

## Bath & North East Somerset Council

MEETING:	Health and Wellbeing Board
MEETING DATE:	7 May 2025
TITLE:	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024/25
WARD:	All
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>	
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appendix One – Full Report</li></ul>	

### 1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The production of an independent annual report on the health of the local population is a statutory requirement of Directors of Public Health, and the focus of this annual report is on health inequalities in Bath and North East Somerset.
- 1.2 The report sets out how there are groups and communities in B&NES who face unfair differences in how long they live and how healthy these lives are. The report describes how groups that face health inequalities include people living within more deprived areas, people who have a protected characteristic such as a disability and people who are particularly vulnerable such as those experiencing homelessness.
- 1.3 The report additionally outlines that there are many causes of health inequalities ranging from the places we live (such as access to warm housing, secure employment and a good education), the lives we lead and the services we use.
- 1.4 The report recognises that whilst B&NES performs comparatively well against a range of health indicators, there are still distinct health inequalities within B&NES such as the difference in life expectancy between the most and least deprived populations or the fact that someone with a severe mental illness (SMI) is five times more likely to die before the age of 75 than individuals without an SMI.

1.5 The report then shines a spotlight on the work already taking place to reduce health inequalities within B&NES, with a focus on actions at a civic, service and community level. However, the report recognises that there is more work to do to ensure everyone in B&NES can live a long and healthy life and sets out five clear recommendations for the year ahead:

**1.** System partners to further strengthen the accurate collection and use of inequalities data to allow for better identification of disparities and development of targeted responses; with the ambition that efforts lead to improvements that benefit those with the poorest outcomes first and fastest.

**2.** Ensure that the emerging Neighbourhood Health Plan for B&NES has a focus on reducing inequalities, including considering how the building blocks of health (wider determinants) can further contribute.

**3.** Work with the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to ensure its core levers around the building blocks of health (Transport, Housing, Employment and Skills & Economic Development) are used to reduce child poverty in B&NES as outlined in its West of England Child Poverty Action Plan.

**4.** Embed and deliver the updated Health and Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Plan with its focus on its key pillars to reduce inequalities.

**5.** In line with the recommendation of the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review of B&NES Council of ensuring inequalities features more prominently in the Council's thinking, planning, narrative and delivery; undertake a self-assessment on the current position and develop a Council wide plan.

1.6 Finally, the report reflects on the recommendations made in the previous Director of Public Health Report and the progress that has been made against these and provides an updated list of public health indicators for B&NES.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider the report and note the actions currently in place to reduce such inequalities.

2.2 Review and endorse the 5 recommendations to further reduce health inequalities in B&NES

2.3 Consider how Health and Wellbeing Board members can support implementation of these 5 recommendations, particularly where they relate to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Neighbourhood Health Plan and collection and use of inequalities data.

2.4 Note the summary of progress from recommendations made in the previous Director of Public Health annual report.

## **3 THE REPORT**

3.1 See Full Report at Appendix One.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 The production of an independent annual report on the health of the local population is a statutory requirement of Directors of Public Health.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

5.1 The recommendations made in the report will have strategic impact in terms of identifying priorities and proportionate allocation of resources but are not identifying any additional spend or capacity.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

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

## **7 EQUALITIES**

7.1 This report provides clear insight into how inequalities exist within B&NES and the causes and impact of health inequalities on the health and well-being of residents. It makes clear recommendations which aim to further reduce health inequalities in B&NES building on the work that has already been undertaken to date.

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

8.1 The broad work programme to reduce inequalities includes a focus on the building blocks of healthy including housing, food, transport and our surrounding environment. Proposed actions in these areas can help prevent, or mitigate the impacts of, climate change and also have significant co-benefits for population health (dry and warm homes, active travel, sustainable and affordable food, good quality air and water, etc).

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 None.

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<b>Background papers</b>	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2024/25