

WIRRAL COUNCIL

HEALTH AND WELLBEING OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 JANUARY 2012

SUBJECT:	ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	FIONA JOHNSTONE, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH
KEY DECISION?	No

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 One of the statutory duties of the Director of Public Health is the production of an annual report on the state of the health of local residents. This is an independent report of by the director, and is used to inform local planning and the provision of services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the Annual Public Health Report and endorse the recommendations contained within it.

3. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 In the Annual Public Health Report for Wirral 2011, we have taken a life-cycle approach to reviewing the health of people on Wirral. This looks at the different stages in people's lives, beginning before birth right through to older age, and considers the challenges and opportunities to improve health and wellbeing.
- 3.2 We have already achieved a great deal for the people of Wirral; the health of the population in general is improving, premature deaths from conditions such as heart disease are reducing and life expectancy is increasing. However, we still have considerable challenges ahead. 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives' shows that men living in Wirral's richest areas can expect to live nearly 15 years longer than those from the poorest parts of the borough and that in parts of Birkenhead deaths from heart disease are 15% higher than the national average.
- 3.3 There is no doubt that vast improvements in public health have led to people living longer, whereby more than four in five deaths now occur after the age 65. The nature of health threats has also changed dramatically, with most people now dying in old age and of noncommunicable diseases. The biggest threats to life today are

diseases that usually occur later in life or those brought on earlier by poor lifestyle choices.

- 3.4 At the end of each chapter, we have summarised some of the key challenges we have to face if we are to make further progress in improving people's health. These have been made even more demanding because of the significant organisational change currently taking place within the NHS and to public health services. This allied to the unsustainable nature of the long-term costs of ill-health mean that the key to success will be to maintain a focus on the outcomes we need to achieve against a background of strong and effective partnership working.
- 3.5 An electronic copy of the report is available at http://www.wirral.nhs.uk/document_uploads/Public_Health_Annual_Reports/PublicHealthAnnualReport201011.pdf

REPORT AUTHOR:

Fiona Johnstone

Director of Public Health

Telephone: (0151) 651 3914

email: fiona.johnstone@wirral.nhs.uk