

Health and Wellbeing Board

10 January 2024

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2023

Recommendation

That the Health and Wellbeing Board considers and endorses the 2023 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health and the recommendations within it.

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 and wellbeing 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 This year's Annual Report (which is attached as an appendix to this report) focuses on the health impacts of domestic abuse. The Annual Report includes an overview of the health and wellbeing of the Warwickshire population and information on progress with the 2022 recommendations. The Annual Report includes a series of recommendations which will require a concerted joint effort from partner organisations across Warwickshire if they are to be achieved.
- 1.4 Throughout Warwickshire approximately 17,384 women, aged 16+, were estimated to have been impacted by domestic abuse between 2021-22. Nationally, 9% of women aged 16 and over were victims of domestic abuse in 2022. Furthermore, data suggests that 8% of women aged 18-74 experience abuse before the age of 16. This can have devastating impacts to the victim-survivors' physical, mental, emotional, sexual and reproductive health.
- 1.5 This year's Annual Report builds on previous publications such as the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Strategy (2023-2026). It takes a new approach, telling the story of a character named Mia, and her experience of domestic abuse, through the words of those surrounding her, and services involved. Whilst this story is fictional, the story is reflective of real-life experiences of domestic abuse, and it is intended to highlight the impact on victim-survivors, the communities in which we live, our services and wider society.

- 1.6 Readers of the report are encouraged to reflect upon their own role in preventing domestic abuse, whether it be from a personal perspective, within their professional role, or within their community.
- 1.7 The recommendations in the Annual Report aim to support the Violence against women and girls strategy through increasing awareness and strengthen support for those impacted by domestic abuse.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 None. Recommendations for allocating resource should come from existing funding.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 None.

4. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 4.1. The Annual Report will be published in a digital format on Warwickshire County Council's website following consideration of the report by Health and Wellbeing Board on the 10 January 2024 and Council on the 19 March 2024. References for evidence detailed in the Annual Report will also be made available online.
- 4.2. A detailed communications plan will be prepared to ensure the Annual Report is communicated widely with partners across the Integrated Care System, key stakeholders, and to the residents of Warwickshire. Printed copies of the Annual Report will be made available upon request for those unable to access the report digitally.

Appendices

- 1. Director of Public Health Annual report 2023

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): not applicable as county wide report

Other members: Councillor Margaret Bell and Councillors Barker, Drew, Holland and Rolfe.