



## HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

12<sup>th</sup> May 2022

## ITEM 06

Report sponsor: Robyn Dewis, Director of Public Health  
Report author: India Clancy, Public Health Support Officer

### Director of Public Health Annual Report 2021

#### Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) is to provide an overview of the Director of Public Health's Annual Report (DPHAR) which is about to be published.
- 1.2 The DPHAR considers the COVID-19 pandemic on the city and particularly its impact on health inequalities.
- 1.3 It is intended that the report stimulates the HWB to both understand health inequality issues impacted by COVID-19 and drive action to reduce health inequalities exacerbated by COVID.

#### Recommendations

- 2.1 To note the content and issues raised by the DPHAR 2021.
- 2.2 To actively support the recommendations of the Annual Report as set out in 4.7.

#### Reasons

- 3.1 To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the content and proposed publication of the DPHAR on the health of the local population and the journey of the city during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 3.2 To support the HWB in delivering its responsibilities to improve population health and reduce health inequalities.

#### Supporting information

- 4.1 All Directors of Public Health (DPH) in England have a statutory duty to write an Annual Report and the local authority has a duty to publish it.
- 4.2 The Director of Public Health Annual Report (DPHAR) is an independent annual report on the state of the health of the local population.

- 4.3 The DPHAR 2021, 'COVID-19 in Derby' focuses on the COVID-19 pandemic, its impacts on the Derby population and in particular, the exacerbation of health inequalities in the city.
- 4.4 The report discusses both the direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic on health and inequalities. Not only encompassing positive cases, mortality and vaccination uptake across our communities, but also the wider impacts on health and wellbeing throughout the life course.
- 4.5 The report highlights pre-existing inequalities in Derby and their influence on the contrasting experiences of COVID-19 between communities in the city. A spotlight is also placed on programmes, campaigns and services delivered by the council and its partners during the pandemic, emphasising the value of collaborative action.
- 4.6 The DPHAR, 'COVID-19 in Derby' is divided into several chapters: 'Introduction', 'Timeline', 'Health and Inequalities in Derby Pre-COVID-19', 'COVID-19 Impacts & Inequalities' and 'Recommendations.'
- 4.7 The Introduction opens the report with a reflection on the past two years, discussing the strength and resilience of the people of Derby and the collaborative work that has taken place to support our communities. Additionally, this chapter highlights the impact of COVID-19 on pre-existing inequalities in Derby and the importance of making our recovery from COVID-19 a fair one.
- 4.8 'Timeline' guides the reader through Derby's COVID-19 journey chronologically. Organised by month, key milestones in the city and across the country are highlighted in this chapter and a spotlight is placed on services, programmes and campaigns delivered by the council and its partners.
- 4.9 'Health and Inequalities in Derby Pre-COVID-19' begins with a re-cap of the previous DPHAR (2017/18), the lessons learned, and recommendations made. The chapter progresses into an overview of the state of health and inequalities in Derby prior to the pandemic.
- 4.10 In 'COVID-19 Impacts & Inequalities', the first part of the chapter discusses the direct impacts of COVID-19 on the Derby population, covering the inequalities in risk and mortality of COVID-19. Additionally, inequalities in vaccination coverage across the city are discussed. The second part of this chapter explores the impacts of COVID-19 containment on inequalities across the life course. Topics include:
- Pre-conception and Early Years (0-5 Years): Maternity services and maternal health, child development and school readiness, vaccinations and immunisations.
  - Childhood and Adolescence (5-19 Years): Education, childhood obesity, food security, child and adolescent mental health, adverse childhood experiences.
  - Working Age Adults (16-64 Years): Employment and income, domestic work, childcare and home schooling, health behaviours, adult mental health, access to healthcare services.
  - Older Adults (65+): Health behaviours, access to healthcare services, older adult mental health.

- 4.11 'Recommendations' is divided into overarching recommendations and recommendations by life-course stage. Here, some of the challenges navigated are explored in the report at each stage in the life course and opportunities we have identified to reduce these inequalities going forward.
- 4.12 The overarching recommendations of the DPHAR 2021 are:
1. **Monitoring:** Continue to monitor COVID-19 in Derby and inequalities arising and being exacerbated. We will continue to use the breadth of knowledge and intelligence available to us, including:
    - Reviewing evidence from UKHSA in relation to local area
    - Deep dive analysis of areas moving away from average
    - Focussed additional testing as suitable for the local population
    - Engagement with local communities to understand any issues and concerns.
  2. **Maintain Partnerships and Services:** Leverage the success of services and partnerships established in our city during the pandemic and use this to ensure that we can continue to support those in our community. The pandemic has highlighted the generosity of people in our city and our ability to quickly identify and reach those in need. Initiatives such as our Derby's Community Hub and the Food4Thought Alliance should be maintained and adapted to continue to support those most in need.
  3. **Community Engagement:** This report has explored inequalities in the risk of COVID-19 and its outcomes, in addition to inequalities resulting from the pandemic's impacts. However, our access to local data remains limited and our knowledge will continue to evolve as the pandemic progresses. Through the Derby Health Inequalities Partnership, engagement with our communities should be prioritised, particularly with high-risk groups, to improve our understanding of the lived experiences of COVID-19 in our city and the exacerbation of inequalities.
  4. **Health in All Policies:** The way the pandemic has been experienced in our population has often been determined by pre-existing inequalities and many of the impacts of COVID-19 are likely to affect our population in the long-term. This needs to be considered in future decision-making and to tackle inequalities, we need to focus on the causes of the causes, otherwise referred to as the social determinants of health. The adoption of a 'Health in All Policies' approach can be a powerful tool to consider these social determinants and reduce inequalities. The council and its partners should also continue to embed the six policy objectives of the Marmot Review into our core functions, building a society which prioritises fairness in decision making, from birth through later life.
- 4.13 A variety of health inequalities and conditions have been included in this year's DPHAR and as such are only covered in brief. The DPHAR 2022 will explore a number of these topics in greater depth, taking the form of a series of bulletins.
- 4.14 The DPHAR has not been formally published. An overview of the report and its findings will be presented at the HWB.

## Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 As set out in 4.12, we will actively engage with our communities, particularly high-risk groups, to improve our understanding of the lived experiences of COVID-19 in Derby and the exacerbation of inequalities.

## Other options

- 6.1 None considered.

## Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None.

## Legal implications

- 8.1 Directors of Public Health in Local Government: Roles, Responsibilities and Context (Department of Health, 2013: p.10)

“In general the statutory responsibilities of the DPH are designed to match exactly the corporate public health duties of their local authority. The exception is the annual report on the health of the local population – the DPH 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.”

## Climate implications

- 9.1 None.

## Other significant implications

- 10.1 Equalities impact: Health inequalities are the focus of the DPHAR 2021. Some amendments to the Director of Public Health Annual Report have been suggested, these will be fully considered prior to the final publication of the report.
- 10.2 Risk management and safeguarding: The risks highlighted are around various health inequalities that exist within the city. The report recommendations are primarily to ensure that they don’t continue or worsen

This report has been approved by the following people:

| Role                | Name   | Date of sign-off |
|---------------------|--|------------------|
| Legal               |  |                  |
| Finance             |  |                  |
| Service Director(s) |  | 04/05/2022       |
| Report sponsor      | Robyn Dewis, Director of Public Health           |                  |
| Other(s)            | Alison Wynn, Assistant Director of Public Health | 03/05/2022       |

Background papers:  
List of appendices: