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**Meeting of the Health Select Committee - 8th January, 2024**

**Report of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing**

**Director of Public Health Annual Report**

**Purpose of report**

1. This is the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2022.
2. The Annual Report from the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing presents an independent view to inform local people about the health of their community and identifies important issues, flags up problems and reports on progress. The theme of the report is at the discretion of the Director of Public Health and Wellbeing.
3. The Director of Public Health's Annual Report is an important resource to inform both professionals and the public of priorities and recommendations on population health, providing added value over and above intelligence and information routinely available.

**Recommendations**

4. The Committee is asked to:
  - note the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2022
  - consider improvements for future Director of Public Health reports in terms of style, design and layout, accessibility and dissemination

**Background**

5. The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory duty to write an Annual Public Health Report to demonstrate the state of health within their communities.

6. The Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2022 "*Dudley for Everyone; COVID-19, looking back moving forward*", attached at Appendix 1, demonstrates the state of health within communities. The report focuses on the challenges of the global pandemic and its impact and our response in Dudley.
7. This report is both broad and narrow in that it covers several aspects like the impact of COVID-19, the impact of the rising cost-of-living, the war in Ukraine, and looks at our specific responses to these significant challenges that have no doubt changed our lives.
8. The recommendations included in this report outline how public health can improve the health and wellbeing of residents in our communities and help achieve the borough's vision for 2030.
9. **Recommendation 1**  
Continue to develop and build trusting relationships with residents and communities, and in particular our underrepresented groups, and ensure that people's lived experiences inform our future working practices and priorities
10. **Recommendation 2**  
Focus on tackling inequalities and the wider determinants of health, particularly where the gap has been widened due to the impact of the pandemic, through a whole system approach
11. **Recommendation 3**  
Remain vigilant towards COVID-19 and other infectious diseases as we move into the recovery stage of the pandemic
12. **Recommendation 4**  
Continue to support the immunisation programme to deliver an improvement in the uptake of COVID-19 and flu vaccines during 2022-23
13. **Recommendation 5**  
Build on the community response to the pandemic to generate sustainable community-driven responses that build long-term resilience and renewal
14. **Recommendation 6**  
Act upon the learning from the pandemic to ensure public health resilience and preparedness for any future pandemics
15. **Recommendation 7**  
Protect educational continuity by including this as part of our continuing resilience planning

16. **Recommendation 8**  
Engage meaningfully with our residents, customers and partners to ensure our communications are reading-age appropriate, culturally sensitive and available in different formats where required
17. **Recommendation 9**  
Continue delivering existing health and wellbeing lifestyle programmes to promote healthy lifestyles and improvements in wellbeing
18. **Recommendation 10**  
Prioritise the protection and enhancement of green spaces and ensure equal access for all Dudley residents
19. **Recommendation 11**  
Prioritise the importance of ongoing strong health protection processes, procedures and oversight from the Director of Public Health, to ensure we can respond to incidents and outbreaks
20. **Recommendation 12**  
Prioritise and protect the things which supported and enhanced people's health and wellbeing during the pandemic
21. The full report includes:
  - A foreword from Cllr Bevan, Chair of the HWB Board
  - A message from the Acting Director of Public Health
  - Chapter 1 – Dudley's Pandemic timeline
  - Chapter 2 – Dudley's response to the pandemic
  - Chapter 3 - The wider impact of COVID-19
  - Chapter 4 - Looking back, moving forward (including lessons learnt from the COVID-19 Pandemic and recommendations for the future)
22. The Annual Report has been published on the HWB website and shared with partners:  
[\[DPH Annual Report 2022\]](#)

## **Finance**

23. There are no direct financial implications of this Annual Report.

## **Law**

24. The Director of Public Health (DPH) has a statutory duty to write an Annual Public Health Report to demonstrate the state of health within their communities.

## **Risk Management**

25. There are no specific risks arising from the evaluation.

## **Equality Impact**

26. This report demonstrates that the pandemic has exposed and amplified the persistent inequalities across Dudley, both in terms of the direct impact of COVID-19 and the indirect impacts of COVID-19 across health, wellbeing and the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.

## **Human Resources/Organisational Development**

27. There are no direct human resources or organisational development implications of this Annual Report.

## **Commercial/Procurement**

28. There are no direct commercial/procurement implications of this Annual Report.

## **Environment/Climate Change**

29. There are no direct environment/climate change implications of this Annual Report.

## **Council Priorities and Projects**

30. The recommendations included in this report outlines how public health can improve the health and wellbeing of residents in our communities and help achieve the borough's vision for 2030.



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**Director of Public Health and Wellbeing**

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## **Appendices**

*Appendix 1 – The Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2022  
"Dudley for Everyone; COVID-19, looking back moving forward"*