

## CABINET

28 June 2016

<b>Title:</b> Director of Public Health Annual Report 2015/16 “Focusing on what matters: Opportunities for improving health”	
<b>Report of the Director of Public Health</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Director:</b> Anne Bristow, Strategic Director of Service Development and Integration	
<b>Summary:</b> <p>The Director of Public Health is required by law to prepare an annual report on the health of the borough’s population. The report is an occasion to focus attention on issues of concern and opportunities to improve health. As an independent professional report, the aim is not to make recommendations but to pose issues for discussion and further enquiry.</p> <p>This year the Director examines where we can realise the health improvement opportunities contained in the Report of the Barking and Dagenham Independent Growth Commission and the importance of “preventing the preventable”; as part of our plans to transform Council and NHS services.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b> <p>The Cabinet is recommended to approve the publication of the Director of Public Health Annual Report for 2015/16, as attached at Appendix 1.</p>	
<b>Reason(s)</b> <p>A number of the Director of Public Health’s specific responsibilities and duties arise directly from Acts of Parliament – mainly the NHS Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012 – and related regulations.</p> <p>The Director of Public Health has a duty to write a report, whereas the authority’s duty is to publish it (section 73B(5) and (6) of the 2006 Act, inserted by section 31 of the 2012 Act). The content and structure of the report is something to be decided locally.</p>	

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The Director of Public Health is required to prepare an annual report on the health of the people in the borough. The report is an opportunity to focus attention on issues of concern and opportunities to improve health. As an independent professional report, the aim is not to make recommendations but to challenge others to propose solutions.
- 1.2 The report has been informed by and supports the achievement of the recommendations of Barking and Dagenham's Independent Growth Commission as well as Council and the NHS transformation planning. Our health and life chances are inextricably linked. The importance of "preventing the preventable"; as part of our plans to transform NHS and Council services is never more obvious as a means to improve the health of residents and future generations.
- 1.3 History shows that austerity has sometimes been important for change in health and social systems. The report takes austerity as a catalyst for change as its basis. The Health and Wellbeing Board is well positioned to know about economic determinants of health and that reduction in social care and health budgets create new inefficiencies, and may increase costs and inequalities. Health is wealth and only healthy populations will be engines for dynamic economies and creators of employment.

## **2. Focusing on what matters: Opportunities for improving health**

- 2.1 Focusing on what matters will enable us to begin to realise the opportunities to improve the health. We need to re-focus what we do so that we identify the root cause of need and tackle it so that the individual or family in question have a better chance of living more independently now and in the future. In Chapter 1, the Director begins this process by examining our borough's Life Expectancy and Healthy Life Expectancy where the challenge of increasing numbers of adults with multiple long term conditions account for a high proportion of need and demand for health and care services. There are a number of interventions that are supported by a strong evidence-base and known cost-effectiveness in preventing and treating these conditions.
- 2.2 This theme is continued in chapter 2, which explains that health status is for many determined by where they live, by their education, employment, the homes they live in, the lifestyle they choose and how they deal with ill health once it has developed. This is discussed in the context of how planners identify the root causes of need and shape the borough's growth in ways that address health inequalities over the next 15 to 20 years.
- 2.3 In chapter 3 the report discusses what health outcomes could be considered for health improvement in the context of our demographic change and 5 year commissioning plans. This means we need to be clear about what does and doesn't work so that we increasingly focus our efforts on those things that have the most pivotal impact on improving the health and well being.
- 2.4 Chapter 4 follows on neatly recognising that the future for the Barking & Dagenham, Havering and Redbridge health and social care economy depends on much closer joint working between our partners both locally and at London level. This chapter

explores the opportunities provided by a partnership-based Accountable Care Organisation (ACO) method, using devolved powers which would deliver better outcomes for our residents. Local elected councillors and local authority chief officers may need to make some hard choices as they seek to increase the accountability of the health and care services that are provided to their local populations. There is an opportunity for the Council to think creatively about the powers and democratic representation they can bring to bear to influence outcomes.

- 2.5 In the final chapter, the Director discusses the scope and scale of health protection work by the Council and Public Health England to prevent threats to health emerging, or reducing their impact, driven by the borough's and London's health risks.

### **3. Consultation**

- 3.1 This report represents the professional and independent view of the Council's Director of Public Health. The Director has conformed to best practice in consulting with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health Integration, the Strategic Director for Service Development and Integration and the senior leadership team of the Council, NHS Barking and Dagenham Clinical Commissioning Group and subject matter specialists in Public Health during the draft stages of the Public Health Annual Report 2015/16.
- 3.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board will be leading discussion and overseeing actions to protect and improve the health of residents. The report was considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board at its meeting on 14 June 2016.

**Public Background Papers used in the preparation of the report: None**

#### **List of appendices:**

**Appendix 1:** Director of Public Health Annual Report 2015/16 "Focusing on what matters: Opportunities for improving health"