



Subject: Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023

Presented by: Rachael Leslie

Purpose of bringing this report to the Board	
Decision	
Recommendation to Full Council	
Endorsement	
Information	X

Implications		Applicable Yes/No
DHWB Strategy Areas of Focus	Substance Misuse (Drugs and Alcohol)	X
	Mental Health	X
	Dementia	
	Obesity	X
	Children and Families	X
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment		X
Finance		
Legal		
Equalities		X
Other Implications (please list)		

How will this contribute to improving health and wellbeing in Doncaster?
<p>The 2023 report focusses on Doncaster's children, young people and families. The Covid-19 pandemic disproportionately impacted the health and wellbeing of children and young people. School closures and limited opportunities to socialise and build relationships outside the home affected the mental health and development of young people. At the start of 2023, Doncaster established a Fairness and Wellbeing Commission with the aim of making an independent, strategic assessment of the nature, extent, and causes of inequalities in Doncaster. For children and young people, commission members observed persistent and elevated rates of children living in poverty and the impact this has on all elements of their lives and futures.</p> <p>This year's report provides a high-level assessment of the overall health status for all Doncaster residents. Using national child and maternal health indicators, an overview of how healthy children and young people are in Doncaster is presented and local data and experiences shared by families</p>

and people who work with children describes how some children can experience health inequalities and role of 'the other 80%' - the social factors and physical environments - have in addressing this inequality.

The report also shares a series of examples of how we collect and use insight and the voice and input of local children and young people – through the school health profiles, an annual pupil lifestyle survey, the development of compassionate approaches and active young apprentices to focus efforts and resources and shape services. The report also describes how Public Health teams have worked with partners around the national allocation of additional fixed term funding for substance misuse and family hubs, using intelligence and insight to address local challenges.

The annual summary of how the public health grant is allocated is again provided, along with some 2023 highlights from the Public Health team including the achievements from Doncaster's Health Determinants Research Collaboration (HDRC) first year.

In the context of emerging recommendations from the Fairness and Wellbeing Commission and the upcoming launch of a refreshed Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Doncaster, the report shares some final thoughts:

1. **The importance of voice and experiences of children and young people** in the shaping of policy and in service design and delivery
2. **Taking compassionate, prevention focussed approaches** that address the wider determinants of health, including mental health, to build the social conditions for better health, choosing kindness to reduce health stigma
3. **Equalities and inclusion health focus**, to close the inequalities gap for children and young people who face additional barriers and challenges to health and opportunity, we must use community based approaches to involve and hear from children and families who are most affected, and to influence and sustain improvement we must work alongside our communities.

Recommendations

The Board is asked to:-

NOTE the report and consider how the recommendations can inform future strategy and delivery plans.