



**Open Report on behalf of Derek Ward, Director of Public Health**

Report to:	<b>Executive</b>
Date:	<b>07 December 2021</b>
Subject:	<b>Director of Public Health Annual Report</b>
Decision Reference:	<b>I022780</b>
Key decision?	<b>No</b>

**Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to present the Director of Public Health's (DPH) Annual Report 2021. The focus of this year's report is the health of children and young people in Lincolnshire, and the impact of Covid-19 on this population.

Given this focus, it has been agreed that this will be a joint report co-authored by the Executive Director of Children's Services. This is an innovative approach to a DPH annual report and reinforces the importance of a system wide strategic approach to protecting and improving children's health.

**Recommendation(s):**

That the Executive receives the Annual Report from the Director of Public Health and arranges for its publication.

**Alternatives Considered:**

1.	None
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**Reasons for Recommendation:**

The Director of Public Health is required by statute to prepare an annual report on the health of the people in the Council's area and the Council has a statutory responsibility to publish the report.

**1. Background**

Directors of Public Health in England have a statutory duty to write an annual public health report to demonstrate the state of health within their communities. Local authorities have a statutory duty to publish the report.

The DPH Annual Report for 2021, presented in Appendix A, outlines the burden of disease on children in Lincolnshire, as well as articulating the significant impact of COVID-19 on children and young people, and describing how services are addressing these needs. Recommendations are made for priority actions to protect and improve health and wellbeing.

Each chapter has had input from Children's Services managers and Assistant Directors and analyses key services and priorities for demographic groups and by key themes:

- Child health in Lincolnshire – the burden of disease
- COVID-19
- Early years
- Schools and education
- Children with SEND
- Social care and support
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing

The main burden of disease (morbidity and mortality) upon children and young people is neonatal conditions, communicable diseases for younger children and mental health conditions for older children and young people.

The impact of COVID-19 on children and young people has been minimal in terms of primary effects (hospitalisation, mortality) but extremely significant in terms of secondary effects (impact of isolation on education, mental health and emotional wellbeing).

The report highlights the excellent service provision in Lincolnshire and sets out the following principles for strategy and service delivery:

- Children are not 'little adults' - they need specific services and support tailored to their needs
- Children are a priority - the NHS Integrated Care System will rightly have a focus on supporting our ageing population, but in order to prevent poor health and poor outcomes in the population we need to keep our children and young people fit and healthy
- We can do this by:
  - Delivering services made for children and young people, not adults
  - Focussing on physical activity, diet and nutrition, and mental and emotional wellbeing
  - Reducing inequalities in education and opportunity.

The annual report will also be presented to Adult Care and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee, Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee and the Greater Lincolnshire Leaders and Chief Executives meeting in January. Following this, the report will be presented to the Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire in February and the Health and Wellbeing Board in March.

## **2. Legal Issues:**

### Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council 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 the 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.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process.

The report actively seeks to explore and highlight health inequalities.

#### Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

This report is an independent professional view of the state of health of children and young people in Lincolnshire by the Director of Public Health. It has therefore drawn from a wide range of evidence, including but not limited to, the JSNA. The analysis and conclusions are designed to inform and support the ongoing delivery of the JHWS.

#### Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

Section 17 considerations were made as part of the research and development of this report, through no specific impacts were identified.

### **3. Conclusion**

The statutory Annual Report of the Director of Public Health on the health and wellbeing of the people of Lincolnshire has now been prepared and the Executive is asked to receive and note its content prior to the document being published on the Council's website.

#### **4. Legal Comments:**

Under Section 73B (5) of the National Health Service Act 2006, the Director of Public Health for a local authority must prepare an annual report on the health of the people in the area of the local authority and under Section 73B (6) of the Act the local authority must publish the report.

## **5. Resource Comments:**

The annual report highlights how Lincolnshire has utilised the Public Health grant monies received to enhance the outcomes of the population and further understand people's needs and future direction.

## **6. Consultation**

### **a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?**

n/a

### **b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?**

n/a

### **c) Scrutiny Comments**

The decision has not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee. The Report will be presented to Adult Care and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee and Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in January 2022.

### **d) Risks and Impact Analysis**

No

## **7. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021

## **8. Background Papers**

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Alison Christie, who can be contacted on 07917 245464 or [alison.christie@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:alison.christie@lincolnshire.gov.uk).

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