



Health & Wellbeing Board

Report title: Annual Public Health Report 2019-20

Date: 04 March 2021

Key decision: Yes/No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: ALL

Contributors: Dr Catherine Mbema, Director of Public Health, London Borough of Lewisham

Outline and recommendations

This report introduces the 2019-2020 Annual Public Health Report (APHR) by the Director of Public Health.

This year's report focuses on Health in All Policies, adopting a whole system approach to address health challenges. This report was originally intended to be published last year but has since been updated and revised to include reference to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has highlighted just how important it is to take a whole systems approach to address health challenges and tackle health inequalities. A number of new case studies have been added to demonstrate how this approach helped Lewisham respond as a system to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It also contains a set of recommendations as to how the approach can be further embedded by harnessing the learning from whole system working on COVID-19 to continue work with stakeholders across the council and wider system to increase understanding and build capacity to further implement a health in all policies approach.

The board is asked to discuss the contents of the report and consider how it can support the implementation of the recommendations, particularly with regard to the development of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lewisham.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

This paper is being submitted for consideration by the Health and Wellbeing Board.

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report introduces the 2019-20 Annual Public Health Report by the Director of Public Health. This year's report focuses on Health in All Policies, adopting a whole system approach to address health challenges.
- 1.2. This report was originally intended to be published last year but has since been updated and revised to include reference to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has highlighted just how important it is to take a whole systems approach to address health challenges and tackle health inequalities.
- 1.3. A number of new case studies have been added to demonstrate how this approach helped Lewisham respond as a system to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.4. It also contains a set of recommendations as to how the approach can be further embedded by harnessing the learning from whole system working on COVID-19 to continue work with stakeholders across the council and wider system to increase understanding and build capacity to further implement a health in all policies approach.
- 1.5. A communications plan for this report is being developed to enable the positive best practice examples and the insight on implementing a health in all policies approach, outlined in this report, to be shared more widely with stakeholders and service users across the system. It is intended that this will facilitate further engagement and dialogue as to how this approach can be expanded across Lewisham in line with the recommendations in this report.
- 1.6. The Director of Public Health intends to follow up this report with her APHR for 2021 which will focus on how the COVID-19 pandemic has differentially impacted on the Lewisham Population both on their health and on their experience of the wider determinants of health.
- 1.7. The APHR 2021 will incorporate testimony from Lewisham residents combined with statistical analysis of data and the findings of a number of national reports and inquiries including; the Health Foundation's COVID-19 impact inquiry; exploring the pandemic's implications for health and health inequalities (due for publication in July 2021).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The board is asked to discuss the contents of the report and plans for the topic of the APHR in 2021. It is asked to consider how it can support the implementation of the recommendations, particularly with regard to the development of the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Lewisham.

3. Policy Context

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.

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4. Background

- 4.1. The evidence behind the benefits of implementing a Health in All Policies approach and the impact it has on population health and health inequalities, has been growing over the last decade both nationally and internationally.
- 4.2. In recent years both Public Health England (PHE) and the Local Government Association (LGA) have published guidance for local areas to implement a Health in All Policies Approach, acknowledging their consensus on the effectiveness of this approach on improving the social determinants of health and reducing health inequalities in a local context (PHE, 2016 and LGA, 2016).
- 4.3. In Lewisham, Councillors came together in 2019 to participate in a Health in All Policies workshop, facilitated by the Local Government Association, focussing on the fundamentals of the approach, local progress to date and the next steps in implementing this approach across the Council.
- 4.4. To maintain focus and momentum on this aspect of council policy development, the Director of Public Health chose to focus her Annual Public Health report for 2019-20 on this topic.

5. Annual Public Health Report 2019-20

- 5.1. The report highlights the variety of influences on health and wellbeing and how the vast majority of these influences fall outside the remit of health service provision.
- 5.2. The first chapter provides an overview of the Health in All Policies approach and outlines the ways in which it can be used.
- 5.3. The main body of the report presents examples of where a 'Health in All Policies' approach is already being successfully adopted in the work of teams within Lewisham Council and partner organisations. These examples include:
 - The collaboration between public health and the Council's COVID-19 Action Team to establish a locally enhanced contact tracing service.
 - A collaboration with Adult Learning Lewisham to measure health and wellbeing outcomes in adult learners.
 - Support to the Early Years Education Team to engage Lewisham early years settings in the Healthy Early Years London programme.
- 5.4. The report concludes with a set of recommendations about how we can work positively to influence health and wellbeing for all in Lewisham. The recommendations include:
 - Harnessing the learning from whole system working on COVID-19 to continue work with stakeholders across the council and wider system to increase understanding and build capacity to further implement a health in all policies approach.
 - Developing a framework to enable the ongoing and robust assessment of the impact of policy decisions on health and health inequalities within the Lewisham population.

6. Financial implications

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

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7. Legal implications

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

8. Equalities implications

- 8.1. This report has no specific implications for equalities however it highlights how taking a Health in All Policies approach to strategy development and service planning is a key method of tackling inequalities in population health and how people experience the social determinants of health. pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

9. Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1. There are no direct climate change or environmental implications from this report. However the report highlights the opportunities for a Health in All Policies approach to support joint working between Public Health, Environmental Health and Transport Teams to achieve further improvements in environmental health and actions to mitigate and reduce the impacts of climate change for the residents of Lewisham. Crime and disorder implications

10. Crime and disorder implications

- 10.1. There are no direct crime and disorder implications from this report. However the report highlights the opportunities for a Health in All Policies approach to build on the work already being undertaken by the Council's Public Health and Community Safety Teams, the Metropolitan Police and local communities to improve community safety and reduce the prevalence and impact of violence across Lewisham.

11. Health and wellbeing implications

- 11.1. The report highlights the benefits of taking a Health in All Policies approach to improving population health and wellbeing, positively influencing the wider determinants of health and tackling health inequalities. The report concludes with a number of recommendations which, if implemented, will support further improvements in the health and wellbeing of the Lewisham population and positively impact on the wider determinants of their health.

12. Report author and contact

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

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