

Health Select Committee Public Health Report: November 2015

1. Good performance against some major indicators:

- A. The latest “Healthier Lives” data is out from PHE (link below) and shows that BaNES is the 9th ranked authority in England for (low) premature mortality and the lowest in the South West if you don’t include Dorset ranked one place lower. Even taking into account our relatively strong economics that is a good outcome. This also gives us two challenges. One is to maintain that position and build on it, and the second is that it makes the point ever more strongly that we should be focusing on those sections of our communities whose health experience remains much poorer than average. And then there is the third of looking after ourselves as we get old in ever increasing numbers. <http://healthierlives.phe.org.uk/topic/mortality>
- B. The most recent sexual health data set shows that we have the lowest rate of teenage conceptions in the region too. This is after much effort has been made over many years to increase the availability and quality of both advice to young people about relationships and sexuality and also means of contraception. It is important that this is protected in economically difficult times.

The data set also showed that we have a high ratio of surgical against medical terminations in women of all ages. This is less desirable although it could be a matter of the choices that women make, but we do need to look into this to ensure that it doesn’t reflect any problems of access to medical services.

Upper Tier Local Authority	July 2013 - June 2014				Rolling average
	Jul - Sep	Oct - Dec	Jan - Mar	Apr - Jun	
Bath & NE Somerset	18.5*	12.1*	13.6*	13.3*	14.3
Bournemouth	21.2*	21.5*	18.6*	27.6*	22.1
Bristol	21.9	22.9	22.9	23.8	22.9
Cornwall & IOS	14.4	24.4	16.1	18.1	18.3
Devon	22.3	18.4	17.7	15.3	18.5
Dorset	15.4	23.8	18.0	18.9	19.0
Gloucestershire	17.8	17.0	18.6	13.4	16.7
North Somerset	20.7*	15.8*	16.4*	23.1	19.1
Plymouth	29.4	25.5	28.2	36.3	29.8
Poole	20.1*	21.6*	27.1*	35.9	26.1
Somerset	22.1	28.4	14.4	18.8	21.0
South Gloucestershire	10.6*	16.2	13.6*	17.8	14.6
Swindon	20.0*	24.9	16.0*	17.7*	19.7
Torbay	14.4*	32.1*	38.5	27.5*	28.2
Wiltshire	17.9	16.5	16.5	18.1	17.3
South West	19.1	21.1	18.4	19.6	19.6
England	22.2	24.3	23.9	23.2	23.4

* denotes low reliability

Where there is updated data since the last committee meeting changes are mixed. There has been a fall in the suicide rate and an improvement in the rates of successful completion of non-opiate drug treatment, but also a small decrease in the uptake of the national breast cancer screening programme.

2. Public health budgets.

The in-year cut was confirmed as being just over £542k which is very slightly (about £1k) less than the original figure in the consultation document. There is concern that while the NHS budget has been protected in the spending review the public health grant to local authorities may be cut despite the fact that it commissions a range of services that are very much within the NHS provision like “NHS health checks”, sexual health services, drug and alcohol treatment services, health visiting and school nursing. This is at the same time as some new preventive work like the diabetes prevention programme is being developed through the NHS. While all preventive work is to be welcomed, it is less than welcome that this is being channelled through the NHS in an untried programme when councils may have to lose evidence based programmes to meet targets.

3. Regional alcohol survey.

Public health action conducted a region-wide survey which was just reported on. This focused both on drinking habits and on whether people knew about the range of illnesses that were increased with high alcohol consumption. The findings were alarming and some may be surprising.

- 1 in 3 adults in the South West drink at levels that exceed the Government’s guidelines and pose an increasing or higher risk of damaging their health
- 8 out of 10 of ‘at risk’ drinkers see themselves as ‘moderate’ or ‘light’ drinkers
- 7 out of 10 of these are not concerned about how much they drink
- Few understand the health risks with only 1 in 5 linking alcohol with breast cancer; 1 in 4 with dementia; 1 in 3 with bowel cancer and 1 in 2 with stroke
- Parents are more likely to drink very heavily (10+ units) than those without children when they drink
- Managers and professionals are more likely than routine or manual workers to drink heavily or binge drink (7+ units) when they drink

4. SHEU survey of health behaviours and attitudes in schoolchildren: A wealth of information about our children and young people.

This will be presented in detail to children’s trust board. Findings broken down by gender and free school meals. Areas of strength and progress and areas for concern

Other Positives : Primary

- Walking to school
- Cycle Safety
- School taking bullying seriously
- Alcohol
- Smoking



Areas for development Primary (2015)

- Body image
- Sun safety
- Peer pressure
- Information about body changes as they grow up *
- E-safety

* dependent on when survey conducted

Secondary : Areas for development

- Having lunch
- Sun safety
- Viewing upsetting images on-line
- Enjoyment of lessons
- Body Image
- Thinking school doesn't take bullying seriously (22%)
- Self harm (girls)

Positive trends: Secondary



- More eating fruit and vegetables
- More pupils reporting they are LGB or questioning
- Fewer drinking alcohol & smoking
- More doing physical activity after school
- Better dental care
- Higher aspiration (to go to University)
- Views and opinions making a difference

5. Health implications of major regional plans:

The joint spatial plans and the joint transport plans, along with place-making plans, housing and planning policies will all have major implications for health and wellbeing. The West of England Public health Partnership will look collectively at the regional level of planning and the BaNES team will be involved at local level to identify areas where health and wellbeing can be “built in”, or indeed where there may be risks.

6. Health improvement through contact with nature:

BBC inside out programme and Bristol meeting on “Green Prescribing”.

7. Purple flag reaccreditation visit.

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