

Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Public Health Annual Report 2021

Chair: Cllr M Bashforth

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Purpose of the Report

To present the Public Health Annual Report 2021 to the Health and Wellbeing Board for consideration and discussion.

Requirement from the Health and Wellbeing Board

Board members are asked to:

- Consider the recommendations of the Public Health Annual Report 2021, and actions which they could take within their own organisations, and through working collectively, to deliver against these recommendations
- Note that the Health Inequalities Plan, previously agreed by the Board, details planned actions which align to several of the recommendations in the Public Health Annual Report 2021.

Public Health Annual Report 2021

1. Background

- 1.1 Like many other areas in England, Oldham saw health and health inequalities worsen in the decade between 2010 and 2020. Life expectancy stopped increasing, inequalities between groups widened, and for the poorest people in the borough life expectancy declined. Since 2020 the pandemic has further exposed and amplified inequalities in health and the social determinants of health in Oldham, Greater Manchester, as in the rest of England

2. Public Health Annual Report

- 2.1 In general, the statutory responsibilities of the DPH are designed to match exactly the corporate public health duties of the local authority. The exception is the annual report on the health of the local population. The DPH has a duty to write a report whereas the authority's duty is to publish it. The content and structure of the report is decided locally.
- 2.2 The handling of the annual report is also decided locally. Some authorities consider it as a report to the Council (and partners) and presentation to full Council is made. In Oldham the annual public health report has been accepted as an opportunity for the DPH to give an independent view of the health of the people of Oldham and the priorities for improvement. This year the Council's duty to publish the report has been fulfilled with a foreword from the Cabinet for Health and Wellbeing that confirms support for its publication. This arrangement maintains the independent nature of the report (which is a requirement of the Secretary of State for health and the Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID)) and the Council's publishing role.
- 2.3 The 2021 public health annual report is focused on Oldham's COVID-19 response through the eyes of people living and working in the borough. In general, Oldham has been disproportionately affected by the virus and the interventions in place to fight it. The annual report explores how the pandemic has exacerbated existing health inequalities, and how although the whole borough has struggled with hardship, illness and loss, those who were already struggling have been hit the hardest.
- 2.4 In light of this, the pandemic response has been tailored to help to mitigate these effects, and new ways of working have evolved. The report shares examples of such work and the associated learning, and considers how we can take these new approaches and apply them to tackling health inequalities.
- 2.5 The first section of the report sets the scene by exploring COVID-19 in relation to the data, and Oldham's existing health and health inequalities.

The second section forms the main narrative of the report. Oldham's pandemic response is explored through a health inequalities lens, with a particular focus on

two key health inequalities reports: Marmot's 'Build Back Fairer in Greater Manchester Report' and the 'The Next Level -Good Lives for All in Greater Manchester by GMCA Independent Inequalities Commission. This section discusses how different teams came together to develop new ways of working, with a particular focus on reducing health inequalities and supporting the communities who were most significantly impacted by the pandemic.

It is structured around the framework for Building Back Fairer in Greater Manchester and centred around six key themes:

- Communities and Places
- Public Health
- Work and Employment
- Income and Poverty
- Early Years, Children and Young People
- Housing and the Environment

2.6 Each section of the report has been written collaboratively with input from different colleagues both in and outside the council. For each theme, a series of recommendations have been devised, which build upon the existing health inequalities work across the borough.

The report also draws on the contributions that residents and people working in the borough have made to Oldham's Lockdown Museum, documenting the creativity and resilience that has been shown by Oldham residents through this is unprecedented period. Residents' photos, quotes, stories and poems are featured throughout the report to help tell Oldham's COVID-19 story.

2.7 Distribution of the report is mainly through the Council's website. Whilst in previous years hard copies of the report have been printed, it is proposed that, for both environmental and financial reasons, this year's report is only produced in digital form.

As in previous years the report will be considered by Health Scrutiny. An offer will be made to present to other partner's forums on request.

3. Recommendations

Board members are asked to:

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