

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 25 January 2022

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2021-22

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, Tel: (01772 532483, Director of Public Health

sakthi.karunanithi@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Directors of Public Health in England have a statutory duty to write an Annual Public Health Report to demonstrate the state of health within their communities.

A copy of the annual public health report for 2021/22 is attached as Appendix 'A'. The report highlights the state of our health and wellbeing in Lancashire and how the pandemic has impacted on our lives and livelihoods. The report also makes six high level recommendations to improve our health and reduce inequalities across Lancashire.

Recommendation

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to receive the annual report of the Director of Public Health 2021/22 and support the high-level recommendations contained within it.

Background

The report, attached as Appendix 'A', entails an analysis of key indicators of health outcomes and inequalities.

Some of the key findings in the report include:

Life expectancy in Lancashire has decreased overall in both the most and least deprived areas. Males living in the least deprived communities live 10.3 years longer than those in the most deprived, and the gap is 7.8 years for females.

Overall, comparing local indicators with England averages, the health and wellbeing of children in Lancashire is worse than England.

Providing face-to-face health visiting services has been a challenge during the lockdown. However, health assessments and reviews have still been undertaken with thousands of new mothers and babies being assessed.

The pandemic has had an impact on the mental health and wellbeing of young people as identified in the 2021 health needs assessment survey.

Lancashire's emissions have reduced by 32.7% between 2005 and 2019. Nationally, total emissions have reduced by 36%. This has been driven mainly by a large reduction in the amount of coal used for electricity generation.

Recent research has projected that the Lancashire economy could be increased by an estimated £8.2 billion if we improve the conditions that make up the wider definition of productivity.

The percentage of people who "often or always" felt lonely during the pandemic in Lancashire was reported to be 6.1% but for certain districts this figure was as high as 13.5%.

The six high level recommendations in the report include:

1. Adopt a health in all policies approach to reducing health inequalities across Lancashire.
2. Work more closely with wider system partners to support and improve how we do things, working alongside the voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector as more equal partners.
3. Harness the relationships and ways of working which have developed during the pandemic to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people and reduce child health inequalities
4. Align health and climate goals, working with partners and our communities to transition away from carbon and build resilient communities that are well adapted to respond to climate change.
5. Ensure all key interfacing strategies in Lancashire have a healthy ageing focus and to demonstrate commitment to healthy ageing by signing up as a co-signatory to the Public Health England (PHE) Healthy Ageing Consensus statement.
6. Address low in-work productivity, as the biggest single contributor to Lancashire's productivity gap, through work-based health programmes, supportive workplace practices and closer working relationships with key agencies such as Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

List of background papers

None