

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD



TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
FROM:	Dominic Harrison, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing
DATE:	18 th June 2019

SUBJECT: Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, 2018/19

1. PURPOSE

To ask the Health and Wellbeing Board to approve the latest Annual Report of the Director of Public Health.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

The Board is asked to:

- 1) Note the content of the Public Health Annual Report 2018/19
- 2) Support the recommendations of the report, which envisage the Health and Wellbeing Board championing efforts to tackle child poverty and receiving annual reports from partners.

3. BACKGROUND

Under the Health & Social Care Act 2012 (section 31), the Director of Public Health has a duty to write an Annual Report on the health of the local population. Within the same section of the Act, the Local Authority has a duty to publish the report.

The Public Health Annual Report is traditionally a professional statement about the health of local communities and increasingly an important vehicle by which Directors of Public Health can identify local issues, flag problems and report progress. The report is publicly accessible and a key resource to inform local inter-agency action for health and wellbeing.

The 2018/19 report addresses the growing issue of child poverty, which is a matter of increasing concern across the UK. It coincides with the publication of modelled estimates suggesting that Blackburn with Darwen has the fifth highest child poverty of any UK local authority, and Bastwell the highest of any ward.

4. RATIONALE

The Public Health Annual Report, which should be considered alongside the local Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, is publicly accessible and a key resource to inform local inter-agency action for health and wellbeing.

The 2018/19 report addresses the growing issue of child poverty, which is a matter of increasing concern across the UK. It coincides with the publication of modelled estimates suggesting that Blackburn with Darwen has the fifth highest child poverty of any UK local authority, and Bastwell the highest of any ward.

5. KEY ISSUES

The report looks at how child poverty is defined and measured, examines national trends including the effect of 'austerity' policies, and presents evidence on the causes and effects of child poverty, including the effects upon health.

It then switches attention to Blackburn with Darwen, reviewing the borough's generally low income and earnings, the new child poverty estimates prepared by Loughborough University for The Campaign to End Child Poverty, and the impact of that poverty upon local children and families.

After a review of what we are doing to tackle child poverty in the borough, and what more we can do, the report presents the case for a new 'Inclusive Growth' approach to economic development.

It ends by recommending that the Health and Wellbeing Board should champion partnership work to tackle child poverty. This work should follow good practice guidelines, target identified drivers of child poverty, and aim to either 'prevent' or 'undo' the problem, or 'mitigate' its impacts. An ambition is expressed to close the child poverty gap between Blackburn with Darwen and the rest of the country by 2030.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Poverty is already one of the three cross-cutting priorities of the Blackburn with Darwen Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This report recommends a key role for the Health and Wellbeing Board in overseeing efforts to tackle child poverty in particular.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from this paper.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from this paper. Under the Health & Social Care Act 2012 (section 31), the Director of Public Health has a duty to write an Annual Report on the health of the local population. Within the same section of the Act, the Local Authority has a duty to publish the report.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct resource implications arising from this paper.

10. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct equality and health implications arising from this paper.

11. CONSULTATIONS

The Public Health Annual Report is a professional statement of the Director of Public Health and not in its own right subject to consultation. The ISNA Leadership Group, which is a partnership organisation with representation from council departments, has seen and discussed an earlier draft of the report.

VERSION:	1.1
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DATE:	24 th May 2019
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Blackburn with Darwen Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (provided separately)

