

Public Health Annual Report 2016-17

Report of the Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity

Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Cabinet (and confirmation under the provisions of the Council's Constitution) before taking effect.

Recommendation: Cabinet is asked to receive the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health and to note its recommendations.

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### **1. Background**

- 1.1. The Director of Public Health has a statutory duty to write an annual report, and the local authority has a statutory duty to publish it (section 73B(5) & (6) of the 2006 NHS Act, inserted by section 31 of the 2012 Health and Social Care Act). This enables the Director of Public Health to make an independent judgement about the state of health of the local population and ensures that the report will be published and in the public domain. The annual report by the Director of Public Health is therefore different from all other reports received from an officer by the local authority.

### **2. Introduction**

- 2.1. This Annual Public Health Report for Devon County Council is the tenth in a series of annual reports on the health of the population of Devon which began in 2007-08. Over that period, there have been extraordinary improvements in the health of the population of Devon. The pattern of disease has changed over the years – while life expectancy has increased, as modern medicine develops new techniques and treatments, so has the prevalence of long-term health conditions, such as diabetes, heart and lung disease, arthritis and dementia. The one main area of concern in terms of local trends and the position of Devon relative to other areas is mental health.
- 2.2. While indicators of health and wellbeing in Devon compare favourably to national, regional and local authority comparator areas, there needs to be a continued focus on giving children the best start in life, and maintaining health and wellbeing throughout adolescence and adulthood into older age.
- 2.3. This year's annual report on the health of the people of Devon takes as its theme place-based public health. The report considers the different aspects of place in relation to health and wellbeing and the role of public sector bodies with a responsibility for health and care systems.
- 2.4. The concept of place fits well alongside public health because so many of the things which influence or health and wellbeing are related to where we live, and what impact that has on how we live. The report considers how places affect our health and wellbeing, and what opportunity there may be for place-based approaches to change the way we plan, commission and provide health and care services.

2.5 Based on our population demography and predicted trends in disease, the following determinants of health, and healthcare conditions, require continued focus, especially where inequalities exist within our communities:

1. Smoking
2. Obesity and overweight
3. Poor dietary habits leading to physical and oral health problems
4. Inactivity and lack of physical fitness
5. Mental ill-health, poor emotional wellbeing and loneliness
6. Excessive alcohol consumption
7. Drug abuse
8. Risk-taking in sexual health
9. Domestic and sexual violence and abuse
10. Excessive exposure of the skin to the sun causing skin damage and skin cancer
11. Injury from slips, trips and falls
12. Late diagnosis and sub-optimal treatment of long-term conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, arthritis and dementia including low 'flu immunisation rates
13. Late diagnosis and sub-optimal treatment of cancers
14. Poor air quality
15. Lack of availability of quality affordable housing

### **3. Financial considerations**

3.1 None

### **4. Legal considerations**

4.1 The publication of the annual report of the Director of Public Health by Devon County Council discharges a statutory responsibility under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

### **5. Environmental impact considerations**

5.1 Contained within the report.

### **6. Equality considerations**

6.1 Contained within the report.

### **7. Risk assessment considerations**

7.1 Contained within the report.

### **8. Recommendation**

8.1 Cabinet is asked to note the recommendations of this year's Public Health Annual Report:

#### **Place-based Public Health: Recommendations**

1. To encourage the use of the "Health in All Policies" approach to embed health and wellbeing outcomes in planning and commissioning.
2. To develop an evaluation framework that can be used for place-based strategies.
3. To agree a set of outcome indicators relevant to place-based interventions which can be reliably tracked over an extended period.

4. To continue to prioritise prevention and early intervention for conditions which create longer-term disease and disability.
5. To strengthen the recognition of the impact of place – the community – on issues of social concern such as loneliness, lack of intergenerational relationships, and domestic and sexual violence and abuse.

**Dr Virginia Pearson**  
**CHIEF OFFICER FOR COMMUNITIES, PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND PROSPERITY**  
**DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL**

**Electoral Divisions: All**

Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment, and Prosperity: Dr Virginia Pearson

### **Background publications**

Devon Joint Strategic Needs Assessment [www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/jsna/](http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/jsna/)  
Previous Annual Public Health Reports [www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/aphr/](http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/aphr/)