

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 28 January 2020

Director of Public Health Report 2019/20 - Investing in our Health and Wellbeing

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refers)

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Executive Summary

The Director of Public Health report 2019/20 entitled 'Investing in our Health and Wellbeing' (Appendix 'A') follows on from the last report in 2016 on Securing our Health and Wellbeing. The report refocuses on three main issues:

1. We have been adding years to our lives but not necessarily life to our years;
2. Addressing health inequalities needs action across the social gradient within our county and not just in the most deprived communities; and
3. That protecting and promoting good health and wellbeing is not just a social issue but also crucial for our local and national economy.

Health outcomes for our residents living in many areas of our county are not improving in line with national trends. Health inequalities in Lancashire are widening and if we fail to focus on prevention and wellbeing, it is likely to be even more challenging in improving measures such as life expectancy and healthy life expectancy. Crucially this will have an impact on the productivity of the local economy, employers and our workforce.

To address these challenges, the report recommends addressing four key public health priority areas:

- Investing in giving children the best start in life.
- Investing in our communities.
- Investing in our working age population.
- Investing in our own health and wellbeing.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (i) Support the key messages and dissemination of the Director of Public Health annual report (Appendix 'A') within partner organisations.
- (ii) Continue to ensure that our collaborative prevention and population health investments are optimised for improving the health and wellbeing of communities across Lancashire.
- (iii) Endorse the action plan to reduce infant mortality across Lancashire (Appendix 'B').

Background

The Health and Social Care Act 2012, sets out a requirement for all Directors of Public Health to produce a report on the health of their local population and for their local authority to publish it.

The Director of Public Health report (Appendix 'A') is a professional statement about the health of local communities, based on sound epidemiological evidence, and interpreted objectively. The report is an important opportunity by which the Director of Public Health can identify key issues, flag up trends in health status, report progress and thereby serve their local populations.

The report acts as a key resource to inform stakeholders of priorities and recommend actions to improve and protect the health of the communities. It is also a mechanism for advocacy as well as a statement of needs, current priorities and action and continuing progress.

List of background papers

Lancashire County Council Corporate Strategy -
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/corporate-strategy/> .

Lancashire Health & Wellbeing Strategy -
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/media/907203/lancashire-health-and-wellbeing-strategy.pdf> .

Lancashire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) -
<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/lancashire-insight/jsna/>.