

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 7 March 2024

Report of the Director of Public Health

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Delivering better services;

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2023/24

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health identifies that the key health indicators show that our outcomes have slowed down across Lancashire since the pandemic. It identifies poor health as a key factor affecting economic progress in Lancashire, and vice-versa. The report also highlights that the ongoing problems related to health and wealth are distributed unequally across Lancashire communities. This is happening in the context of a demographic shift towards an increasing proportion of unhealthy ageing population in our communities that requires more joined up work across the sectors.

It highlights the devolution proposal and the evolution of Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System as key strategic opportunities in Lancashire to adopt a systematic and joined up approach to address inequalities to create a more favourable future for our residents, communities, and businesses.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to consider and endorse the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for 2023/24, as set out at Appendix 'A', and its recommendations.



Detail

The report describes the overall demographic profile and health of Lancashire residents in detail. Key findings include:

- Lancashire has a higher proportion of people over 50 in Lancashire, and this is projected to grow significantly in the next 20 years. The county is ethnically diverse with some districts having over 20% of ethnic minority population. Nearly 1 in 5 of the population live in rural towns and villages in Lancashire.
- Lancashire has both the least and most deprived areas across the country and experiences more deprivation compared to other two-tier local county council areas.
- Life expectancy declined in all Lancashire districts - apart from in Fylde, Pendle and Ribble Valley for males and in South Ribble for females.
- Inequalities already existed before the pandemic across several dimensions (including socio-economic status, education, age, gender, ethnicity and geography). The pandemic has worsened these inequalities with the risk factors for ill health rising and inequalities widened.
- Lancashire's economy is recovering well after the pandemic. Yet, poorer health in working age population is a key driver of economic inactivity which is increasing in Lancashire.
- The 12 National Levelling Up Missions, Devolution to a Combined County Authority, New Hospitals Programme and the evolving Integrated Care System present the best strategic opportunities to improve health and reduce health inequalities in Lancashire.

Appendices

Appendix 'A' is attached to this report. For clarification it is summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2023/24

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:



Risk management

The recommendations in the report inform the future strategies and plans to improve health and reduce health inequalities in Lancashire.

Legal

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Financial

There are no financial implications arising from this report. Any initiatives arising from the recommendations that require additional funding to existing budgets will be considered by Cabinet as appropriate. However, at the outset the intention will be to fund the activity from within the agreed budget envelope.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		

