

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

19 JANUARY 2016

ANNUAL PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH 2014/15

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Summary

This report presents the Annual Public Health Report of the Director of Public Health for 2014/15. The report focuses on the health of Medway's infants and young children and makes recommendations for Medway Council and partners.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 gives a statutory duty for Directors of Public Health to produce an Annual Public Health Report and Local Authorities to publish the report.

2. Background

- 2.1. Substantial improvements have been seen in child health over the past 100 years nationally and locally. Particularly striking is the reduction in the numbers of deaths which occur in infancy and early childhood compared to the early 20th century.
- 2.2. Much of the improvement in the death rate amongst very young children has been achieved through local action on sanitation and living conditions as well as the focused actions of midwives and health visitors.
- 2.3. Significant challenges to the health of young children remain, however, and, as well as old problems persisting- for example, the impact of socio-economic disadvantage on health- we now face new challenges, for example, smoking in pregnancy and maternal obesity.
- 2.4. This report explores the key factors relating to the health of Medway's young children and makes recommendations for how these factors can be improved.
- 2.5. The theme of young children links directly to Theme 1 of Medway's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy: Give every child a good start.

3. The Annual Public Health Report (APHR)

- 3.1. The purpose of the APHR is to inform local stakeholders and the public about the health of Medway's young children, outline current provision of support and services and make recommendations for the future to reduce health inequalities, promote health and wellbeing of young children and inform service provision
- 3.2. The projected benefits of producing the report include the following:
- Contribute to improving the health and well-being of Medway's youngest children across their entire life course
 - Giving all children the best start in life and thereby reducing health inequalities
 - To inform the planning and monitoring of local programmes and services that impact on the health of young children in Medway
- 3.3. The report focuses on the following six topics:
1. The early home environment
 2. Smoking in pregnancy
 3. Breastfeeding
 4. Maternal nutrition
 5. Control of infectious diseases
 6. Teenage pregnancy
- 3.4. This report is supplemented by a presentation on the 2014/15 Annual Public Health Report.

4. Risk management

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk
Lack of progress in improving health outcomes	Effective action not taken by partners to act on the report's findings	Commissioning plans reviewed by HWB. Review of outcome indicators

5. Implications for Looked After Children (LAC)

- 5.1. LAC are often more likely to have risk factors which adversely impact on health and wellbeing, and will often have a greater need for services. The needs of Medway's LAC should be particularly borne in mind when considering the implementation of the recommendations of the Annual Public Health Report.

6. Legal and financial implications

- 6.1. There are no financial or legal implications arising directly from the contents of this report. The Annual Public Health Report should, however, influence future prioritisation and allocation of resources.

6.2. The project is internally funded.

7. Recommendations

7.1. Committee members are asked to consider the Annual Public Health Report and the priorities identified for improving the health and wellbeing of children.

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Background papers:

Medway Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS Commissioning Board and Medway Council, 2012. *Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Medway 2012-2017.*

Appendices:

A copy of the Annual Public Health Report 2014/15 has been circulated separately to the committee members and will be made available as a supplementary agenda published to the website.