

READING HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Date of Meeting	12 July 2024
Title	Director of Public Health's Annual Report
Purpose of the report	To note the report for information
Report author	John Ashton
Job title	Interim Director for Public Health
Organisation	Reading Borough Council
Recommendations	1. For the Health & Wellbeing Board to note the annual report and its contents

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. Directors of Public Health have a statutory requirement to write an annual report on the health of their population. This report describes the health of the population, is evidence based and is a way of informing local people about the health of their community. It is underpinned by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Reading and sets direction for the local public health system. It informs decision makers in local healthcare services, partner agencies, voluntary partners and communities to take preventative action that will prevent health inequalities and protect and improve health.
- 1.2. This Annual Report is the first standalone Reading Borough Council report for many years and sets out the ambitions of the Council's public health team and outlines how they will work to improve the health and well-being of the local population and reduce health inequalities over the coming year.
- 1.3. The Annual Report also outlines the current position of public health in Reading and describes the work carried out in the context of the three main domains of public health – health protection, health improvement and healthcare.
- 1.4. The strategic priorities set out in this year's Annual Report form the basis of the Public Health Team's service plan, their collaborative work with other council directorates and influence with wider system partners over the coming year. However, these cannot be set in stone as they may need to change and evolve in response to threats to health and the changing needs of the population, changes in national policy and local priorities.

2. Policy Context

- 2.1. Reading Borough Council is committed to protecting and improving the health of everyone in the borough.
- 2.2. This commitment is captured in the [Berkshire West Health and Wellbeing Strategy for 2021-2030](#), which has been adopted by the council.
- 2.3. This strategy sets out how the three Berkshire West local authorities, the Integrated Care System and system partners will work together to help people live healthier and happier lives.

3. The Director of Public Health's Annual report for Reading 2024

- 3.1. The Annual Report is attached at Appendix A.

4. Contribution to Reading's Health and Wellbeing Strategic Aims

4.1 The Annual Public Health Report aligns with the Berkshire West Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 - 2030 and its five priority areas. It also sets out actions that support Reading Borough Council's Corporate plan priorities for Thriving Communities and Inclusive Economy.

5. Environmental and Climate Implications

5.1. The Council declared a Climate Emergency at its meeting on 26 February 2019 (Minute 48 refers).

5.2 At this stage of the Annual Report and its associated next steps there are no environmental or climate implications arising from the decision.

6. Community Engagement

6.1 Where services are being delivered engagement with recipients is undertaken as part of contract monitoring and quality assurance.

7. Equality Implications

7.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

7.2 As no new services are proposed as part of this report an Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

8. Other Relevant Considerations

8.1 There are no other relevant considerations for this decision.

9. Legal Implications

9.1 The Director of Public Health has a statutory requirement, under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, to produce an annual report on the health of the population.

10. Financial Implications

10.1 There are no new financial commitments linked to this report and therefore no implications.

11. Timetable for Implementation

11.1 Not applicable

12. Background Papers

12.1 None

Appendices

Appendix 1: Reading Borough Council Director of Public Health Annual Report