



Health and Wellbeing Board

Lewisham Annual Public Health Report 2021-22: Culture and Health

Date: 17th October 2023

Key decision: No

Class: 1

Ward(s) affected: Borough

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Outline and recommendations

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Lewisham Annual Public Health Report for the 2021-22 period. The topic of this report is Culture and Health.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

N/A

1. Recommendations

1.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:

- Note the contents of the report.

2. Summary

- 2.1. This report introduces the 2021-22 Lewisham Annual Public Health Report by the Director of Public Health.
- 2.2. The report uses Lewisham's year as Borough of Culture to shine a light on the links between culture and health and explore the role that culture, in its broadest sense, plays in influencing health and wellbeing.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. The board is recommended to note the contents of the report and consider how it can support the implantation of the recommendations.

4. Policy Context

- 4.1. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 stated that the production of an APHR is a statutory duty of the Director of Public Health, which the local authority is responsible for publishing.

5. Annual Public Health Report 2021-22: Culture and Health

- 5.1. The annual public health report 2021-22 provides:
 - A definition of culture.
 - An overview of the relationship between culture and health and wellbeing.
 - Case studies demonstrating the positive impact that cultural initiatives can have on the health and wellbeing of Lewisham residents.
 - Key questions for stakeholders to consider when seeking to use cultural activities to influence health and wellbeing.
 - A snapshot of indicators summarising the health of the population of Lewisham.
- 5.2. The definition of culture used in the report is the holistic UNESCO definition:
'the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, that encompasses, not only art and literature, but lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions, and beliefs'
- 5.3. The report outlines case studies that examine the role of culture on health in wellbeing in terms of:
 - Prevention: Cultural activities that aim to have a positive impact on health and wellbeing and prevent the onset or progression of disease.
 - Management and treatment: Culturally specific initiatives that aim to take culture into account when designing health interventions.
 - Policy and strategy: How culture can be embedded into strategy and policy e.g. [We](#)

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5.4. The report poses three questions and recommendations to facilitate the translation of the learning from the case studies into practice:

- **How can culture amplify the conversation?**
- **How can I co-design with those this will impact?**
- **How can I ensure that the impact of culture is considered in my organisation?**

5.5. The report closes with a snapshot of the latest Lewisham Health and Wellbeing data.

5.6. The report will be available on [the Lewisham Council website](#) and [Lewisham Observatory](#) after the Board meeting.

6. Financial implications

6.1. There are no specific financial implications arising from this report.

7. Legal implications

7.1. The requirement to produce an APHR is set out in the Policy Context section.

8. Equalities implications

8.1. The equalities implications for this report are outlined in the main body of text.

9. Climate change and environmental implications

9.1. There are no significant climate change and environmental implications of this report.

10. Crime and disorder implications

10.1. There are no significant crime and disorder implications of this report.

11. Health and wellbeing implications

11.1. The health and wellbeing implications for this report are outlined in the main body of text.

12. Report author and contact

12.1. Dr Catherine Mbema, Director of Public Health, catherine.mbema@lewisham.gov.uk

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