

HOUSING COMMITTEE
18 November 2021

REPORT TITLE	PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021
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 enduring health inequalities in Wirral, the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on these differences in health outcomes and recommended actions that we need to take 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 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 to reduce the impact of health inequalities on our residents and improve health for everyone in our borough.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Housing Committee is requested to endorse the recommendations detailed within the Public Health Annual Report.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The production of an annual report is a statutory requirement of the Director of Public Health. The Council has a duty to publish the report.

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. 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 10.7 years for men and 11.2 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 five key recommendations which intend to direct the action we need to take together to improve health for everyone in our borough and support the delivery of the Wirral Plan. The recommendations are as follows:

- Prioritise economic regeneration and a strong local economy
- Safeguard a healthy standard of living for all
- Increase support for children, young people, and families
- Strengthen action to address differences in health outcomes and prevention
- Residents and partners continue to work together

3.5 A detailed, technical supplementary briefing has been developed and is appended to the Annual Report. This provides information that is summarised within the main report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. However, in order to implement the recommendations resources will be required.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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 recommendations presented therefore take account of some of this uncertainty. Ongoing surveillance, intelligence and insight will be required to ensure partners are responding to the needs of the local population.

7.2 Wirral partners remain in both emergency and recovery response therefore resources are pressured, and services stretched. The 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 Health and Wellbeing Board was consulted on the emerging recommendations of this year's Public Health Annual Report in July 2021 and the September meeting of the Board endorsed the final recommendations. Internal and external stakeholders have been integral to the development of the PHAR and insight generated throughout the pandemic from local people has been used to inform the report.

8.2 The Public Health Annual Report is intended to emphasise the collective contribution, and responsibility for health and wellbeing. The PHAR therefore has an important and continuing role to play as a spur to action in the wider system and as part of our ongoing public communications and engagement strategy.

8.3 The finalised PHAR will be shared at various Council and partner committees. It will also be disseminated electronically to community stakeholders and published on the Council and Wirral Intelligence Service websites.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is located: - [Equality Impact Assessments | www.wirral.gov.uk](#)

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.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 The Public Health Annual Report describes the symbiotic relationship between the economy and health. The Community Wealth Building Strategy therefore makes an important contribution to improving the economic, social and health outcomes of the borough and reducing disparities in health. The recommendations included within the Public Health Annual Report will also contribute to the aspirations outlined in the Community Wealth Building Strategy.

REPORT AUTHOR: Julie Webster
Director of Public Health
telephone: (0151 666 5142)
email: juliewebster@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: Public Health Annual Report 2020/2021:

APPENDIX 2: Public Health Annual Report 2020/2021 Technical Briefing

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

Council Meeting	Date
Tourism Communities Culture and Leisure	17 November 2021
Environment Climate Emergency and Transport	15 November 2021
Adult Social Care and Public Health	13 October 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	29 th September 2021
Health and Wellbeing Board	20 th July 2021
Adult Care and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	19 th November 2019
Health and Wellbeing Board	13 th November 2019
Council	14 th October 2019
Cabinet	30 th September 2019
Health and Wellbeing Board	18 th July 2018
Cabinet	16 th July 2018