



ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

5TH MARCH 2024

REPORT TITLE:	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24
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.

This year's report supports, and helps build on, the commitment made in Wirral's Health and Wellbeing Strategy to prioritise system-wide work on those underlying factors that will have the biggest impact on the health of our communities.

Good employment is one of those factors. This report describes the importance of good employment for our health and wellbeing, and highlights some of the barriers and challenges faced by local people in accessing quality employment. It provides an account of the lived experience of some of Wirral's residents and sets out some of the evidence on what we can do as a system to address barriers.

The report, and the work described, supports the central vision of the Wirral Working Together Plan 2023-2027 to work with partners and employers to promote fairness and opportunity for people and communities in Wirral.

This matter affects all wards within the borough. It is not a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is recommended to:

1. Review and endorse the Public Health Annual Report.
2. Support the ongoing work to drive forward action on ensuring inclusive employment opportunities and addressing health-related worklessness in Wirral.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Effectively addressing some of the entrenched and complex issues relating to unemployment and worklessness requires collaborative action and a willingness to consider and test out new approaches.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 The publication of the Public Health Annual Report is a statutory requirement. No other options have been considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 An independent annual report of the Director of Public Health is a statutory requirement. It provides the opportunity for the Director of Public Health to describe some of the key issues impacting on the health and wellbeing of residents, and to make recommendations for how these might be most effectively addressed.
- 3.2 This year's report is an important step in the journey underway in Wirral to commit to strategic, whole-system action to address the root causes of poor health and to tackle health inequalities.
- 3.3 Significant work is underway to deliver on the priorities set out in the Health and Wellbeing strategy. Focused, whole-system, workshops have taken place to engage key stakeholders around action on Priority 1 of the strategy: '*To get the best health outcomes from economy and regeneration programmes*', and to consider what can be done across Wirral to widen participation and access to jobs. Some tangible, short, medium, and longer-term actions have resulted from those workshops, and the challenge is to ensure we embed these actions, and challenge some of our standard practices and processes around recruitment.
- 3.4 This report provides an overview of the work already underway. It draws together some of the evidence on how and why good employment is so important to health and wellbeing. It also looks at the impact of unemployment and inactivity on health and considers how different groups might be disproportionately affected, both in terms of accessing employment and staying in work. Some lived experiences of residents are included within the report along with views and experiences of local employers and business sectors. These accounts help to illustrate some of the issues and some of the opportunities to address worklessness.
- 3.5 In drawing this all together and publishing it in the Director of Public Health's Annual Report, the aim is to ensure that our commitment to this agenda is reinforced and remains high on agendas, and that we continue to challenge ourselves to do more. The high-level recommendations included within the report set out the key areas where focussed action will really help to maximise the impact we can have as a whole system.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report. Resource implications for implementing the recommendations presented will need to be considered by all Wirral Partners.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report. The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health is a statutory requirement.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

6.1 There are no resource implications arising directly from this report. The main input has been officer time.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

7.1 Wirral experiences significant inequalities in health outcomes. Evidence shows that employment is one of the key wider determinants of health. By failing to effectively address the barriers to employment, there is a risk that long-term sustainable improvements will not be achieved.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 The report draws on work undertaken as part of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy implementation, through which there has been engagement with relevant stakeholders and key partners. Work has also been undertaken to capture and convey within the report the lived experience of some of our residents.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision, or activity. There are no equality implications arising directly from this report. An equality impact assessment has been produced and can be found here <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Some of the principles and ways of working advocated in this report, such as the importance of maximising the impact of local anchor organisations and local supply chains will support action to reduce carbon footprints.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Inclusive employment and quality jobs are critical aspects of community wealth building. The Community Wealth Building Strategy is referenced in this report, and its recommendations will help to drive forward further action.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Public Health Annual Report 2023/24:
'Work in Progress' Health and Employment in Wirral

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-27
https://www.wirralintelligenceservice.org/media/3705/209_healthandwellbeingstrategy_v9.pdf

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in accordance with its Terms of Reference:

- c) all Public Health functions (in co-ordination with those functions reserved to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's statutory health functions).
- e) undertaking the development and implementation of policy in relation to the Committee's functions, incorporating the assessment of outcomes, review of effectiveness and formulation of recommendations to the Council, partners and other bodies, which shall include any decision relating to:
 - (i) furthering public health objectives through the development of partnerships with other public bodies, community, voluntary and charitable groups and through the improvement and integration of health and social care services.
- g) in respect of the Health and Social Care Act 2006, the functions to:
 - (iii) investigate major health issues identified by, or of concern to, the local population.
 - (v) scrutinise the impact of interventions on the health of local inhabitants, particularly socially excluded and other minority groups, with the aim of reducing health inequalities.
 - (vi) maintain an overview of health service delivery against national and local targets, particularly those that improve the public's health.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date