

Report to HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Doorstep Engagement: Health & Wellbeing Insights

Portfolio Holders:

Councillor Dean, Cabinet Member for Communities & Culture

Councillor Brownridge, Cabinet Member for Health & Social Care

Officer Contact: Neil Consterdine, AD for Youth, Communities, Libraries, Heritage and Arts

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Purpose of the Report

To provide the board with a summary of insights from doorstep conversations with residents, where health and wellbeing issues were raised.

Requirement from the Health and Wellbeing Board

To note the insights from the doorstep engagement work, and consider how this might inform the priorities and work of the Board going forward.

Title

1. Background

- The doorstep engagement team has operated in Oldham from August 2020, supporting engagement with residents around a range of issues including Covid19, the Don't Trash Oldham campaign and most recently the Cost of Living crisis.
- The conversations were primarily focused on residents' wellbeing, bringing in specific focus areas as the conversation progressed. During this time qualitative and quantitative information was captured from those conversations and recorded against particular themes, sub-themes and issues. This report provides a summary of the insights around the theme of Health & Wellbeing during the period of July 2022 to August 2023.
- During this time the focus of conversations was on the cost of living crisis, and a methodology was used to target those areas of the borough where residents were most likely to be impacted. The nature of the conversations will also be influenced by the time of day visits were made, the majority being during the day Monday – Friday. 28,399 conversations were held during this time and although finance and jobs was the largest topic of discussion, health and wellbeing was also a relatively common theme with 619 households raising related issues during that time. A summary of the findings is provided below.

2. Current Position

Key points:

- Most common sub-themes within Health and Wellbeing were; Mental Health, General Health and Health Services.
- The pattern of issues raised was broadly similar across districts, although General Health was raised most often in West.
- The most common single issue was Long-term conditions, followed by loneliness and Mobility issues.
- Under the Health Services theme the most common issues was difficulty accessing GP services.

Mental Health & Wellbeing:

- The most common issues raised under this sub-theme were loneliness, bereavement and non-specific mental health issues.
- Those reporting loneliness were most often elderly men and women and people who had experienced a bereavement.
- Those reporting non-specific mental health issues were often experiencing financial worries or poor physical health although often no reason was given. These were also often the reasons given for experiencing anxiety or depression.

General Health:

- The most common issues raised under this sub-theme were long-term conditions and mobility issues. There were a small number of residents reporting addiction and learning disability.
- The most common long-term conditions mentioned were cancer, general ill health and stroke.

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- People discussing mobility issues often mentioned experiencing falls, needing adaptations or alternative housing.
 - Reports of addiction mostly related to the desire to give up smoking.

Care and Support:

- The most common issues under this sub-theme are aids and adaptations, struggling to care, concerns for welfare (of another person) and unmet care needs.
- People discussing aids and adaptations were often interested in information as to how to access aids and adaptations, or waiting for equipment to be installed.
- A number of people expressed concerns for the welfare of others, most commonly their neighbour or spouse.
- A number of residents raised that they had unmet care needs, such as needing extra help in the home or struggling to care for themselves as they got older.

Health Services:

- The most common issue under this sub-theme was difficulty accessing GP services, the remainder related to difficulty accessing other health services.

Covid19:

- Although at a much lower rate than previously, Covid19 remained a topic of discussion during this time for a small number of people, most commonly those who currently or recently had Covid19 or were experiencing long covid.

3. Key Issues for Health and Wellbeing Board to Discuss

- To discuss the extent to which this insight aligns with wider data sources on the health and wellbeing of the population, and how this insight might inform the priorities and work of the Board going forward.

4. Recommendation

- To note the insights from the doorstep engagement work and consider how this might inform the priorities and work of the Board going forward.