



HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 1st NOVEMBER 2023

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH. LEICESTERSHIRE'S HEALTH – WHAT THE HEATH AND WELL BEING BOARD'S DASHBOARD TELLS US

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to present the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2023. The Director of Public Health's (DPH) Annual Report is a statutory independent report on the health of the population of Leicestershire.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The report is published annually and is presented to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the publication process for the report.
3. The last 'annual' report made a series of recommendations on physical activity and was considered by scrutiny at its meeting of 13th November 2019. This report includes an update on progress against the recommendations made in that report.

Background

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 a 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. 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

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

Conclusions

9. 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.
10. 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'.
11. 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 one indicator in eight being below the national average performance.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. Looking at the 'big' public health lifestyle behaviours where national and comparative performance leaves room for concern, the two big issues the department needs to give more focus to are:
 - i. Physical Activity, where both the percentage of physically active adults and the percentage of adults walking for travel need improvement and;
 - ii. Diet, where the percentage of adults aged 16 and over meeting the '5-a-day' recommendations requires improvement.
15. 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.

16. 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.
17. 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.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

18. None

Equality Implications

19. There are no equality implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Human Rights Implications

20. There are no human rights implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

Background papers

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>

Appendices

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2023.

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