

County Council

21 March 2023

Warwickshire's Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022

Recommendation

That Council receives and supports the Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Under section 73B of the National Health Service Act 2006 Directors of Public Health are required to write an annual report on the health of their population, and the local authority is required to publish it.
- 1.2 The Director of Public Health Annual Report (the 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.
- 1.3 The theme of this year's Annual Report is health and the high cost of living. The Annual Report includes an overview of the health and wellbeing of the Warwickshire population and information on progress with the 2020/21 recommendations. The Annual Report includes a series of recommendations which require a concerted joint effort from health and social care partners across the Integrated Care System (ICS) if they are to be achieved.
- 1.4 There is evidence that the rising cost of living is already starting to impact on the health and wellbeing of residents across Warwickshire. The rising cost of living is something that is affecting everyone; however, there is a risk that it will exacerbate some of the health inequalities which already exist in Warwickshire. Those who are already disadvantaged are more likely to experience difficulties with the increasing costs, which may impact on their ability to keep their home warm, eat nutritious meals and travel effectively.
- 1.5 This year's Annual Report is vital to raise awareness of the impact that wider determinants of health such as food, rent or mortgage payments can have on the health and wellbeing of our residents, highlighting where provisions should be put in place to support Warwickshire residents, improve health and wellbeing, and reduce health inequalities.
- 1.6 The aim of this year's Annual Report is to highlight how the increasing cost of living impacts on the health of residents across Warwickshire. Case studies have been used to illustrate the support that different partners across the ICS have already been providing to residents and these demonstrate both the barriers that people have faced, as well as the benefits from accessing services. Volunteers and users of food banks and community pantries have also shared

their experiences in a short film developed to complement the information within the Annual Report.

1.7 The recommendations in the Annual Report aim to mitigate the impact of the rising cost of living on health and improve the overall health and wellbeing of the Warwickshire population. They are framed around the themes of housing, food, and transport. Implementation of the recommendations will rely upon the concerted efforts of key partners across health and care and the wider determinants of health.

1.8 Recommendations of the Annual Report:

1.8.1 Overarching: that key anchor organisations, including local authorities, NHS partners and universities focus expertise and capacity on building an inclusive, healthy and sustainable Warwickshire. To do this, all partners should focus on:

- Policy: adopting, and sharing learning from, a Health in All Policies approach ([link to webpage](#)) and using Health Equity Assessment Tool (HEAT) to reduce inequalities in health
- Surveillance: agreeing a single view of data and identifying emerging trends in order to support a coordinated approach, targeted to those who need it most
- Workforce development: through wellbeing support programmes that support staff during the rising cost of living and training and development opportunities
- Making Every Contact Count: utilising every point of contact as an opportunity to support people through the cost of living challenges
- Access to services: consider opportunities to increase accessibility to healthcare services for those who will experience the impact of the rising cost of living most acutely

1.8.2 Housing: that housing, planning and health leads work together to prevent ill health caused by poor housing and living conditions. This should include a commitment to preventing new homes from being built with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of less than C and working with private and public landlords to ensure existing homes have an EPC of C or above, and are mould free.

1.8.3 Food: that to support children to have the best start in life, Health and Wellbeing Board explores the feasibility of free school meals for all primary school children in Warwickshire as research shows that children are able to learn better in school if they have a full stomach.

1.8.4 Transport: that transport planners and health partners work together to improve transport links for those living in areas with more rural isolation, deprivation and where rates of long-term conditions and access to transport links are poor.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 None.

3. Environmental Implications

3.1 None.

4. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 4.1 The Annual Report was published in digital format on Warwickshire County Council's website following Health and Wellbeing Board's consideration of this report on 11 January 2023. This is to provide a picture of how the cost of living is impacting people locally. References for evidence detailed in the Annual Report will also be made available online.
- 4.2 A detailed marketing and communications plan has been prepared to ensure the Annual Report is communicated widely with partners across the ICS as well as to the residents of Warwickshire.

Appendices

1. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022

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The report was shared with the Health and Wellbeing Board prior to publication.
Other members: Councillors Golby, Holland, Drew, Rolfe.