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# West Berkshire's Annual Public Health Report 2024

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<b>Report being considered by:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board
<b>On:</b>	11 July 2024
<b>Report Author:</b>	John Ashton, Director of Public Health
<b>Report Sponsor:</b>	John Ashton, Director of Public Health
<b>Item for:</b>	Discussion

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

The production of an annual report is a statutory duty of the Director of Public Health. Its purpose is to independently raise awareness and understanding of local health issues, highlight areas of specific concern, and to make recommendations for change.

## 2. Recommendation(s)

The Board is recommended to note and endorse the conclusions and recommendations noted within the report.

## 3. Executive Summary

- 3.1 As noted, it is a statutory duty of the Director of Public Health to produce an Annual Public Health Report to independently raise awareness and understanding of local health issues, highlight areas of specific concern, and to make recommendations for change.
- 3.2 Great achievements to date are noted throughout the report, particularly the Health in All Policies work programme that is evolving within West Berkshire.
- 3.3 The report clearly outlines a Public Health vision for West Berkshire and presents where we are now; what has been achieved; and the priorities moving forward for each of the three domains of Public Health: Health Protection; Health Improvement; and Healthcare Public Health.
- 3.4 Public Health has an emerging role as a key partner within the Integrated Care System, that coupled with this time of PH leadership transition gives us the opportunity to reflect and plan for future direction.
- 3.5 In moving forward, the report helpfully takes a look back to the history of Public Health which we can learn from.
- 3.6 The case for prevention is clearly made, as is our ambition to reduce the burden of disease and improve life expectancy. But in doing so, we must ensure we support a system that doesn't add further to the burden of maintaining health but instead one that builds resilience and enable people to "die young as old as possible".

#### 4. Supporting Information

Please see attached report and slide deck.

#### 5. Options Considered

5.1 N/A

#### 6. Proposal(s)

6.1 N/A

#### 7. Conclusion(s)

As required under the Health and Social Care Act, West Berkshire's Annual Public Health Report has been produced. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note and discuss the conclusions and priority areas for action moving forward to inform the Council's and wider system vision for Public Health and action in the future.

#### 8. Consultation and Engagement

This report was co-designed and developed with input across the Public Health Team.

#### 9. Appendices

Appendix A – West Berkshire's Annual Public Health Report 2024

Appendix B – Slide deck

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#### Background Papers:

As per footnotes within the report.

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#### Health and Wellbeing Priorities Supported:

The proposals will support the following Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities:

- Reduce the differences in health between different groups of people
- Support individuals at high risk of bad health outcomes to live healthy lives
- Help families and young children in early years
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all children and young people
- Promote good mental health and wellbeing for all adults

The proposals contained in this report will support the above Health and Wellbeing Strategy priorities by setting out how a Public Health approach can be taken by West Berkshire Council and the wider going forward to realise health and wellbeing benefits and reduce inequalities, aligning completely to the priorities of the health and Wellbeing Strategy.

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