

Health and Wellbeing Board
22 September 2014
Director of Public Health Annual Report 2014

Recommendation(s)

That the Health and Wellbeing Board:

1. Note and support the 2014 Director of Public Health Annual Report.
2. Agree to endorse the recommendations stated in the report.
3. Acknowledge and address specific recommendations, namely:
 - For partner organisations to ensure they are meeting their responsibilities with regard to reducing the impact of hot and cold weather on the health of Warwickshire residents, as outlined in National Heatwave and Cold Weather plans, and to support Warwickshire Warm and Well initiatives through advice giving and signposting individuals to appropriate services.
 - For professional awareness needs to be raised in primary and secondary care, sexual health, and drug and alcohol services, with regard to who to screen or test for blood-borne viruses, and how to manage and refer positive cases, working to improve uptake of testing and vaccination.
 - To ensure infection control features in all contracts held with clinical or care providers, including primary and secondary care, social care, as well as licensed food venues, and ensure that contractual obligations are being met.
 - To work to maximise uptake in all screening programmes, through the sharing of detailed information between organisations (NHS England, Public Health England and Local Authorities), allowing targeted messages to be delivered to the appropriate groups and particularly to groups with low uptake.

- For commissioners of health and social care providers to have seasonal flu vaccination of staff identified as a “duty of care” priority in their contracts.

1.0 Key Issues

Directors of Public Health have a statutory requirement to write an annual report on the health of their population, and the local authority is required to publish it. With the responsibility for public health moving back into local government, this presents a real opportunity to tackle these issues through a more collaborative and structured approach. We can build on the key functions of local government to shape the place and environment in which we live.

The Director of Public Health Annual Report is a vehicle for informing local people about the health of their community, as well as providing necessary information for decision makers in local health services and authorities on health gaps and priorities that need to be addressed.

The nature of public health is largely about achieving long term change and taking action now to prevent poor health outcomes for our population in the future. Health Protection, a key public health domain, is often hidden from sight but how long could we survive without clean water? Without sanitary facilities? Without food free from contamination? Essential to our health and wellbeing, these services and our ability to respond when something goes wrong underpins my annual report this year. There is a focus on some of the issues that pose risks to the population’s health, including sexual health, tuberculosis, and seasonal flu. It also considers the actions we currently take to protect the health of Warwickshire residents, including emergency planning, screening and immunisations and promotion of healthy behaviours such as handwashing.

The recommendations focus on raising awareness of health protection issues, and supporting professionals, commissioners and providers in ensuring that they are all informed about their responsibilities. The need to focus on high risk groups is also highlighted, in order to address inequalities in health.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board take note of the current Health Profile for Warwickshire as outlined in Appendix 2 of the report.

2.2 That the Health and Wellbeing Board support and endorse the recommendations, ensuring public health is reflected in all policies and strategies.

	Name	Contact Information
Report Author	Catherine Rigney	catherinerigney@warwickshire.gov.uk
Head of Service	John Linnane	johnlinnane@warwickshire.gov.uk
Strategic Director	Monica Fogarty	monicafogarty@warwickshire.gov.uk
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Bob Stevens	bobstevens@warwickshire.gov.uk