

Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Health and Wellbeing Board
MEETING DATE:	29th November 2022
TITLE:	Director Of Public Health Annual Report 2021-2022
WARD:	All
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM	
List of attachments to this report: Director Of Public Health Annual Report 2021-2022	

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1** The purpose of this paper is for the Health and Wellbeing Board to receive the 2021-2022 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health.
- 1.2** The Public Health Annual Report is the independent annual report of the Director of Public Health and is a statutory requirement. Its purpose is to provide insight into the health of the population of Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES), identify issues of concern, and make recommendations for change.
- 1.3** This year's report, 'Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary People' is written at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic has had a far-reaching impact on our population. As a result, the report focuses on the following:
- The impact of COVID-19
 - The health of children, young people and families
 - The importance of our places
- 1.4** These chapters provide a rich description of events and action including personal stories from the pandemic, and a variety of case studies describing how partners have worked together to improve the health and wellbeing of people across B&NES.
- 1.5** Reflecting on the key challenges and action highlighted in the annual report, six recommendations are made aimed at reducing the inequalities that leave people more vulnerable to illness and poorer health, improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people, and further strengthening the building blocks that need to be in place in order for people in B&NES can thrive.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

2.1 Receive the report

2.2 Support dissemination and implementation of the recommendations in the report

3 THE REPORT

3.1 Chapter 1: The Impact of COVID-19. This chapter summarises the far-reaching impact of the pandemic on the population, giving voice to local people and organisations that have responded to such a remarkable challenge.

3.2 Chapter 2: The Health of Children, Young People and Families. This chapter gives an overview of health and wellbeing indicators, summarises challenges including the impact of COVID-19 and the cost of living crisis, and provides examples of action taken to improve the lives of children, young people and families and reduce inequalities.

3.3 Chapter 3: The Importance of our Places. Living through the pandemic has shone a light on the importance of where we grow up, live, learn, play and work on the population's emotional and physical health. This chapter gives examples of innovative ways in which partners have worked together to further strengthen health and wellbeing through developing the places in which we live.

3.4 Chapter 4: Recommendations. Six recommendations reflect the key challenges and action highlighted in the three previous chapters of the report, with a particular focus on reducing inequalities:

1. Implement the B&NES Living Safely and Fairly with COVID-19 Plan that sets out a framework for how individuals, employers, and institutions can support our ongoing collective efforts to prevent, protect, and respond to COVID-19 in the coming years.
2. Further strengthen the targeted action to support children, young people and families outlined in the Children and Young People's Plan:
 - Tackling poverty (including food, digital and socioeconomic)
 - Improving children and young people's emotional and mental health
 - Narrowing the gap (reducing inequalities)
3. Ensure that the new B&NES Local Plan and the B&NES Economic Strategy that are being developed, both maximise their potential to reduce inequalities and make it easier for people to live healthy lives.
4. Update and implement the B&NES Health and Wellbeing Strategy, ensuring it has a strong focus on addressing inequalities.
5. The NHS to increasingly embed prevention and inequalities action into its priorities, and be helped to increasingly support social and economic development in B&NES.
6. All partners of the Health and Wellbeing Board, the Integrated Care Alliance, and the Future Ambitions Board, commit to and deliver on action to improve health and reduce the inequalities that previously existed and have been highlighted as a result of the pandemic.

3.5 Indicator Set. The report concludes with a suite of indicators that give a picture of trends in the health and wellbeing of the B&NES population. Indicators have

been chosen which particularly show our areas of greatest challenge, and benchmarking is provided for the South West and for England where available.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 Directors of Public Health in England have a statutory duty to write an Annual Public Health Report to demonstrate the state of health within their communities.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

5.1 The report contains six recommendations for the Council and partner organisations working to improve the health and wellbeing of people in B&NES. No specific resource implications are identified in the report.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 A risk assessment related to the issues and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

7.1 Recommendations have been written specifically to improve health and wellbeing with an emphasis on reducing health inequalities. Individual programmes or activities are expected to complete EIAs as appropriate as they are planned and undertaken.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

8.1 Climate change was a major focus in the previous Director of Public Health report, which continues to be reflected in the work currently carried out across the Council and by wider partners. Sustainability goes hand in hand with health, and this is considered in Chapter 3 of the annual report: The Importance of our Places. The programmes identified in that chapter will contribute to achieving the council's climate change ambitions.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

9.1 The publication of the Public Health Annual Report is a legal requirement, no other options have been considered.

10 CONSULTATION

10.1 This report has been considered by the relevant council officers.

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Background papers	Director of Public Health Annual Report, 2021-2022, 'Extraordinary Times, Extraordinary People'
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	