

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

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	14 January 2022
Subject:	Director of Public Health Annual Report

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.

Actions Required:

The Committee is requested to receive the 2021 annual report from the Director of Public Health and note its content.

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 (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)
- 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 was presented to the Executive in December 2021 and is published on the Council's website.

2. Conclusion

The Director of Public Health has a statutory duty to produce an annual report on the health of the people in Lincolnshire. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is therefore asked to note the contents.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not applicable

4. Appendices

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

5. 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, Programme Manager, who can be contacted at alison.christie@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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