

# Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda  
Item No.

## Report of Director of Public Health

to  
**Cabinet**

on

**15<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

Report prepared by: Andrea Atherton  
Director of Public Health

---

### **The 2015 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health**

**People Scrutiny Committee**  
**Executive Councillor: Councillor J Moyies**

#### ***A Part 1 Public Agenda Item***

---

#### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present the 2015 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health.

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 To consider and note the content and recommendations of the 2015 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health.

#### **3.0 Background**

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires the Director of Public Health to prepare an annual report on the health of the local population. This is an independent report which the local authority is required to publish. The report is an opportunity to focus attention on particular issues that impact on the health and wellbeing of the local population, highlight any concerns and make recommendations for further action.

#### **4.0 The 2015 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health**

- 4.1 The 2015 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health builds on aspects of the theme of the wider determinants of health and particularly focuses on healthy settings.
- 4.2 The foundations for good health, well-being and life chances are laid in early childhood, starting even before birth. The first chapter explores how early education and childcare settings play an important role in improving outcomes for young children and their families, helping to ensure that every child has the best start in life.

- 4.3 Education is a key determinant of health and there is a strong correlation between educational attainment, life expectancy and self-reported health. The second chapter explores how schools are potentially one of the most important assets within local communities, and provide an important setting for promoting and supporting healthy behaviours. They can have a beneficial impact on the health and wellbeing of pupils, parents and the wider community.
- 4.4 Secure, affordable, accessible housing is a fundamental human need and an important determinant of health. Inadequate housing can contribute to injuries and have a negative impact on a wide range of physical and mental health problems. The third chapter highlights local actions being taken to enhance the positive impact of housing on health, with a particular focus on warm and safe homes.
- 4.5 Being in employment is good for health and wellbeing and being a healthy employee is good for productivity. The workplace can have a direct influence on the physical, mental, economic and social well-being of workers and in turn the health of their families and communities. It also offers an ideal setting and infrastructure to support the promotion of health of a large audience. The fourth chapter considers the local initiatives to support health and wellbeing in the workplace.
- 4.6 The built and natural environment, including air quality and green spaces, are major determinants of health. In addition to good housing, other elements of local places impact on our opportunities to stay healthy. These include connectivity and transport to reach work, services and healthy food. The particular focus of chapter five is on air quality, access to green spaces and access to fast foods.

## **5.0 Other Options**

There are no other options presented as it is a statutory duty of the Director of Public Health to prepare an Annual Public Health Report.

## **6.0 Reason for Recommendations**

- 6.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 requires Directors of Public Health to prepare an annual report on the health of the local population.

## **6.0 Corporate Implications**

- 6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

The 2015 Annual Public Health Report highlights the opportunities to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population through work being undertaken in the various everyday settings in Southend.

- 6.2 Financial Implications

Whilst there are no financial implications arising directly from the contents of this report, the Annual Public Health Report should influence future prioritisation

and allocation of resources.

### 6.3 Legal Implications

There are no legal implications arising directly from this report.

### 6.4 People Implications

None.

### 6.5 Property Implications

None.

### 6.6 Consultation

The report will be presented to the People Scrutiny Committee.

### 6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

The Annual Public Health Report provides evidence that population health needs are assessed and considered.

### 6.8 Risk Assessment

A risk assessment will be undertaken of individual initiatives introduced to tackle the key issues highlighted in the report.

### 6.9 Value for Money

No implications.

### 6.10 Environmental Impact

None.

## 7.0 Background Documents

7.1 Background documents are listed in the Annual Public Health Report.

## 8.0 Appendices

8.1 The 2015 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health for Southend.