

**REPORT TO:** Health Policy & Performance Board  
**DATE:** 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director of Public Health  
**PORTFOLIO:** Health & Wellbeing  
**SUBJECT:** Public Health Update  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

## 1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform and update the Health Policy & Performance Board of:-  
A. Public Health Functions and Activities within Halton  
B. 2015/16 Public Health Annual Report  
C. Impact of the reduction in Public Health funding

## 2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That:**

- i) The Board note the content of the report and associated appendices

## 3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### 3.1 **A. Public Health within Halton**

Since the NHS reforms, Halton Borough Council has assumed responsibility for the planning and commissioning of public health services for the people of Halton.

Local Councils have the commissioning responsibility for the following areas: -

- Sexual health services including STI testing and treatment and Advice, prevention, contraception and promotion
  - NHS Health Check programme,
  - Local authority role in health protection,
  - Public health advice,
  - National Child Measurement Programme,
  - Obesity – adults and children,
  - Physical activity – adults and children,
  - Drug and, Alcohol misuse – adults,
  - Substance misuse (drugs and alcohol) - youth services,
  - Stop smoking services, interventions and wider tobacco control,
  - Children 5-19 public health programmes,
  - Children 0-5 services (including Health Visitors and the Family Nurse Partnership),
- Other areas of responsibility include:
- Nutrition initiatives,

- Health at work,
- Programmes to prevent accidents,
- Public mental health,
- General prevention activities,
- Community safety, violence prevention & social exclusion,
- Dental public health and Fluoridation,
- Local authority role in surveillance and control of infectious disease,
- Information & Intelligence,
- Any public health spend on environmental hazards protection,
- Local initiatives to reduce excess deaths from seasonal mortality,
- Population level interventions to reduce and prevent birth defects (supporting role),
- Wider determinants of health.

Local Authorities are expected to set their health priorities based on their Health and Wellbeing Strategies, with a robust understanding of local needs set out within Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and take into account the indicators within the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

Between 2012 and 2015 Halton's Health and Wellbeing Strategy identified the following priority areas using evidence from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and extensive consultation with stakeholders and local people.

- Prevention and early detection of cancer;
- Improved child development;
- Reduction in the number of falls in adults;
- Reduction in the harm from alcohol;
- Prevention and early detection of mental health conditions.

A new Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Action Plan is now in development, aligned with the One Halton priority areas for action.

### 3.2 **B. 2015/16 Public Health Annual Report**

Since 1988 Directors of Public Health (DPH) have been tasked with preparing annual reports - an independent assessment of the health of local populations. The annual report is the DPH's professional statement about the health of local communities, based on sound epidemiological evidence, and interpreted objectively.

The annual report is an important vehicle by which a DPH can identify key issues, flag problems, report progress and, thereby, serve their local populations. It will also be a key resource to inform local inter-agency action. The annual report remains a key means by which the DPH is accountable to the population they serve.

The 2015-16 Public Health Annual Report focusses on the work of the Public Health Evidence and Intelligence Team. This topic has been chosen to highlight some strategic pieces of work, their key findings and how they have been used or will be used by Halton Borough Council and its partner organisations.

The Public Health Annual Report 2015-16 is available online at: -

<http://www4.halton.gov.uk/Pages/health/PDF/health/Phar1516.pdf>

The report uses a life-course approach around the following chapters:

- Starting Well
- Living Well
- Ageing Well

Each chapter covers the following areas:

- Summary of piece of work
- Why and how it was done
- How the work has been or will be used

The pieces of work highlighted in the report are:

- Children's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
- GP JSNA
- JSNA on Long Term Conditions
- Older People's JSNA

The report uses infographics and other methods to highlight key achievements in an easy to read format. Notable among the successes are:

- Reduction in under 18 alcohol admissions
- Reduction in teenage pregnancy
- Better flu vaccination uptake in over 65s compared to England average
- Older people aged 65 - 74 have the highest level of wellbeing in the UK

### 3.3 **C. Impact of the reduction in Public Health funding**

In 2015/16 the Public Health grant received an unexpected in-year cut from the Chancellor to the value of £630,000. This impacted on the settlement for 2016/2017 where Halton Borough Council received a financial settlement for Public Health of £10,718,000. This figure included a £1.5m reduction on the expected budget. In addition, the Government has indicated that the ring fenced public health budget will be further reduced by a minimum of 10% over the next four years, with an additional £500,000 reduction projected for the financial year of 2017/18.

As such, the public health ring fence grant will, by the end of 2016/17, be in a position where approximately 20% of its total budget will have been reduced.

Work is constantly underway with providers to seek efficiencies in contract values. In November 2015, an exercise was undertaken with all providers to consider a reduction of 5%, 10%, 15% and decommissioning.

All providers indicated that any reduction greater than 10% in current contract values would have a detrimental impact on their ability to deliver services and possibly affect the safety of service users. There will be a health impact assessment to assess risk if cuts greater than 10% are required.

Currently efficiency savings have been made through re-aligning activities within existing contracts.

#### 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

##### 4.1 **A. 2015/16 Public Health Annual Report**

The Public Health Annual Report should be used to inform commissioning plans and collaborative action for the NHS, Social Care, Public Health and other key partners as appropriate.

##### 4.2 **B. Impact of the reduction in Public Health funding**

It is anticipated that future financial challenges will continue to arise over the coming months and years, which will have implications for the local authority in continuing to meet their public health responsibilities and response to local needs.

#### 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 N/A

#### 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

##### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People is a priority in Halton

##### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

The above priority is a key determinant of health. Therefore improving outcomes in this area will have an impact on improving the health of Halton residents

##### 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

All issues outlined in this report focus directly on this priority.

##### 6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Reducing the incidence of crime, improving Community Safety and reducing the fear of crime have an impact on health outcomes particularly on mental health. There are also close links between partnerships on areas such as alcohol and domestic violence.

##### 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

The environment in which we live and the physical infrastructure of our communities has a direct impact on our health and wellbeing.

#### 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The risks outlined in the report are currently being managed in line with the Councils

budgetary policy if greater cuts are required there will be a Health Impact Assessment.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 This is in line with all equality and diversity issues in Halton.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Public Health Annual Report	HBC Website	Eileen O'Meara Director of Public Health