



HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

DATE: 20TH JULY 2021

REPORT TITLE	PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21 EMERGING RECOMMENDATIONS
REPORT OF	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

The Public Health Annual Report (PHAR) is the independent annual report of the Director of Public Health and is a statutory requirement. The 2020/2021 Report, describes the enduring health inequalities in Wirral, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these differences in health outcomes and recommended actions that we need to take collectively to improve everyone's health.

The Public Health Annual Report is an important vehicle to identify key issues, flag up problems, report progress and inform local inter agency action. The purpose of the PHAR is to draw attention to local issues of importance which have an impact on population health. Since the Council took back responsibility for Public Health in 2013, we have published six reports on:

- Social isolation
- Healthy schools and children
- Domestic violence
- The roles of the Council and NHS in promoting health and wellbeing
- Problem gambling
- The role of culture in health and wellbeing

These reports have led to action in the reduction of people smoking in the borough to levels below the national average; increased support for people who were feeling socially isolated plus significant activity across a range of partners to highlight and reduce the damage caused to our communities from alcohol abuse and gambling.

The 2020/2021 Report seeks to direct action that we need to take together to reduce the impact of health inequalities on our residents and improve health for everyone in our borough. It will also inform our local recovery and renewal plans in response to the pandemic and influence action for the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to consider and comment on the draft recommendations of the Public Health Annual Report 2020/21.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 As part of the development of the 2020/21 Public Health Annual Report the emerging recommendations are presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for reflection and comment. This will inform the final version of the Report prior to its publication in September 2021.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

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

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The global COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges and new experiences for everyone. However, whilst the pandemic has affected us all, the burden has not been shared equally. The long-standing problems associated with health inequality have endured; vividly exposing the impact of these unacceptable differences on people and communities. The pandemic has also made these health differences worse, and the heaviest impacts have fallen on the lives of people already experiencing health, economic and social inequalities.
- 3.2 Whilst we have made great progress to support people to live healthier lives in Wirral, health inequalities are stubbornly persistent. Even prior to COVID-19, Wirral already had some of the poorest health outcomes in the country, with high numbers of socially and economically vulnerable people and extensive, prevailing health inequalities. Within Wirral the difference in life expectancy between those living in the most and least deprived areas is 12 years for men and 10 years for women. The impacts on individuals, communities, services, and the economy are enormous, and the repercussions of the pandemic will aggravate these further.
- 3.3 Continuing to tackle health inequalities, and reduce its impact on our community, will be a key task long into the future and one which will benefit every resident. Although some things that influence our health cannot be changed, such as our age and genes, there are many important factors that, collectively, we can change. Issues such as poverty, unemployment, poor housing, and unhealthy environments are major contributors to this health gap. The pandemic has shown us what we can achieve when we all work together and the speed at which we can make change happen.
- 3.4 The report identifies several emerging recommendations directing the action we need to take together to reduce the impact on our residents and improve health for everyone in our borough.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, to implement the recommendations resources will be required. Where additional resources are required outside of the annual budget, this will be reported to Members to determine whether these resources should be redirected from elsewhere in order to progress the recommendations or to consider whether the recommendations requiring a new financial commitment should be implemented.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The Public Health Annual Report is a statutory duty on Directors of Public Health.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 This report has been financed from within existing resource and the main inputs have been staff time of officers in Public Health.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 The impacts of the pandemic on the health and wellbeing of the local population are still emerging and therefore not fully understood. The emerging recommendations presented therefore take account of some of this uncertainty.

7.2 Wirral Partners remain in both emergency and recovery response therefore resources are pressured, and services stretched. The emerging recommendations are however intended to support and inform the local system to plan for the future and enable the borough to recover effectively for everyone.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The emerging recommendations associated within this report are presented to members of the Health and Wellbeing Board for reflection and comment.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for this presentation of emerging recommendations. However, an Equality Impact Assessment will be conducted on the Public Health Annual Report and the associated recommendations.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no impact on emissions of carbon dioxide.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Emerging Recommendations

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Intelligence Service (2021) Health Inequalities

<https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/jsna/health-inequalities/>

Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On (2020)

<https://www.health.org.uk/publications/reports/the-marmot-review-10-years-on>

Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review (2020)

<https://www.health.org.uk/publications/build-back-fairer-the-covid-19-marmot-review>

HM Government (2021) Build Back Better: our plan for growth

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/build-back-better-our-plan-for-growth>

Public Health England (2020) COVID-19: review of disparities in risks and outcomes

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-review-of-disparities-in-risks-and-outcomes>

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet	16 July 2018
Health and Wellbeing Board	18 July 2018
Cabinet	30 September 2019
Council	14 October 2019
Health and Wellbeing Board	13 November 2019
Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19 November 2019