

HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

Date: 13 July 2017

Director of Public Health Annual Report 2016

Report of the Interim Chief Executive/DCS

Cabinet Member: Councillor V. Jones, Adult Wellbeing & Health

Purpose of report:

The purpose of this report is to:

- Present the Director of Public Health's (DPH's) Annual Report 2016.
- Highlight the benefits of adopting an asset-based community development approach.

Recommendations

The Board is recommended to:

1. Note the DPH Annual Report 2016;
2. Support the embedding of asset based community development approaches as a means of increasing social capital, improving health and wellbeing and reducing inequalities across the Northumberland.

Link to Corporate Plan

This report cuts across all the priorities of the Corporate Plan 2013-2017, but has particular relevance to the Stronger Communities and Families and Health and Wellbeing priorities.

Key issues

This report is reflective of the emerging public health approach to improving health and wellbeing outcomes and addressing inequalities in Northumberland which increases the focus on asset-based community approaches. Quantitative data and statistics about the wider social determinants of health affecting people in Northumberland are highlighted and

further health data is accessible through hyperlinks in the report.

Some key issues identified in this year's report include:

- An increased recognition of the need to focus on the factors that create good health and wellbeing not just on individual risk factors which cause disease.
- That conditions in Northumberland are generally supportive of health and wellbeing, but there is still considerable variation within the county.
- Asset based approaches are not a replacement for investing in services or attempting to address the structural causes of health inequalities, however the approach can reduce demand and dependency on services in the long term and bring about more effective and efficient services.
- Our communities are already very resilient and solution focussed and are experts in where they live, what will and will not work, who the key connectors are and how to get things done.
- Our residents have a stake in their community and have a strong sense of pride and usually want to improve the area for the whole community.

Progress over the last 12 months include:

- Piloting microgrants in North Northumberland which encouraged residents to identify solutions to promote wellbeing with the biggest impact being on improvements in social connectedness and mental wellbeing.
- Refocusing our commissioned public health services to maximise their impact with reducing budgets by ensuring a stronger focus on promoting wellbeing and the use of asset based approaches.

Background

DsPH have a statutory requirement to write an annual report on the health of their population; the Local Authority has a duty to publish it. The DPH Annual Report is a vehicle for informing local people about the health of their community, as well as providing necessary information for decision makers in local health services and authorities on health gaps and priorities that need to be addressed. DPHs have been producing annual reports for over 100 years - in Local Authorities until 1974; in Health Authorities until 2002; in Primary Care Trusts until 2013 and now back in Local Authorities.

This year's report builds on that from 2015 in that it updates on progress towards our fresh approach in the Public Health team to improving health and wellbeing which is firmly rooted in asset based community development principles. It highlights key activity which has been undertaken by our communities and partners and sets the agenda for us all on future joint action to reduce health inequalities and support better health and wellbeing.

The Report also provides a vehicle to hear what our communities are saying about their own health and wellbeing and encourages us all to facilitate and support our population to have a positive impact on their own health and wellbeing. It also serves as a reminder that the future approach should not lose sight of the need to incorporate joint action on the

structural issues that cause inequalities within Northumberland.

copy of the DPH's Annual Report 2016 is attached as an appendix to this report. The report is also available on the Council's website at

<http://www.northumberland.gov.uk/NorthumberlandCountyCouncil/media/JSNA/strategy%20documents/DPH-Annual-Report-Northumberland-2016-3.pdf> and printed hard copies have been distributed to members, other Council departments, our partners, service providers and libraries.

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