

Report title: Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022 – How does health vary in Norfolk?

Date of meeting: 08 March 2023

Sponsor

(HWB member): Dr Louise Smith, Director of Public Health, Norfolk County Council

Reason for the Report

To highlight the importance of place in addressing health needs, to demonstrate how the new Office for National Statistics (ONS) Health Index can be used to understand the health needs of local areas and to provide examples of actions taken by Health and Wellbeing Partnerships as laid out in the Director of Public Health's Annual Report for 2022.

Report summary

The Director of Public Health's Annual Report 2022 explores how health varies by place in Norfolk, resulting in different areas having different needs.

Drawing on the new ONS Health Index, it explores how health is not only determined by behaviours such as smoking, alcohol consumption, physical activity or diet but is also heavily influenced by people's environment, including living conditions, income, crime, and social factors such as loneliness and isolation. It shows how these wider determinants of health and behavioural factors affect different areas differently and therefore the importance of taking actions locally to address the specific needs of a particular place to help people live longer and healthier lives.

The report looks at variation across and within Norfolk, and then for each district, city and borough in Norfolk. It also illustrates how Health and Wellbeing Partnerships in each area are taking action to address health needs in their areas.

Recommendations

The HWB is asked to:

- a) Approve the publication of the DPH Annual Report on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) website.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Director of Public Health's Annual Reports are an independent assessment of the state of health and wellbeing of the population of Norfolk. The report covering 2020-2021 considered the direct impacts of Covid-19 in Norfolk and how those impacts were felt differently by various groups of Norfolk residents. This year's report explores how health and wellbeing can vary by place.

2. Director of Public Health Annual Report 2022 – How does health vary in Norfolk?

2.1 Key findings are:

- Health varies from one place to another – measures covering a whole county or district can hide variation amongst smaller areas.

- How long people live for, what people die from and what makes people ill throughout life is dependent on many different things, including income, employment and living conditions, as well as healthy behaviours and healthcare.
- Health in a local area also depends on who lives there – for example, if people are on average younger or older.
- On average, Norfolk districts and boroughs are healthier compared to others in England. However, there are some areas where health is poorer, such as in parts of Great Yarmouth or King's Lynn.
- Looking at what the numbers tell us can help to prioritise which actions to take to improve health. Even where a place appears to have good overall health, there are often opportunities to improve health in smaller patches within that area.

2.2 See Appendix 1 for a copy of the Annual report.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

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