Title: DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH ANNUAL REPORT

Open Report

Wards Affected:

Key Decision:

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Sponsor:
Matthew Cole, Director of Public Health

Summary:

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.

The report has been informed by and supports the achievement of the recommendations of Barking and Dagenham’s Independent Growth Commission as well as the Council’s 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.

History shows that austerity has sometimes been important for change in health and social systems. My 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.

Focusing on what matters will enable us to begin to realise the opportunities to improve the health of residents and future generations. In Chapter 1, I examine 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 known interventions which are explored that have a strong evidence-base and cost-effectiveness in preventing and treating these conditions.
I continue this theme in chapter 2, where 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. I discuss these in the context of how planners can shape the borough in ways that address health inequalities over the next 15 to 20 years.

Chapter 3 discusses what health outcomes could be considered for health improvement in the context of our demographic change and 5 year commissioning plans. Chapter 4, follows on neatly to explore the opportunities provided by a partnership-based Accountable Care Organisation method, using devolved powers which would deliver better outcomes for our residents.

In the final chapter, I discuss 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.

**Recommendation(s)**

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

(i) Note and comment on the observations of the Director of Public Health in his Annual Report.

**Reason(s)**


The Director of Public Health has a duty to write a report, whereas the authority’s duty is to publish it (section 73B(5) & (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.

**APPENDIX 1 -** Director of Public Health Annual Report 2015/2016. Focusing on what matters: Opportunities for improving health