors of Public Health make their conclusions known to the public.

### **Summary of the Annual Report**

7. This year's report presents data on the health of the population across Leicestershire. The data underpins the Health and Wellbeing Strategy of Leicestershire's Health and Wellbeing Board. A dashboard of over 100 indicators looks at each stage of what is known as the life course, from birth and the early years of life, through working age life to older age and, eventually, death. Performance is compared against the national average and against other comparable areas in the country.
8. Good health is dependent on a complex set of circumstances including 'lifestyle' behaviour, social and community networks, living and working conditions and broader socio-economic conditions with lifestyle behaviour and socio-economic factors being the primary drivers of 'good health'.
9. Overall, Leicestershire enjoys good health with over half of the indicators in the dashboard being above that of the national average performance and only around on indicator in eight being below the national average performance.
10. Comparing Leicestershire against a basket of 15 comparable authorities, there are 30 indicators where Leicestershire's performance is in the top three when compared with similar authorities, and 14 where performance is in the bottom three compared with neighbouring authorities.
11. Smoking prevalence, childhood obesity in year 6, vaccination coverage in early years, homelessness and a number of indicators relating to child development are worthy of note. Life expectancy overall is better than average and inequalities in life expectancy at birth is performing well. Mental health indicators suggest that Leicestershire has comparatively good public mental health.
12. Looking at the 'big' public health issues where national and comparative performance leaves room for concern the two big issues the department needs to give more focus to are:
  - Physical Activity, where both the percentage of physically active adults and the percentage of adults walking for travel need improvement and;
  - Diet, where the percentage of adults aged 16 and over meeting the '5-a-day' recommendations requires improvement.
13. The wider determinants of health clearly influence our health. Locally the data shows air quality (measured by the level of PM2.5) and the 'winter mortality index' to be an area of relatively poorer performance.
14. Public health needs to play its role in supporting other agencies to improve performance in indicators that are primarily the responsibility of other organisations. The department will work with partners to improve the uptake of vaccination, immunisation and screening – particularly the shingles and HPV vaccines.

15. Overall population health status may mask areas or sectors of the population that have poorer health status. A further report is needed to examine the detail of how health is experienced by different parts of the population.

### **Resource Implications**

16. Full implementation of the recommendations of the report may need to be addressed through the commissioning and budget setting cycle of partner organisations. For public health, the council receives a grant, ring fenced to promote action on public health functions and priorities.

### **Timetable for Decisions**

17. The Annual Report will be considered by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> November and by the Cabinet on 24<sup>th</sup> November. It will be considered by the County Council at its meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Background Papers**

18. The dashboard used to inform the Annual Report is available via <https://www.lsr-online.org/uploads/2023-dph-annual-report-dashboard.pdf?v=1697714149>

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### **List of Appendices**

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2023.

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