

<b>HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE</b>			
Title	Lewisham Annual Public Health Report		
Key Decision	No		Item No. 5
Ward	Borough Wide		
Contributors	Danny Ruta – Director of Public Health		
Class	Part 1	Date: 09 September 2015	

## 1. Summary

1.1 The report discusses the health of Children and Young People in Lewisham. Where possible, information has been presented in relation to the three stages of childhood: Early Years (0-4), Primary School Age (5-11) and Secondary School Age (12-18). Data has been drawn from a wide range of sources including Public Health England, NHS England and local data sets to provide a comprehensive picture of the health of young residents in Lewisham. Key messages include:

- The population of children and young people in Lewisham will continue to rise over the next twenty years. As the population increases, it will continue to become more diverse. The associated challenges, together with the challenges of deprivation and other adverse factors in local children's lives should continue to influence planning for Lewisham's children and young people.
- One of the four key areas in which the Lewisham Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership aims to improve outcomes through its Children and Young People's Plan (2015-18) is 'Be Healthy and Active'. This Annual Public Health Report pays particular attention to the priorities identified in this key area in the Children and Young People's Plan:
  - Improve our uptake of immunisations
  - Ensure our children and young people are a healthy weight
  - Improve mental and emotional wellbeing
  - Improve Sexual Health
  - Reduce the impact of alcohol, smoking and substance misuse
  - Ensure our looked after children are healthy
  - Encourage access to and use of culture, sport, leisure and play activities
- Attention is also paid to the following priority included in the Children and Young People's Plan key area "Build Child and Family Resilience":
- Ensure the best outcomes or pregnancy and the first 1,000 days including the reduction of the impact of toxic stress on children.

## **2. Purpose**

- 2.1 This report provides members of the Healthier Communities Select Committee with the 2015 Annual Public Health Report (APHR), which is themed on Children and Young People. Wider information on the entire population is also provided through the Public Health Performance Dashboards, which are provided as appendices to the main report.

## **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 Members of the Healthier Communities Select Committee are asked to note, and to comment as they wish, on the content of the attached report (Appendix 1).

## **4. Policy context**

- 4.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 states that the production of an APHR is a statutory duty of the Director of Public Health, which the local authority is responsible for publishing. The report aims to inform partners, professionals, and other decision makers, as well as the community about the health of the local population.
- 4.2 The publication of a themed report on Children and Young People is to coincide with the upcoming publication of the 2015-2018 Children and Young People's Plan. The report also supports achieving the Sustainable Communities priority for Lewisham of healthy, active and enjoyable - where people can actively participate in maintaining and improving their health and well-being.
- 4.3 This draft report will also be submitted to the Health and Wellbeing Board, for information at its meeting on 22/09/2015, and to the Children and Young People's Select Committee for discussion on 20/10/2015.

## **5. The Health of Lewisham Children and Young People**

### **5.1 Lewisham's Children**

- 5.1.1 Lewisham's children form one of the most diverse and vibrant populations of children in the UK. This means that they can experience a huge range of cultures within Lewisham and benefit from this. But there are also challenges associated with this feature of life in Lewisham. These challenges, together with the rapid rise in Lewisham's population of children, and the challenges of poverty and other elements of toxic stress that a greater proportion of Lewisham's children experience than children in England generally, have also influenced the development of the Children and Young People's Plan.

### **5.2 Outcomes of Pregnancy**

- 5.2.1 It is estimated that approximately 50% of pregnancies are planned, which in Lewisham would equate to around 2,500 planned pregnancies per year. All

care providers and agencies in contact with child bearing women should ensure that the pre-conception web-based resource is promoted and that in cases where women have a long term condition, their specialist health team should work with them to ensure they are in the best possible health prior to embarking on a pregnancy including advice on management of medication.

### **5.3 Immunisation**

5.3.1 There needs to be continued efforts to improve uptake of all vaccines, in particular MMR2 and HPV vaccines.

### **5.4 Achieving a Healthy Weight**

5.4.1 Lewisham has a high number of children with excess weight. Prevention and early intervention is crucial. A partnership approach is necessary to minimise the impact of an obesogenic environment.

### **5.5 Mental and Emotional Health**

5.5.1 Understanding what protects mental health and builds resilience and building on an individual child's, family's and community's assets can help deliver better mental health for both children and adults. Therefore efforts will be focused on promoting a better understanding across the Partnership of toxic stress. Lewisham is developing a strategy for mental health and emotional wellbeing in children and young people which will ensure that resilience and emotional well being is addressed at all levels to ensure young people can thrive and maximise their potential, as well as being able to access support and services in a timely manner when their needs escalate.

### **5.6 Sexual Health**

5.6.1 Despite the significant gains made in improving access to services through the teenage pregnancy and Chlamydia screening programmes, these are now showing signs of stalling. Targeted sexual health promotion and SRE programmes will be vital to maintaining and building on the success of these initiatives.

5.6.2 Over the next few years sexual health services will be reconfigured to improve access. It is important that young people, especially the most vulnerable, receive specialist support to equip them to maintain and protect their own sexual health and develop healthy physical relationships.

### **5.7 Smoking, Drinking and Drugs**

5.7.1 A range of interventions are recommended to reduce the impact of smoking, alcohol or drug misuse on the lives of children and young people. These recommendations are already included in the Children and Young People's Plan, or are being considered for inclusion.

## **5.8 Looked After Children**

5.8.1 Lewisham's Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership will continue its focus on meeting the healthcare needs of this vulnerable group of children and young people. Statutory Health Assessments are valuable in ensuring the health of individual children and the focus on improving coverage and timeliness of these assessments is justified and will continue.

## **5.9 Mortality and Serious Injury**

5.9.1 Premature delivery is the single most important cause of mortality of children in Lewisham. The impact of the recently initiated programme to tackle this issue will be closely monitored.

5.9.2 Other recommendations on mortality relate to the investigation of a number of issues that have emerged from a recent analysis of all deaths that have been reviewed in recent years, or from other sources.

5.9.3 Much work has been undertaken in Lewisham in the last decade to improve road safety and to reduce the number and severity of road traffic injuries. This has been successful. However, it is important to maintain and continue to improve the programme of casualty reduction.

## **5.10 Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities**

5.10.1 The key aim of the service is to improve life outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities through the implementation of a new Partnership SEND strategy. The strategy will build on the work that has been achieved already and provide direction for the partnership and will set out the aims and priorities for all agencies working with children and young people with SEND across Lewisham. The strategy also establishes how partner agencies will continue to work together to improve those outcomes that will make significant improvements to the lives and life-chances of our children and young people with SEND.

## **5.11 Universal and Targeted Public Health Services for Children and Young People**

5.11.1 The Partnership is in a strong position for the transfer of the commissioning public health services for children under five. This transfer and the development of the Health Visiting Service is an invaluable opportunity for Lewisham and should help us in our objectives to give children the very best start in life. Current efforts to achieve full recruitment to this service, the full implementation of the agreed common outcomes framework for children under five, and the achievement of better outcomes for children are all major priorities for the Lewisham Children and Young People's Partnership.

## **6. Financial implications**

6.1 There are no specific financial implications. The recommendations of the APHR have already been included, or are being considered for inclusion in the Children and Young People's Plan.

## **7. Legal implications**

7.1 The requirement to produce an APHR is set out above.

## **8. Crime and disorder implications**

8.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

## **9. Equalities implications**

9.1 Equalities Implications and the impact they have on health outcomes have been highlighted throughout the body of the report..

## **10. Environmental implications**

10.1 There are no specific environmental implications arising from this report or its recommendations.

## **11. Conclusion**

11.1 Planning health services for children and their families will need to continue to take into account the needs of a rapidly growing and changing population.

## **Background documents and originator**

Lewisham's Annual Public Health Report 2015

Public Health Performance Dashboards

The 2014 Annual Public Health Report focussed on helping residents improve their health and fitness is available [here](#).

If there are any queries on this report please contact Dr Danny Ruta, Director of Public Health, Community Services Directorate, Lewisham Council, on 020 8314 8637 or by email [danny.ruta@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:danny.ruta@lewisham.gov.uk)