

Children's Services Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 24 March 2020

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Children's Health - Public Health Update
(Appendices 'A' to 'C' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report provides the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee with an update on key priorities for action to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people, and identify the work undertaken to address inequalities in health.

Recommendation

The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Acknowledge the work undertaken to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for children and young people in Lancashire.
- ii. Consider and provide feedback on the information provided including the Infant Mortality Action Plan.
- iii. Discuss and agree any additional children's health subject areas for inclusion on the committee work programme going forward and reasons for scrutiny.

Background and Advice

Best Start in Life has been identified as one of six key priority areas for action in the recently published update report ['Health Equity in England – The Marmot Review 10 Years On'](#).

This identifies that life expectancy in England has stalled, and we are still seeing inequalities in health in some of the more deprived areas and in certain minority groups, hence further work is required if we are to reduce this gap. The report also points to some of the key social determinants of health worsening.

The public health team is working with key internal and external partners to tackle inequalities using a number of approaches to ensure a best start in life for our children, young people and families. We are supporting the Early Years Strategy

(attached at Appendix A), to ensure children, young people and their families are safe, healthy and achieve their full potential in Lancashire. This strategy details how we will improve health and wellbeing of children and young people and has a real focus on improving outcomes for early years.

An important aspect is to address infant mortality, as identified in the Lancashire Infant Mortality Report (attached at Appendix B). Similarly, although the overall child mortality rate (age 0-17 years) in Lancashire has been falling, child mortality remains significantly worse than the England rate, with clear links to socio-economic status.

The Infant Mortality Action Plan (attached at Appendix C) details the range of interventions that will make a difference, including a focus on ensuring we increase access and uptake of vaccination and immunisation, as well as promoting breastfeeding and addressing modifiable factors such as smoking in pregnancy.

Consultations

The Early Years Strategy has been shared and signed off by members of the Children and Young People's Partnership Board.

The Lancashire Infant Mortality Report has been presented to both the Health and Wellbeing and the Children and Young People's Partnership Boards.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

NA

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA