

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

7th June 2022

Report Title	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2020-22
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List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – DPH Annual Report 2020-22

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. To note the content of the annual Director of Public Health (DPH) statutory report for Northamptonshire.
- 1.2. To endorse the key recommendations made in the DPH annual report.
- 1.3. To note the requirement of the Health and Wellbeing Board to agree publication of the DPH annual report, which will then be disseminated to partners, stakeholders and residents in order to fully engage everyone in the Health & Wellbeing agenda.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The contents of the DPH Annual Report explore the Northamptonshire response to the COVID-19 pandemic and how the 'organised efforts of society' helped to deliver an effective response in what is the biggest Public Health crisis in our generation. Partnership working is at the heart of the report, particularly highlighting how these partnerships and associations were developed as a result of the pandemic but it also demonstrates some of the exceptional work that was already being done through partnership working, which has evolved and developed in light of the situation. The report explains how the combined efforts of services such as Health Protection, Environmental Health, Business Intelligence and Communications, amongst others, came together to provide advice, support and reassurance at a particularly unsettling, confusing and sometimes traumatic time in a lot of our citizens' lives. This annual report covers the period from 2020 to 2022 as this is main timespan of the pandemic.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 For the Health & Wellbeing Board to note the contents of the report and recommendations made.
- 3.2 For the Board to also note the progress made with regard to the recommendations in the previous annual report.
- 3.3 For the Board to agree publication and distribution of the report.

4. Report Background

- 4.1 The core purpose of the Director of Public Health (DPH) is to be an independent advocate for the health of the population and system leader for its improvement and protection. DPH's across the country are required to produce an annual report and the Health and Wellbeing Board has a duty to publish their report. The DPH annual report provides an opportunity to:
 - Raise awareness and understanding of the wellbeing of the county
 - Identify key issues and challenges relating to the wellbeing of the local population
 - Provide added value over and above intelligence and information routinely available
 - Reflect on work already undertaken and the continued impact
 - Identify recommendations for future courses of action to improve health and wellbeing locally.

5. Issues and Choices

- 5.1 Each year the DPH must decide on a topic that the annual report will cover in that period. At the time of making this decision the pandemic had already begun and was clear it was going to be a dictating factor in the Public Health world for some time. Great examples of collaborative working were already apparent and this seemed to be a natural, but important focal point in the fight against Covid. Working with our partners, both internal, external and in the community, is something that Northamptonshire is proud of and is keen to advocate and develop for the benefit of all, now and in the future. Learning from the experiences that were had over the last two years to ensure the effective relationships and working arrangements continue, seemed to be a perfect focus for the DPH Annual Report. It is therefore hoped that sharing this learning with partners and the community will help people to understand how partnership working can be effective, how it can be developed and also give an understanding of the incredible work that went on behind the scenes in Northamptonshire to keep people informed and supported in this particularly difficult time in our history.
- 5.2 As much of the work done over the last two years has been focussed on COVID-19 it felt sensible to have the report span the majority of the pandemic which is why the report is a two year report.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

- 6.1.1 The production of an Annual Report is a statutory function that should be executed by the Director of Public Health. A budget is therefore put aside for this annually and comes from the Public Health Grant. There are no additional financial implications or Council resources required as a result of this paper.

6.2 Legal

- 6.2.1 There is a statutory obligation for the Health & Wellbeing Board to agree publication and distribution of this report.
- 6.2.2 There are no other legal implications that will result from carrying out the recommendations in this report.

6.3 Risk

- 6.3.1 Should this report not be agreed and published, the Council and the Director of Public Health would not meet the relevant statutory duties.
- 6.3.2 There would be a risk of reputational damage to WNC and the Public Health team.
- 6.3.3 There would be a lack of guidance to local communities/ organisations in relation to health and wellbeing in the county.

6.4 Consultation

- 6.4.1 Not applicable

6.5 Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny

- 6.5.1 Not applicable

6.6 Climate Impact

- 6.6.1 Not applicable

6.7 Community Impact

- 6.7.1 Not applicable

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 DPH Annual Report 2019-20