

COUNTY COUNCIL

Meeting date: 28 April 2022

From: Director of Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

ADVICE OF DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 *This is the seventh Annual Report to be presented to council from the County Council's Director of Public Health (DPH) following the transition of Public Health responsibilities to the Council from NHS Cumbria.*
- 1.2 *The statutory responsibilities of the DPH are designed to match exactly the corporate public health duties of their local authority. The exception is the annual report on the health of the local population where the DPH has a duty to write a report, whereas the authority's duty is to publish it.*
- 1.3 *The Director of Public Health's Annual Report is therefore intended to give an independent, expert view of the key issues affecting Public Health in the area with recommendations as to how these may be tackled.*
- 1.4 *Its recommendations therefore are not confined to Cumbria County Council but aim to influence wider groups of partners and stakeholders connected to improving health and wellbeing.*

2.0 STRATEGIC PLANNING AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 2.1 *The Annual Report by its very nature is independent of County Council Services, however it may include recommendations that bear upon aspects of the Council Plan.*
- 2.2 *This year the report covers the first 18 months of the Covid-19 Pandemic and the response to this in Cumbria.*
- 2.3 *There are no equality implications arising from this Annual Report.*

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 *That the Council notes the Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2020/21.*

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 The Director of Public Health has a very specific defined role and is expected to:

- be the person who elected members and senior officers look to for leadership, expertise and advice on a range of issues, from outbreaks of disease and emergency preparedness through to improving local people's health and concerns around access to health services
- know how to improve the population's health by understanding the factors that determine health and ill health, how to change behaviour and promote both health and wellbeing in ways that reduce inequalities in health
- provide the public with expert, objective advice on health matters be able to promote action across the life course, working together with local authority colleagues such as the director of children's services and the director of adult social services, and with NHS colleagues
- work through local resilience fora to ensure effective and tested plans are in place for the wider health sector to protect the local population from risks to public health
- work with local criminal justice partners and police and crime commissioners to promote safer communities
- work with wider civil society to engage local partners in fostering improved health and wellbeing
- be an active member of the health and wellbeing board, advising on and contributing to the development of joint strategic needs assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies, and commission appropriate services accordingly
- take responsibility for the management of their authority's public health services, with professional responsibility and accountability for their effectiveness, availability and value for money
- play a full part in their authority's action to meet the needs of vulnerable children, for example by linking effectively with the Local Safeguarding Children Board
- contribute to and influence the work of NHS commissioners, ensuring a whole system approach across the public sector.

5.0 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 The Annual Report will be circulated widely with the intention of influencing a large number of partners and stakeholders to improve health, wellbeing and Public Health in Cumbria.

Colin Cox
Director of Public Health

14 April 2022

APPENDICES

Public Health Annual Report 2020/21

Electoral Divisions: All

Executive Decision

	No
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Key Decision

	No
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If a Key Decision, is the proposal published in the current Forward Plan?

		N/A
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Is the decision exempt from call-in on grounds of urgency?

	No
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If exempt from call-in, has the agreement of the Chair of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee been sought or obtained?

		N/A
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Has this matter been considered by Overview and Scrutiny?
If so, give details below.

	No
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Has an environmental or sustainability impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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Has an equality impact assessment been undertaken?

		N/A
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RESPONSIBLE CABINET MEMBER

Deborah Earl, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities

REPORT AUTHOR

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